

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on January 20th, 2020 at 7:30PM with the following present:

Recreation Department: Jessica Reynolds

Other Attendees: Paul Crawford - Mayor

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong

Recreation Commission Members Present: Craig Earls, Jeff Hurst, Frances Meadows, LaRhonda Lindsey, Corey Whited, Joel Horn

Recreation Commission Members Not Present: Mike Webb, Joe McCall, Tony Cordle

Jeff Hurst opened the Richlands Recreation Commission meeting and welcomed everyone to the January Meeting.

Old Business:

December Meeting Minutes Approval

Jeff Hurst: For old business, we need to approve the December Meeting minutes. Does anyone have any corrections, additions, or deletions to the December meeting minutes? LaRhonda Lindsey made a motion to approve the December Meeting minutes. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further comments, motion carries 6/0.

New Business:

Recreation Facility Usage Form (Jeff Hurst)

Jeff Hurst: During our last meeting we talked about the facility usage and the forms. I just want to talk about the Rec park gyms, fields, and anything with the Rec park. We need to know who is using the fields to ensure who is in charge and for scheduling. I got on the internet and here are some examples of usage forms for facilities that we can go by. Some have different types of facilities. The fine print is good to read as to see what these are requiring for charges, insurance, and waiver if you don't have the materials.

Corey Whited: I really like how they have the field usage costs listed.

Jeff Hurst: I really like the Shenandoah county one.

Corey Whited: We want to make sure that the fees are affordable and I really like these.

Jessica Reynolds: Getting the computer system implemented was hard, but it is keeping us organized and is so important.

Corey Whited: The technology is nice and it keeps it tracked for everything.

Jeff Hurst: I think the next step is to get a template maybe for next month.

Jessica Reynolds: I will work to get this together and with our pricing.

Jeff Hurst: We also talked about charging for the usage of the facilities. The volleyball league did very well and they have some big crowds. They had the facility 4 nights a week and basketball also uses the facility 5 days a week. We talked about possibly a league charge. We also have a tournament that may want it one day, and how do we charge for that? We have a lot of viewpoints on this. How much, when we charge, etc. If a league comes, is there something we can come up with that will help out.

Craig Earls: I think the approach for the single day tournaments vs leagues using the facilities will be different. If leagues are using the facility I think the Rec Park should get a portion of any door fees charged.

Joel Horn: Yes, and the schools will charge for liability insurance.

Mayor Crawford: After we talked, and I thought about it. I looked at the budget, and thought some more, and asked some further questions. I texted a few and thought I would come by and talk to you guys. The Rec Park has been here 40 years and not charged a fee, and it is covered by the town. I know we have expenses like the floor etc. We looked at the 2018 budget and seen where items were approved for maintenance etc. There was not very much question about the Rec Park during the budget process. I know that Pittston and other organizations have put money in, and will continue. In my opinion, I think we should push the decision to the council since it involves money. In my opinion, for fiscal responsibility, we should put in all the necessary items that require maintenance. In looking at the budget, \$5k is not enough to upkeep this building. If the council will not approve those items, then alternate things like charging should occur.

Jeff Hurst: Back after I came home from college, we used to have a budget for some of these items that were outside the normal budget. Over the last years, that was took out of the budget, so we don't have anything like that anymore.

Mayor Crawford: I think in the past the Rec Park was not seen as necessary. I don't think it is like that anymore. Thanks for letting me stop in and talk. (Mayor left).

Jessica Reynolds: Last year we just kind of copied what we did the year before, we can look at maybe putting that back in.

Jeff Hurst: I had Jessica run some numbers on how much we made during the tournaments.

LaRhonda Lindsey: I think for the one day tournaments we should have a cleaning fee.

Corey Whited: I think that is a great idea.

Jessica Reynolds: It took is several hours to clean up after that wrestling tournament.

Jeff Hurst: The league usage is different.

LaRhonda Lindsey: Since we have so many use it from different areas it would be good to get some other help, Like the RDA, Cedar Bluff etc.

Jessica Reynolds: The Mayor, and myself, go to the RDA meetings and have asked. They did give to the greenway in town. The RDA is the first Thursday, where the supervisors meet.

Jeff Hurst: Let's try to include the cleaning fee in the new draft form.

Mary Ann Strong: Some people may not see how under staffed we are. And why is the Rec Park not running the leagues and how much.

LaRhonda Lindsey: And RYBL (basketball) gives back to the Rec Park to help with items on the inside.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, but volleyball didn't give any. They had a lot of expenses due to starting this year. So if we charge, maybe only after first year.

Jeff Hurst: Maybe at the end of the year should we have them present a financial statement.

Craig Earls: I do think that any league that comes here for approval that we should agree on giving a portion of the door fee charged back to the Rec Park. That will help offset the extra staff needed and cleaning etc.

Jeff Hurst: It sounds like we have some good options. We can look at these next month after Jessica creates the form.

Recreation Updates (Jessica Reynolds)

Jessica Reynolds: We are having a lot of people play pickle ball and the college is using the tennis courts. Basketball is going very well and the weight room is going awesome. I am back, and we have several women coming for fitness classes on Monday and Wednesday. Emily is doing an amazing job and she is so great for the Rec Park.

Other Topics:

None

No further comments.

Next meeting – February 17th, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the Richlands Recreation Park

Jeff Hurst - Adjourned meeting.