

CITY OF AUBURN
PARKS & LEISURE
REGULAR MEETING

Parks and Leisure Commission

Greg Nelson - Chair
Bert Scouten – Co-Chair
Josephine Jones
Mary Grace Vogel
Kelley Carreiro

FOR
Date February 10, 2016

Present: Greg Nelson
Bert Scouten
Josephine Jones
Kelley Carreiro
Mary Grace Vogel

City Staff in Attendance: Charlotte Ewing, David Hawthorne, Ron Griffith, Alex Mitchem,
Tommy Lowman

Greg Nelson called the P & L meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Item: Approval of January 2016 Minutes

Chairman Greg Nelson asked for a motion to approve the January 2016 minutes.

Motion: Josephine Jones

Seconded: Kelly Carreiro

Vote was taken. Minutes approved.

Item: Monthly Report

Charlotte Ewing read the following report:

Item: Update on P & L position

Ron reported the job opened on January 4th and closed on February 2nd. This person will be in charge of programs for the parks, as well as the Children's Park, Mary Carter and Parks Mill Ballfields and rental of J D Withers building and others. They have interviewed 13 applicants and narrowed those to 4 finalist. The Mayor and Council will be interviewing those on Monday Feb. 15th and Tuesday Feb. 16th. P & L was invited to attend. Greg plans to be there.

Item: Update on park maintenance (what has been done in the previous month and what are the plans for next month)

David reported that the mulch has been replaced in the Roy E. Parks Playground. A couple of broken pieces have been repaired, the merry-go-round has been repainted and screws tightened on the equipment. Creeping type plants were planted on the hill under the trees to help with water run-off.

The portable at Shackelford Park has been damaged and has been taken to the Public Works shop to be worked on.

We are getting ready to put out weed killer and fertilize the parks. We are also getting information on mosquito control with the new outbreak.

Item: Pavilion the Children's Park....location, design, and goal date

Ron Griffith reported this will be looked at in the fall. They have decided to wait for the new P & L Director to come onboard. That person will bring information to the P & L Commission, then to Council.

Item: Update on the progress at Auburn Ball fields at Parks Mill (drainage, new field, clam shell at home base, concessions/restrooms, goal date for final fields)

David reported the rain has slowed work down. The top soil is down and the fence has been installed. We are getting information on the clam shell fencing which was part of the bid for the fencing. Netting will be installed on the road side of the newest field. The contractor is slow on getting the work done on the concession stand.

Mary Grace asked when the debris will be cleaned up because practice begins this week. Public Works will clean up and area and put caution tape and signs to try to keep the public away from it.

Item: Bring in our new main street events DDA director for an introduction, review of 2016 events calendar, and discuss how P&L can get involved in events

Tommy Lowman introduced himself and went over the upcoming events for the City. He stated everyone's help is always needed in this area and encouraged the departments to work together.

Item: The OWLS...have done and are planning

Charlotte stated basically due to the winter months the main thing the OWLS has is their monthly luncheon. They have been invited to participate in Barrow County's programs with field trips. She will give them this information at the luncheon next week. She also invited members to attend the luncheon.

Item: What is happening at the Mary Carter Ballfields

David reported the Concession Stand and dug-outs have been painted. Will work on the 3 fields area here when the Parks Mill fields are completed. Mary Grace asked how long that would be. David said around 2 years.

Item: Update on new land acquisitions near Mary Carter

Ron stated there are 8 acres next to the field for \$60,000.00. This will be on the workshop on February 18th and voted on in March. This property will tie into the Sports Complex. The residents of the small houses have been given till the end of the month to vacate.

Item: R&R Building plans

Alex report that he received word the construction will begin in late March or early April. The 1st phase is to make structural stabilization and the electrical as well as the elevator. He wants to preserve as much

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of the original building as possible. The Department of Corrections will do the work. They are the largest contractor in the State. Tommy and Alex will work on funding for the Bistro that has been planned.

Item: Are we still pursuing Gwinnett property for green space or parks. Are there properties that we are looking at?

Ron stated we have around \$150,000.00 from the 2009 SPLOST and plan to purchase property. They have been working with the owner of Gwinnett property on the other side of Shackelford park however she does not want to sell the property. They may be looking at another area just in case.

Item: Goals of the P & L Commission

Josephine stated she felt the group needs to see how they can help other Departments in Events, Parks and DDA. She stated they have always been a part and would like to continue.

Greg stated they do want to continue working with the DDA and P & L on things.

Alex stated he could use help in the landscape for the new sign at Hwy. 8. He also stated the Community Gardens has an operating Committee and plans are underway. They will have another "stirring" committee meeting soon. At present they have 10 garden boxes and he wants to add 2 more. P & L was invited to attend and be part of the Committee for the Community Gardens.

Item: Swearing in Greg Nelson

Ron administered the Oath of Office for Greg Nelson to continue on the P & L Committee.

Item: Citizens Comments

Council Bill Acworth asked about rental of the pavilions at Shackelford Park wanting to know if we charge.

Charlotte stated if someone wanted to reserve a pavilion they would have to pay, otherwise it is first-come first-serve. She stated the main time for rentals is during the summer when so many people are out.

Bill wanted to know if we were going to charge for the pavilion at the playground when it's built.

That will be discussed more at a later date.

Bill suggested we have 2 yard sales per month through July and see how it goes.

Tommy stated he wants to re-assess everything after his first year.

Kelly told Bill that what happened with the 2 times per month is you have the same vendors with the same stuff each time and then the shoppers stop coming.

Item: Adjourn

Chairman Greg Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn.

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Motion: Kelley Carreiro

Seconded: Josephine Jones

Vote was taken. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Charlotte Ewing *DANIEL PROVENS*


Greg Nelson
Chairman