

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00PM with the following present:

**Recreation Director:**

**Other Town Staff:**

**Richlands Town Council Members:**

**Recreation Commission Members:** Frances Meadows, Ronnie Cordle, Craig Earls, Jeff Hurst, LaRhonda Lindsey, Brannon Breeding

Ronnie Cordle opened the Richlands Recreation Commission meeting and welcomed everyone to the May meeting.

Brannon Breeding replaces Brandon Smith as the newest member of the commission. Craig Earls distributed the April meeting notes. Jeff Hurst - Motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Frances Meadows seconded the motion. Ronnie Cordle- Any further discussion on minutes? No discussion, approved 6/0.

#### **Other Discussion**

Jeff Hurst – What is going on with the man at Critterville that is getting baseballs hit over to his yard. Fred Phillips talked to him and they are just coming over the nets over to his property.

Ronnie Cordle - I will talk to Tim Taylor and Fred Phillips about what are they going to do about it. I am sure Tim will want to handle that.

Jeff Hurst - The guy was really nice about it, but would like to have it addressed.

#### **Recreation Utilities**

Ronnie Cordle - We did some digging and the lights is not really the big expense for utility costs. The heating system is taking up the most electricity for here at the recreation park. Those heaters are very old, but I don't know the solution. I made Fred aware of the situation with those heaters, the bill did double in those month where they were used.

Jeff Hurst - I don't think they have thermostats. I wonder if we could add them to make them more efficient.

Craig Earls - Is this at retail rates or wholesale?

Ronnie Cordle - They are charged as retail rates. There is also a container fee here for 2 dumpsters.

Frances Meadows - The reason why is because of the size of the containers they can use here. So that is a restriction.

Ronnie Cordle - The town has the electric usage for the ball fields and it shows the Critterville Sr. League field as having a \$300 expense for electricity.

Craig Earls - The lights where used for football practice a few days in the fall and we also ran the concession stand on a minimal basis.

Ronnie Cordle - The Recreation Park lights here were not very high at all. But the heat is really the high electricity item.

LaRhonda Lindsey - If we had timers or thermostats for the heaters that would really help the situation. I know often times it is very hot in there and it may be running too often.

Frances Meadows - So the electricity and garbage we could look at making it cheaper for the Recreation Park.

Ronnie Cordle - If we can make any progress towards making money that will be good.

### **Middle Age Group Activities**

Ronnie Cordle - Fred Phillips and I went to Critterville and asked people about what they would like to have on the walking trails as far as stations and benches to rest, etc. We have not talked much about it.

Frances Meadows - I have seen people out and have talked to several about this topic. People tell me that they don't need anything high impact, but something for stretching or walking. Thai Chi was also mentioned, and some people use it. Some also like these structured workouts for certain days. Inside, they asked if the gym is not being used to have a small walking trail inside the gym.

Jeff Hurst - We could have a good walking trail over here with all the land.

Frances Meadows - They also said they would like low impact aerobics for older people. They like to have it about 8:00am to get the day going.

LaRhonda Lindsey - We used to have aerobics classes here for all ages, she doesn't do it any more though.

Ronnie Cordle - Maybe Fred can reach out to people who do these aerobics classes for these people and bring them in.

### **Picnic Shelter at Williams Park**

Ronnie Cordle – Mary Ann Strong talked to the Lions Club about building a new shelter and walking stations. I don't really know them, but Mary Ann wanted me to add this to the agenda. I am not for sure where we are with this. Jeff Hurst, can you reach out to them?

Jeff Hurst - They do want to put more walking trail benches down at Critterville, but I have not heard about a shelter. The Rotary organization originally put that down there, and it was about \$5,000 dollars. I can talk to Rod Curry about it and see if they are interested.

### **Meet with Travis Hackworth with Tazewell County Board of Supervisors**

Ronnie Cordle – Mary Ann Strong wants to schedule a meeting with Travis Hackworth to request funding for the Recreation Park. When he took over Seth White's position no funds were available to give. They possibly could have some funds now for this.

Frances Meadows - What are we asking money for?

Ronnie Cordle - I am not for sure what she had in mind to ask for. I know Fred had a study that we had more people out of town limits that use this facility.

Jeff Hurst - We tried to get funding to get a new pool built at one time. We have plenty of stuff we could use it for, the weight room expansion, etc.

LaRhonda Lindsey - We do need to go and ask for funds for a specific purpose.

Ronnie Cordle - We have a lot of things to use it for, like the weight room etc. We also need a good desk area when you come in that is in better shape. We also need equipment and flooring, so we have a lot of items to use it for.

### **Clinch River Soccer**

Jeff Hurst - We have a good sample from Medallion Carpet for the turf area. The sample materials gives you the process on how they put the product in and set it up. We have the plans here as well, and he dropped the field and parking area on the map to show how it all will be placed on the land. The design shows 45 extra parking spaces as an option. The issue would limit us on scheduling on who plays when. I talked to Kevin about rewiring the lights and that it will not be hard, but actually doing it is a different story. We have not completed the drainage plan and system that will be needed for the location. I also talked to Lowe's about donating a fence. Lowes may have some grants or can give us some deals on fencing or other things.

LaRhonda Lindsey - Do the youth soccer leagues offer any grants?

Jeff Hurst - Some have grants, but it is for group rates on turf. The lighting grants sometimes have the best options. Our next step is to really scope out the fundraising side and narrowing the budget. Brannon has been helping to see if we can get any donations for equipment for construction and the needed grade work. We are confident we can do it, but need to get the funding. We are looking at a dream-list of what we need and have looked at some things we may want, but may not need. We did get some quotes from the guy who did the fence for the high school softball field.

### **Recreation Park Bathrooms**

Ronnie Cordle – The doors are locked, but they have worked on some of the partitions for the new bathrooms. The backer boards are up for the showers, and once complete will be e very nice. The shower and floor will be all tile. They are also going to put LED lights in these rooms.

Jeff Hurst - are they going to replace the lights in the foyer as well? Those lights and things look really bad.

Ronnie Cordle - I hope they do.

LaRhonda Lindsey - Can they remove the carpet?

Ronnie Cordle - They need it for the pool, so it won't be slick when they come through. The detainees could not come in this week to work. They have started the work, but I think he wants to hire to do the finish work. At this point, we do not have a final date. I think they are going to open the pool season with bathrooms up here while construction is going on downstairs.

Jeff Hurst - I am worried about them walking into the weight room and getting hurt.

Ronnie Cordle – Fred Phillips does not want doors on the weight room.

Jeff Hurst- Are they doing the snack bar for the pool?

Ronnie Cordle - They are not doing the snack bar this year because it is too expensive to operate. If we could lease it out to another group to run that would help.

**Other Discussion Topics:**

Frances Meadows- Did we get the smoking areas designated at Critterville.

Craig Earls - Yes, those areas are designated and the work is complete on the areas. We are still working on where to put them at the Flanary Field complex.

Ronnie Cordle – Tim Taylor mentioned to me that for part of the walking trail the town paid \$10,000 to do a good study on the trail. There are some grants out there for the walking trail. All the information is there and they have grants available to implement the plan. Larry Johnson is working on Critterville for the kayak landing area. We need someone to write the grant and the town does not have the resources to do it.

No further comments.

Next meeting - June 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM at the Richalnds Recreation Park

Ronnie Cordle - Adjourned meeting.