

Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting March 15, 2016

The Smithfield Recreation Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, March 15th at 8:00 a.m. at Smithfield Recreation & Aquatics Center.

Members Present:	Robbie Parker Daniel Sanders	Scott Wright Earl Marrett
Members Absent:	Chris Howell Andy Moore Tim Johnson	Jackie Bryant David Lasater
Others Present:	Marlon Lee	
Staff Present:	Gary Johnson, Director Dale Ham, SRAC Director Jon Moore, Athletics Supervisor Laura Crumpler, Aquatics Supervisor Kristin Sasser, Recreation Center Supervisor	
Staff Absent:	Bill Shipley, Asst. Aquatics Dennis Tyner, Maintenance Supervisor Tiffany Pearson, Recreation Supervisor	

Gary Johnson opened the meeting with financial data and monthly reports for December and January.

Update on Inclusion Park and Miracle League Field – Went out to Bid twice. Only one bid received after initial bid opening, so had to re-bid. Two bids received this time. Lowest one is \$769k, so they are currently in negotiations. Met with Burney & Burney yesterday. Phase One of the project is the site work. Phase Two of the project is equipment. Partnership for Children planning to hold out a portion of their funds, so they can apply for a grant for equipment in 2017. Once the work begins on the project, they have two years to complete it. Town has leased the property to them for \$1 year.

Land Acquisition – At one point we were thinking of trying to get a grant to acquire more land around the park. Gary said we are not applying for any grants at this time to do that. Any grants would require development within 5 years, and the Town feels we need to update the facilities we have.

2017 Budget Process – We are currently going through the Budgeting process, and some of the items we are requesting include: new playground units at Johnson Park and Smith Collins Park; New Vintrack Tractor; upgrade and open bathrooms at Talton.

Smith Collins Park – At this point, Daniel Sanders asked about the standing water at Smith Collins. Said water in the ditch around the park never goes away, even when there hasn't been rain. Question was raised as to whether the Railroad could clean ditch that runs along RR. Gary said the Town would have to pursue that, but it's very difficult to do. Gary noted that unfortunately that park has always been wet, and that it's one of the lowest areas of town. JP Edwards is going to cut and drain our ditches along the park. Have also cut down dead trees, so maybe more sun can get to wet areas and help dry them.

Later on during the meeting Daniel Sanders asked about concessions at Smith Collins. Gary said that it hasn't been part of the Concessions contract, but that if we had a need for it over there, i.e. more events planned

over there, then it would be offered to Jeff first, as he currently has the Concessions contract. As of right now there haven't been any serious inquiries. If you know of any, they need to talk to Gary.

Cost Recovery Plan – Gary said he would like more direction from the Board and Town Council as to a specific formula for our programs.

Capital Improvement Projects – Upcoming use of funds includes: Grading work, tree removal, ditch work, new scoreboard, new bleachers, concrete work concession & backstop at Smith Collins; Press box renovation, concrete work, and new bleachers at Civitan; and Wireless at Smithfield Community Park.

Drainage Issues at CP Soccer Fields – These fields stay wet too. Earl Marret suggested getting up with Cooperative Extension Service, Soil Conservation. They may know what can be done. Also they may know of Grant monies to help with issues. Earl said he would contact someone there and see what he could find out.

Greenway – Finally got the Permit from Wildlife Resources, DENHR to stabilize the bank. Engineers estimate cost to be between \$35-50k. Has to be done.

Boat Ramp – NC Department of Wildlife Commission will renovate the boat ramp, moving it up near the water treatment plant. This will include parking, 60 foot boat ramp, fishing deck and a canoe launch. We will be responsible for maintaining it. Gary said if its anything like the one they've done in Goldsboro and Kinston it will be great. Haven't seen plans though.

Updates from Staff:

Dale Ham – 3 Little Pigs Triathlon coming up – June 18th. Hosted last Volleyball tournament for awhile. Big Basketball Tournament this weekend.

Jon Moore – Basketball had 22 teams, and just wrapped up. Have 40 kids in Kinder Basketball. 6 Baseball teams getting started, 20 F&F teams, and an 8u girls softball team. Miracle League scrimmages had 8 Varsity softball teams and 4 JV teams.

Kristin Sasser – Summer Camp registration starts April 1st. There will be a Financial Workshop for High School students on April 12th. Schools will bus kids over. Ages 16-24.

Laura Crumpler – Hosted 16 meets this season, including Marlins, Wake Co. 4A, and 2 Rivers Conference. Kudos to Laura for these meets. As someone in the group mentioned, they can't just be run by anybody, and she does a great job. Swim Meets are "organized chaos!"

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Ashley

The next RAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th.