

Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting September 17, 2013

The Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Smithfield Recreation Aquatics Center.

Members Present: Angela Rabil David Lasater
 Earl Marrett Jackie Bryant

Members Absent: Richard Knight Andy Moore
 Daniel Sanders Clayton Narron
 Scott Wright Robbie Parker
 Chris Howell Lyn Andrews

Staff Present: Tim Johnson, Director
 Gary Johnson, Assistant Director
 Dale Ham, SRAC Director
 Tiffany Pearson, Recreation Supervisor
 Dennis Tyner, Maintenance Supervisor
 Laura Crumpler, Aquatics Supervisor
 Kristin Sasser, Recreation Center Supervisor

Staff Absent: Jon Moore, Athletic Programs Supervisor

Tim welcomed everyone back, as this was our first meeting after our little summer break. Tim also welcomed our newest member to the Board, Jackie Bryant. Jackie is a former P&R employee, as well as a great advocate for children.

Tim noted that the full time assistant Aquatics position was approved, and has been a good thing, with full time supervisory coverage at the pool roughly 98% of the time.

At this time, Tim passed out handouts of the July monthly report for SRAC and SPRD. It was a busy summer. Specifically during July, there were over 22,000 direct contacts. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$15,000+, so it's a good start to the year.

3rd Annual Friends of the Park Fundraising Event – Thursday, 10/10/13 – Mark your calendars for October 10th! Monies raised go toward scholarships and debt service. This year tickets include the dinner for two, auction items, and raffle items. (Thinking we will have more raffle items this year.) In the last fiscal year Friends of the Park turned over a check to the Town for debt service for \$67,500. (This was from our share of last year's Triathlon and the Reverse Raffle held in the fall.)

Update on "Partnership to Build a Miracle" project – Group is getting closer to meeting their goal. Town of Smithfield is applying for a trust fund grant – that if selected the partnership group would match the funds. If awarded the grant, construction would start by next summer. Upcoming events for them include "Kiss the Pig" and a lockup.

Recently completed projects at Community Park and Smith Collins – The tennis courts at Smithfield Community Park were recently resurfaced.

At Smith Collins Park, some of the projects completed include moving and renovating shelter from the Municipal Pool. (Area includes 6-8 tables, grill and grill pad, and benches. Looks really nice.) Other possible projects out there include converting old tennis courts to gaming area, w/ hopscotch, etc. Another possible project out there would be to turn the old municipal pool into a splash pad. Would be much cheaper than refurbishing the pool, which is already approximately 40 years old. If we were to refurbish it, would cost around \$60-80k, with additional operating costs of approximately \$35k. Also, we don't know the condition of the pipes. Also, if we were to go to a splash pad option, it would cost much less to run, and could operate without lifeguards, and could be put on a timer to activate it, or activated with a push button. This is definitely a Council item.

Tim said that in August, SPRD and SPD hosted a fun day at Smith Collins, with games, food, bouncy house, etc., and there were roughly 300 people in attendance.

Updates from Staff:

Dennis Tyner – Has been a busy summer, and it's still busy, with Football, Soccer, Softball and Baseball.

Tiffany Pearson – Some current events going on include: Smithfield-Selma Youth Council, Sr. Coffee Corner (two mornings a week), Matter of Balance Class, River Rats Running Club, Lego Workshop, and gearing up for Christmas events (i.e. Tree Lighting, Grinch Run, and Christmas Parade).

Gary Johnson – Currently in our busiest time with Football, Softball, Soccer and Basketball. Our events had 77 teams in town last weekend.

Kristin Sasser – Summer camps went really well, and stayed full. First Kids Night of the fall is this Saturday night, with the biggest one around Halloween. Also planning another Craft Fair (in the parking lot) on 11/2. We were selected for the Track/Trail Grant. Dedication will be within the next few months.

Laura Crumpler – Had 23 groups this summer in the pool. Most summer groups that came to the pool brought over 50 kids with them. This year we taught swimming lessons to some of the daycare groups that came.

Got new "toys" for the pool - Wibbit and Wiggle Bridge. Both have been big hits in the pool.

Dale Ham –SRAC has been busy with Quincereras, Basketball Tournaments, Church, etc.

At this time, Earl Marret asked about the change in location for the Farmers Market. Tim said that the location was better, but Farmers Market ended early. The farmers we did have (which were few to start with), had trouble with their crops because of so much rain. They couldn't get to what they had because the fields were too wet. So the farmers we did have didn't have any crops, so they weren't regular at the market. If we had a big market a couple of farmers not being there wouldn't be a big deal, but when you only have 6 or 8 to start with, it is a big deal.

Tim concluded the meeting hoping to see everyone at the Reverse Raffle, and hoping everyone will help sell some tickets. Our next meeting will be in November.

All upcoming information can be found on Facebook – Smithfield/SRAC and at SRAConline.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Ashley