



CITY OF VESTAVIA HILLS
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
July 20, 2021

ASHLEY CURRY
MAYOR

BRIAN DAVIS
PUBLIC SERVICES
DIRECTOR

1. Call to order
2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of May 18, 2021 regular meeting minutes
4. Approval of June 15, 2021 work session notes
5. Program Superintendent's Report – Sandi Wilson
6. Mayor's Report – Ashley Curry
7. Public Services Director's Report – Brian Davis
8. Old Business –
9. New Business –
 - a. Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex Discussion
 - b. Nathaniel Bass, President Emeritus of Habitat for Humanity at VHHS – Charity Concert Location on September 24, 2021 – in person in addition to written request
 - c. Request from Dance Class – written request
 - d. New Merkel House Rentals
 - e. Altadena Valley Park
 - f. Girls Basketball
10. League Reports – MUST be submitted in writing
11. Citizen Comments – MUST sign in prior to the start of the meeting
12. Upcoming meetings –
 - a. Next work session will be on August 17, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m. at ECR .
 - b. Next regular meeting will be August 17, 2021, immediately following the work session (if needed) .
13. Motion for Adjournment

Ashley C. Curry

Mayor



Brian C. Davis

Public Services Director

City of Vestavia Hills

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 am by President Kirk McCulley. Members present were: Mitch Bevill, Kirk McCulley, Lyles Box, Danny Marshall, Shelley Gentle. Mayor Ashley Curry and Councilman Paul Head were unable to attend the meeting. City Manager Jeff Downes was in attendance. Park and Recreation staff members present were: Jeff Corley, Brian Davis, William Laatsch, Hailey Thompson and Sandi Wilson. Guests in attendance were: Michael Hill, Lee Lowery, Rocky Harmon (VHSC), Chad Long and Efrin (VHBA), Frank Hernandez (VHPR Concessions), Leigh Belcher and VHPRF members and Darrin Bright.

Invocation was given by Kirk McCulley and the group recited the pledge.

Danny Marshall made a motion and Lyles Box seconded to approve the March 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Danny Marshall made a motion and Lyles Box seconded to approve the April 20, 2021 work session notes. Motion passed unanimously. Kirk McCulley and Mitch Bevill abstained from voting due to not attending the work session.

Superintendent's Report - Jeff Corley:

- LaCrosse played games in the VHS stadium
- Pickleball going strong both indoor and outdoor – Moving back to the Rec Center in the mornings in June.
- Miracle League Kickoff – Final Sunday this week
- Miracle League Field Usage – Exceptional Foundation, rentals, free play
- Looking at attending Youth Sports Board Meetings as a requirement
- Weekly Report
- Mike Hill and Lee Lowery from STS discussed the process with open and closing fields. Mike asked where to start, Kirk asked him to just give a general explanation. Mike - Decisions are made by 2:00pm on the field conditions and whether they will be open or closed. Once decision is made Status Me is updated. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into these decisions. It is not just a flippant yes or no. It is a team effort. They walk the site and discuss. They consider the long range and look at how it will affect what happens the next day, week, etc. They consider the expectation to be games over practices. If the expectation is different, they need to know. What is the best solution? Kirk thanked them for coming to the meeting to speak and committed on the "Job well done"! Kirk also asked if we need to close the fields at Wald for a month to let the fields rest? Is that something that they would suggest? Lee commented that from the end of June until football season, maybe 3 weeks, let the fields rest, fertilize, aireate and let the grass grow back?

Mitch had a 12 year old parent ask him why we are not using temporary fences. Jeff commented about set up and take down around various things going on. Mitch stated if we need to put them up then put them up and if we need to call him then he will help.

- Frank (concessions) sales are good. Last year his sales at this time were \$25,000.00 but Spring of 2021 they are around \$85,000.00. This is Frank's first "real" Spring with our program due to COVID last year. Frank – there have been a few times when they have had to close. They handled around 188 events this spring and had to close 7 times. Every time was for different reasons. Staff Sick, etc. He has to make a decision, consults with Jeff They pick the park with the most impact, hard to get workers last minute. Weather has been a challenge as well. He has to split staff up to cover multiple places so the lines back up. They have run out of food – have noticed that people are getting food to take home so they have adjusted orders. They try not to have much leftover at the end of the night - they do donate left over to churches and other groups. He schedules his concessions around they game schedules. He has to balance his times with sales so they may close before the end of the games. If there are events that we need or want him to stay until the end, please let him know. On three different occasions because of storms, they have lost power and food defrosted an had to be thrown out so they had less menu items. A lot of things go into concessions, please let him know when you change schedules. Frank is going to put up signs with hours. He is open for suggestions / recommendations to enhance the effort.

Jeff stated that both groups, STS and Concessions have been excellent to deal with. They have all communicated a lot!

Kirk thanked Frank.

Superintendent's Report - Sandi Wilson:

- Senior Softball is going great! They love the location and the fields!
- New Merkel Ribbon Cutting went well. Thank you to those who attended. They will be getting started back fully soon. Construction crews are finishing up the punch list items.
- We are looking at when to start back the Senior Transportation Program.
- Senior Olympics Softball Tournament is scheduled for September 25, 2021
- Sportsman is coming along. Membership sales for the VHAC are going great!
Kirk updated the amount of sales is now at \$105,430.00. If you hear questions within the community – it is all a buzz about VHAC – we are Not selling out of memberships! Be sure and let the public know!

Mayor's Report: Jeff Downes, City Manager reported in the Mayor's absence

- He is proud of everything that is going on with in our community. He stated that he is the complaint department and he looks past the negative and doesn't let it get him down.
- We have some great things going on so PLEASE do not get bogged down, Please amongst the chatter of negative, look at the BIG picture!

Public Services Director Report - Brian Davis:

- Brian introduced William Laatsch, Senior Recreation Leader. Transferred over from Helena Parks and Recreation.
- We are having some Growth and adding new Staff. We had a large staff meeting last week with all our maintenance and recreation staff together. Issued a challenge to the staff – We are not

the same as always! One thing that was discussed is the ease of communication. The crews in the field were still using flip phones, thus limiting their abilities to receive messages, etc. Brian has ordered iPhones to put in the trucks.

- We are looking at budgeting for facility monitors. In the past it has been recognized as gym monitors and has been seasonal. Moving forward, we want to transition this into fields, etc.
- The bids for the Pedestrian Bridge came in at 1 million over. They are working with ALDOT, they say that there is a path forward.
- Waiting on information for the tunnel at SHAC, we are moving forward.
- Dog Park at SHAC. Bids are good, council should approve June 14, 2021. It will be a 1 acre park paid for by grant money.
- The pre bid meeting for Phase 3 Wald Park is this week.
- We need a committee to look at a plan for Altadena Valley moving forward. Mitch stated that we needed to be cautious. Kirk asked about the mowing schedule at Altadena Valley. Brian stated it is contract only and is to be mowed every 10 days to 2 weeks at 5 inches, but we are looking at having it cut shorter. Mitch stated that we need to clean it up. He asked about putting some soccer fields / goals out there. Kirk said that we can look at improvements and allocating some funds. Jeff Downes stated that trails are important as well and that we have had a good year.
- Efrin asked if we have planned in the future to put WiFi cameras at the parks for security? Brian stated that is an expense but we can look into it. The parks are now equipped with WiFi. Efrin stated that it was a good way to watch and also for security.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Proposed rate changes for Dogwood Room, Vestavian Room, Rectangle Fields and VHAC Lane rentals – per discussion and carry over from April 20, 2021. **Fee Sheet included at the end of the minutes.**
 - Change typo on SHAC rental to \$35.00 not \$25.00.
 - Kirk asked about the lane rentals, is it needed, who is asking? Jeff stated that there is a need and that BSL and WAKE have both requested. Shelley asked if we have a cap number of lanes? Kirk stated that in the past there was a contract agreement / partnership with BSL but they have not met with them to renew. He would rather them meet with the Park Board and want to go forward with the contract. Possibly wait until after the season and revisit. Shelley asked about times. Lyles asked how long it takes to put together a contract. Kirk stated that the Park Board would draft / design a contract and then put it before the council for approval. Kirk stated to strike the lane rental fees from the sheet.
 - Dogwood and Vestavian Rooms, the current rates are by the day. We want to have the ability to rent hourly to have more flexibility and to allow for more rentals. Kirk asked about the dates for the new facility. He stated that we will meet this summer to look at the rates for the new facility. Brian and Dr. Martin have been discussing the current Rec Center. It is becoming part of the school board once our new facility is complete.
 - Jeff stated that we need to keep the cost of the field rentals consistent. Mitch asked about several people and wanted to know when are we going to start collecting field rental fees? Jeff reported that he had talked to the Quarterback Guy and he will start paying.

Shelley Gentle made a motion to remove the VHAC Lane Rental Fees from the proposal, Danny Marshall seconded. Motion passed.

Danny Marshall made a motion to accept the fees on the proposal as amended, Shelley Gentle seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Use of VHAC for parties and private events / Rental or Party Rates for these events: **Proposed sheet included at the end of the minutes***
 - Kirk asked about furniture for the Aquatic Complex – Jeff stated that 300 more pieces are coming this week. Jeff reported that they will be pressure washing this week. They are getting New Umbrellas and a new automated system is being installed.
 - Kirk stated that there have been many questions concerning parties. Jeff reviewed the proposed fee sheet with the Park Board. Members and non-members?? He asked for direction. Shelley ask what the rates stated would get you? Jeff replied you would have the outside area by the concessions. You could bring your own cake and snacks as you would be set up on the outside. Danny asked about large private parties. Kirk asked about staff requirements and guards during parties. Jeff stated that the VHAC footprint is large; 7 guards on deck with 2 on rotate any time the complex is open. They get \$12.00 an hour. Shelley asked about the semi private parties and why there were no early morning or mid afternoon time slots? Brian replied that the EDP summer camp and other groups usually come in during the mornings and we want to ensure adequate time for our members. Shelley suggested that we offer a couple of options on days. Brian stated that we want to have the availability to post when we are having parties. Shelley suggested that we only rent parties for members. Jeff commented that with this being our first year open with the new facility, we want to make sure and take care of our members. Kirk stated that residents are our concern. That all these things are wonderful growing pains. He suggested that we go through this summer before we designate members only. He would like to consider modifying #5 to state residents.
 - Kirk asked about swim lessons. Brian and Jeff stated that we plan to teach them ourselves and not have to go through an outside source.
 - In regards to EDP (school board summer camp) Brian stated that if the children have a membership then there will be no cost for them to come in with the camp. Kirk suggested to leave it as is on the fee sheet.
 - Shelley Gentle made a motion to modify the fee sheet to say Residents and take out members and nonmembers. Mitch Bevill seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Danny Marshall made a motion to accept the fee sheet as modified. Mitch Bevill seconded the motion. Motion Passed.
- b. Potential use of Wald and Cahaba Heights fields by VHYB for tournaments in June and July.
 - Efrin stated that they would like to use Cahaba Heights for 6-8 year old and Wald for 9-11 year old tournaments. Chad stated that there was the potential of 2 teams per age group. June 13 will be the end of the GBBA season. Therefore June 15-July 31 the fields would be available for use. Kirk stated that they could do up to 2 tournaments per park at the field rental fees.
 - Frank stated that the concession stands are not open for the public. Jeff stated that was on us. The workers were to get ice only. Efrin stated that if they are holding tournaments and the concessions are open that is great but if not, please lock them up.

- Kirk asked STS about tournaments and their concerns and stated that if they hold tournaments then Efrin and STS would have to work it out.
 - Jeff stated that we would have staff onsite with all tournaments. In the case of weather, etc, who makes the call on the fields? Mike Hill stated that it is no different from normal season play. Kirk explained that there are several questions concerning fields and when to close. Brian and Chad commented. Efrin stated that there has to be a person in charge. A Tournament Director.
 - Kirk suggested that VHYB could use Cahaba Heights and Wald up to 2 times each from June 15 – July 31. Discussion with STS about closing in July to top dress, etc? Brian suggested that football can use Cahaba Heights, Kirk agreed. Efrin suggested that they use the fields in August instead of July.
 - Mitch made a motion to modify the request to allow VHYB to use fields for tournaments June 15 – July 1 at Wald Park and June 15 – July 31 at Cahaba Heights. Danny Marshall seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Mitch Bevill made a motion and Lyles Box seconded to accept the request as modified. Motion passed.
 - It was decided that the topic of August tournaments would be discussed at the June or July meeting.
- c. Potential use of Liberty Park by Grand Slam in June and July:
- Darren Bright was in attendance representing Grand Slam. He explained that Grand Slam is out of Panama City but they have several teams that compete in their tournaments from the Birmingham area including a few from Vestavia Hills. Mainly 13/14 year old teams and there is a need for fields for them to play and host tournaments. There is an immediate need for fields that are 60-90 feet. There was much discussion concerning fields and where the tournaments would “fit”.
 - It was stated that Sammy Dunn field would be a great place to host the Gold Bracket. Brian mentioned that the fields at Liberty Park would meet the need but there is no economic impact for the city at that location. Sammy Dunn field, Pizitz and the High School field would fit but those belong to the school and not the city. Brian stated that these are all just “speed bumps”, we are not saying that we could not be a host site, we would just have to figure out the logistics.
 - Kirk stated that they could plan to have 2 fields (60-90ft) at Liberty Park, 13/14 age only between July 1 – 31, 2021. Jeff stated that there are 2 other tournaments there already and STS is needing / wanting to top soil the fields at LP also.
 - Brian stated that it is not a no for Sammy Dunn field and the other school fields, we would just have to work things out with the school board.
 - Efrin had some concerns from a VHYB standpoint. One of which being the players wearing spikes on the artificial mounds. He stated that there would need to be policies in place. Darren stated that they would send an email to coaches and umpires the week of the tournament to let them all know that no spikes would be allowed on the moveable mounds.
 - Kirk stated that he would like to table the discussions at this time. Brian stated that he would begin the discussions with the school board concerning their fields.
 - Mitch Bevill made a motion to table the discussion until June. Danny Marshall seconded. Motion passed.
- d. Use of Fields and Fee Structure for Middle School and High School aged baseball and softball teams:

- Kirk turned the discussion over to Mitch Bevill and Lyles Box. In the field use policy the date of registration is January 15th. The players who are playing on the Middle School and High School teams did not know before that date that they would be playing together. The request (d) is to make an exception in the date of registration for these players. To enable these teams to use the fields as other players do and not as a rental.
- Mitch Bevill made a motion and Lyles Box seconded to modify the use agreement to allow these players to play for the \$35.00 resident and \$65.00 non-resident (to change to \$75.00 after June 1) fee.
- Danny Marshall made a motion and Mitch Bevill seconded to approve item d. as modified. Motion passed.

VHPR Foundation Report:

- The Foundation asked about Altadena Valley and the possibility of starting a campaign to renovate and do some projects there?
- Leigh Belcher reported that there was a lot of community involvement with the Miracle League. There was a total of \$350,000.00 raised to help with the construction of the field. VHHS started the fundraisers. The Grand Opening was great! They have been celebrating this success and they are ready to start another project.
- Kirk stated that the picture on the front of the Park and Rec FaceBook page is from opening day at the Miracle League Field. He also commented on what a great day Opening Day was and the highlight of Chad Downes and his home run trot! Leigh also reported that the Miracle League also has a FB page and there are a lot of pictures on there as well.

Kirk reported that all League Reports must be submitted in writing.

Sandi Wilson will send out reminders prior to the meeting.

Danny Marshall made a motion to adjourn, Mitch Bevill seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Wilson

Ashley C. Curry

Mayor



Brian C. Davis

Public Services Director

City of Vestavia Hills

Parks and Recreation Board Work Session / Notes

June 15, 2021 – 5:30p.m.

1. BSL – potential use of the Vestavia Hills Aquatic Complex:
 - a. No representative was present, carry over discussion until Fall 2021.
2. Potential for VSA to use ad banners at VHAC
 - a. Researching other sports and how it is handled
 - b. Feel the importance to keep consistency across all sports and activities / facilities
3. Wald Park Update
 - a. Explained the process of bidding the project
 - b. Explained the research and various professionals that have examined the conditions of the fields
 - c. Committed to listen and do what is necessary for next year to make it a better experience.

Upcoming meetings:

Next Regular meeting will be

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 a.m.

Next Work Session will be

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

****meeting immediately following if needed****