

**Smithfield
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting
April 17, 2012**

The Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Smithfield Recreation Aquatics Center.

Members Present:	David Lasater Angela Rabil	Earl Marrett Scott Wright
Members Absent:	Chris Howell Jamie Stanley Clayton Narron Andy Moore	Robbie Parker Daniel Sanders Zack Parrish
Staff Present:	Tim Johnson, Director Gary Johnson, Assistant Director Jon Moore, Athletic Programs Supervisor Kristin Sasser, Recreation Center Supervisor Dale Ham, SRAC Director Lyn Andrews, Aquatic Center Supervisor	
Staff Absent:	Dennis Tyner, Maintenance Supervisor Laura Crumpler, Recreation Supervisor	

Mr. Tim Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially our new Town Manager, Paul Sabiston. Paul began work on Monday, 4/16, so we really appreciate him taking time out of his busy schedule to come get a feel for our P&R department. Paul said he's excited about being here, and that he and his family value P&R and what they have to offer. He also said we will be seeing a lot of him.

Current Budget Numbers

As of this date, both SRAC and P&R are about 4% under budget. SRAC, at this point last year, was about \$46,000 in the red. At this point, they are \$6,700 in the black. Tim encouraged everyone, that if someone asks, to please contact Tim and he would get them actual numbers. We are currently working hard to increase revenues, which are down, but so are expenses. For example, concession revenues are down around \$10,000, but so are expenses.

SRAC Rate Proposals

As we've discussed in the past, there is still consideration being given to a Johnston County School Employee rate. (This rate would be very similar to the Town rate.) There is still talk of adding a Johnston Community College rate. Both rate proposals have potential to increase revenue without much cost on the center. At the present time – both of these proposals are Council decisions, and are part of the budget process.

Pre-School Program

The SRAC Pre-School program we have talked about could be a good revenue stream. This is another item that is part of the budget process. Tim stated that obviously, we would not proceed unless we had enough kids to sustain the program and make money. Unfortunately, we may have lost the teacher we wanted, but we would advertise for it, hopefully finding a retired teacher to lead it, and an assistant. SRAC has a lot to offer, so it would almost be like a private school setting, with the basketball, swimming, pottery, playground, etc.

Triathlon

The 3 Little Pigs Triathlon is June 16th, starting at 7:00 a.m. We need everyone to help. Tim reminded everyone that this is a joint venture between the Rotary Club and Friends of the Park. Last year, each group got about \$8,000 from the event. Dale added that to date we have about 55 participants, which is about where we were this time last year. Dale also said that Jim Earp will DJ and emcee this year, and that we will be adding a 5k fun walk at the end of the event to try and get the families involved. Mark your calendars ... we need YOU TO HELP!!!!

Friends of the Park Reverse Raffle & Auction

Mark your calendars – the Reverse Raffle and Auction is Thursday night, October 11th. The first one last year was a great success, and we believe this one will be even better. Last year we made about \$17,000 for Friends of the Park, and we believe we can make about \$25,000 this year. Golden Corral has already agreed to provide the meal again, which is about a \$1,500 donation. Lyn added that if anyone has any ideas of silent auction items, or anyone who may be willing to donate anything, to please let us know. Ticket sales will probably start in August.

Farmers Market

The 2nd Annual Smithfield Farmers Market opened last weekend. We currently have 8-9 vendors. They are open Friday and Saturday, from 9am – 1pm, so please go by and see them.

Recent & Upcoming Activities

Kristin Sasser updated the group on SRAC's recent bookings during March, which included 48 BD parties. (To date in April, they have already had 23 parties.) Birthday parties are definitely a good source of revenue for SRAC. Scott Wright asked about any new things we can offer for parties. Kristin mentioned that we also do sports-themed parties, in which groups can play basketball, and we offer pottery parties. Tim added that we are looking at adding some items to the pool area, just to make it a little more appealing for kids.

Paul Sabiston asked if we had done team parties. That's not something we've really marketed, but we have done them. For most of those, they use the shelters at the park. Gary added that the Football Party at the end of the season is when we try to get our football equipment back, and it's worked well.

Kristin said SRAC had one banquet rental in March, and have two in April. Calls are picking up as family reunions are being planned for the summer.

Dale added the State Gymnastics meet in the gym during March had over 400 kids and five different sessions both Saturday and Sunday. This past weekend we partnered with Johnston County Schools and held a 3 on 3 basketball tournament for Dropout Prevention. The Tournament had 14 Middle School teams and 17 High School teams. Minor League basketball team, the Gladiators, are also playing at SRAC – last weekend and this coming weekend. They have roughly 5 games scheduled at SRAC. Dale added that we also have another Wrestling event at the center this weekend, on Saturday night. Jimmie's Garage band will also be playing. Other upcoming dates/events include May 11th – AAU Tournament; May 18th, another Quinceanera.

Lyn gave an update on the pool, noting that it is getting busier. We currently have 20 kids in swimming lessons on Saturdays; 12 private swim lessons going on; and the stroke clinics have started back up. Registration begins in May for the Swim Team. Lyn also added that 12 daycares have already booked for the summer. Last year the daycares generated about \$18,000 in revenue.

Jan updated the group for Laura, who is doing Senior Games this week and next, in Smithfield, Selma, Benson & Clayton. P&R co-sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt this year with LaLey/Hispanic Radio Station, and had over 200 kids. (This is the most we've ever had.) At the end of the month, she has 20 senior citizens booked for a trip to Charleston.

Gary updated the group on recent tournaments – which included 2 baseball showcases (40 teams). Upcoming events include the following: H&Y Girls Softball Tournament (18 teams, May 5-6); SJBA Tournament in June (64-72 teams); THL District Tournament (24 Teams); THL Sr. Tournament & Girls Tournament (July 12-15).

Jon updated the group on current sports underway, which includes 6 T-Ball teams; 2 Girls Softball Teams; 8 Baseball Teams; and 20 F&F Teams. Nine camps are already planned for the summer, and flyers are ready.

Kristin added that the Summer Promotion (3 month membership) begins in May. Price is \$90 for 1 for 3 months (was \$75 last year); and additional 12 and over members would be \$75/each.

At this time, Earl Marret and Gary Johnson introduced themselves to Paul. Thank you Earl for describing Smithfield P&R as the “jewel of town”.

In closing, Tim reminded everyone that we will meet again in May, and then take June, July and August off for the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Ashley