

Bristol Tennessee Parks and Recreation
Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes
March 31st, 2022– 6:00 P.M.
Slater Community Center – Room 208

Present: Susi Chandler, Doug Harmon, Charlie Taylor, Margaret Feierabend, Amy Shi, Sherry Willinger, David Akard, Curt Rutherford, Clyde Downs, Justin Hutchinson,

Staff: Terry Napier, Cody Widner

Absent: Ronda Baker, Logan Tudor

I. Called to order at 6:06 P.M.

- Called by David Akard

II. Minutes of the January 13th, 2022, meeting approval

- Motion to approve by Doug Harmon, second by Charlie Taylor, motion passed.

III. New Business (Capital Projects & Proposals)

- **Aquatic Facility** – Terry noted that the facility has been in planning since 2017, and he continues to have an interest in it. No locations are currently set.
- **Farmers Market Improvements** – Terry suggested an indoor or improved farmers' market. He thinks to be able to expand and acquire more vendors, a covered facility would be optimal.
 - David envisioned a more open-air concept.
 - Charlie suggested incorporating a parking garage to alleviate parking issues downtown.
- **Beaver Creek South Greenway** – The 5.5-mile path connecting Rooster Front Park to Bristol Motor Speedway continues to be a topic of discussion. Terry noted the pushback from property owners has prevented further advancement.
 - Margaret clarified the eminent domain process to the group but specified that it would not be the most desirable way to acquire the land.
- **SCP Amenities** – Terry outlined improvements to the amenities at Steele Creek Park. He detailed the pricing and ideas behind projects such as a mini golf course, botanical garden, and a BMX track.
- **Pickleball** – The 12 court pickleball complex would involve a partnership with Bristol Sportsplex, in which they would manage the programming and the parks and recreation department would clean and maintain the facility. Terry did note that the partnership would involve a 30-year contract with clauses for either group to exit the agreement if needed.
- **Skate Park** – Terry outlined his proposal for an 1800 square foot skate park that would be vastly superior to the recently removed skate park. Multiple locations have been discussed but would be dependent on feedback and other factors in the decision-making process.

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- **Community Recreation Center** – The newly proposed multi use facility, for public and school system activities, would house two basketball courts, exercise rooms, etc., and would also accommodate music events. Terry suggested incorporating additional phases of construction, hoping for an aquatics addition in the second phase. The location of the suggested facility would be in the vicinity of Rotary Field and the Anderson Street Bridge.
- **Apiary** – The apiary is 80% completed. Solar panel installation will be done soon.
- **Amphitheater** – The existing amphitheater will be removed in the coming months. Due to issues with the original installation, it is impossible to repair, and it continues to be a hazard to visitors.
- **Dog Park** – The Food City Dog Park is close to completion, with second phase restroom construction planned next.
- **Slater Community Center** – Margaret questioned Terry regarding the status of planned upgrades for the Slater Center. Terry stated that he has budgeted for these repairs and has a variety of plans in mind to improve the bathrooms, floors, and ADA accessibility.

IV. Board Comment

- **Susi Chandler** – Complimented Terry on the improvements to Rock Cut Trail, to which Terry went into a more detailed description about specifics required to level out certain areas of the trail.
- **Clyde Downs** – Gave his support in focusing on areas away from Steele Creek Park that often get less attention, specifically the farmers market and skate park.
- **Amy Shi** – Amy liked the idea of a community recreation center and believes it would also be an asset to students in the area.
- **Doug Harmon** – Agreed with Amy that a larger recreation center would be an improvement to the community.
- **Charlie Taylor** – Charlie suggested that the pool should be built during initial construction of the recreation center rather than in a later phase.
- **Curt Rutherford** – Stated that he was simply excited that we have funds to spend, and good projects to look forward to.
- All commissioners present at this special meeting listed priorities for parks and recreation capital projects, both before and after briefing by Terry. Lists were submitted to Terry for recommendations to the Bristol Tennessee City Council.

V. Adjourned 8:12 P.M. by David Akard.

VI. Next Meeting Date – May 5th, 2022