

Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting September 18, 2012

The Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. at Smithfield Recreation Aquatics Center.

Members Present: Earl Marrett Angela Rabil
 Andy Moore Daniel Sanders
 Robbie Parker

Members Absent: Chris Howell Jamie Stanley
 Clayton Narron Zack Parrish
 Lyn Andrews Scott Wright

Staff Present: Tim Johnson, Director
 Gary Johnson, Assistant Director
 Dale Ham, SRAC Director
 Laura Crumpler, Recreation Supervisor

Staff Absent: Dennis Tyner, Maintenance Supervisor
 Jon Moore, Athletic Programs Supervisor
 Kristin Sasser, Recreation Center Supervisor

Tim opened the meeting with an overview of June/July reports for SRAC and SPRD. (The handout was the same that goes to the Town Manager and the Town Council.) On expenditure side, we have cut as much as possible. The special Johnston County School Employee rate has gone into effect. That special resulted in 43 new contracts. The special Johnston Community College Student rate has started and resulted in 16 new contracts. We have also run another 1 month special with JoCoDeal.com. This special is for a month's membership ... with one rate, as they can not distinguish between resident and non-resident. A similar promotion in early 2012 took in between \$7,000-\$8,000.

Since we met last, the Three Little Pigs Triathlon was held and was another huge success with around 450 participants. Friends of the Park and Smithfield Rotary Club each made approximately \$8,500.

July was extremely busy as well. Spectators to the Park and SRAC during the month were around 15,000. Great economic impact for Smithfield, and contacts were around 14,000.

Tim said that the Farmers Market has wrapped up for the season, and that there is some discussion going on about moving the Market. If we move the Market, we hope to increase the traffic and the number of vendors. Basically a Saturday market at our present location isn't worth it. There isn't much going on downtown on Saturdays. Tim said they are currently talking with W. Mohamad about the vacant lot across from IGA. This location, if it works out, would give us more visibility and more traffic than the present location.

The Jump Start Program (Pre-School Program) didn't start this school year. Tim said that none of the applicants were what we were looking for, so we held off. Making it a harder sell is the fact that it is a PT position, without benefits.

Smith Collins Park

Tim updated the group on Smith Collins Park. Basically, Smith Collins had been rented at a lesser rate due to the older condition of the park. Tim also said that it had been about 3 years since we had had any capital money. Due to damages and vandalism done at the park, particularly to restrooms, we had stopped repairing

them. A destroyed toilet and sink could be up to \$400-\$500 to repair. (Bathrooms left unlocked destroyed, lights broken, etc.)

Several things are underway and have already been done at Smith Collins to get it in better shape. Jackie Bryant has helped restore the bathroom; Lights at basketball courts have been repaired. Due to some capital outlay money and another unexpected revenue (from Visitors Bureau), the basketball courts at the Community Park and Smith Collins will both be resurfaced. Also, the Electric Department has put more energy efficient lighting out there. The old lights from Channel Master and Bingham Park will be used to re-light the baseball/softball field. Eventually we would like to add a picnic shelter at Smith Collins. Hopefully we can put that in next year's budget.

At this time Daniel Sanders asked about folks who use Smith Collins Park that are out there cooking/selling food. Tim said they aren't supposed to sell food, and that we'd have to tell our maintenance crew, who come in and work on weekends going around to the different parks how to handle that.

Red Cross Awards

At this time Tim mentioned that some of our staff were awarded Red Cross' highest award for the near drowning rescue back on July 6. Jacob Lawhon pulled a child from the water, and Lyn Andrews and Rob Childrey performed CPR. Fortunately, this ended happily. Although we all recognize that you can do everything right, and not have those results.

Other pool news, Lyn Andrews "re-retired" at the end of August. Tim said Aquatics Director is a demanding job, especially in the summer, with around 20 different groups coming in, parties, etc. Tim also mentioned that at some point we need to have a Full-time Assistant Aquatics Director. The pool is open 90 hours a week! This would help tremendously with peace of mind and overall safety and operations.

Laura Crumpler has replaced Lyn as the Aquatics Director. We have been in the process of interviews to replace Laura's old position, and hope to make that hire by the end of the month.

Friends of the Park Reverse Raffle & Auction

Mark your calendars – the Reverse Raffle and Auction is Thursday night, October 11th. Golden Corral has already agreed to be the meal sponsor once again. The first one last year was a great success, raising \$18,000 toward debt service.

BCBS – Healthways

A question was raised about Silver Sneakers and if we can get that through BCBS. Dale Ham said we are trying to get approved. Still waiting to hear.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Ashley