

EDEN PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 5th, 2021

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, October 5th, 2021.

Members Present:

**Matt Warren
Ben Curtis
Ed Wilson
Charlene Pettie
Dr. John Dabbs**

Members Absent:

**Roy Fraizer
Michael Yannotti
Will Nance
Karla McDonald**

Staff Present:

Terry Vernon

1. Meeting called to order

Ben Curtis called the meeting to order.

2. Roll call

Ben Curtis made a record of everyone in attendance and established a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 3rd, 2021

John Dabbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3rd, 2021 meeting. Ed Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Committee discussed the following items:

- **Draper and Spray Ballfields:** The Facilities Committee shared that the Draper and Spray Ballfields are not being utilized and a motion was made by Matt Warren that the City sell the properties and that the proceeds would stay in the Parks and Recreation Department budget and go toward the development of the Bike Trail at the New Street Park. John Dabbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- **Carbide Trail:** Ed Wilson asked what is the status of the Carbide Trail Greenway extension. Mr. Vernon shared that Kelly Stultz is working with David Probba on the “Rails to Trails” project and will report back with more information in the near future.
- **Update on Bike Trail on New Street:** Matt Warren shared with the Committee that he and Terry McGee and Terry Vernon observed the trail for over 2 hours. Mr. Meyer said it has the potential of about 6 miles of trail and that he would be willing to be a consultant on the project for 15% of the total cost. He noted that in order to get big names to take an interest in events there that it needs to be at least 5 miles long. Mr. Vernon stated that it would be open from dawn till dusk and that they would make any money from special events. He also noted that there would be very low maintenance for the city.

Tony McGee stated that there is Grant money available for projects like this that would help offset the cost of \$30,000 per mile.

John Dabbs made a motion that the City would explore this project further and Matt Warren seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jim Burnett of the Strategic Planning Committee, shared with the Committee plans for a potential Tubing Program. He noted that in keeping with the City’s theme of “Land of Two Rivers” that there needs to be an activity that is on the river. Reidsville and Madison-Mayodan both have river activities that are very popular. The tubing would start at the Island Ford Greenway and end at the Boat Landing on Bethlehem Church Road; about a 2-hour ride. There would be a charge of \$12 for renting the tube and flotation device and \$5 for a ride back to the starting point. This activity would run from Memorial Day until Labor Day 5-7 days a week.

There would be a need for part-time employees, 2 used vans and 2 trailers, replacement tubes and flotation devices, and a small building to house the tubes at a total cost of around \$70,000.

Safety being a big issue, there would be signs installed along the river letting people know of the “take out” point. And there will be no alcohol allowed, also, everyone tubing must sign a waiver releasing the City from any liability. The river would have to be checked everyday and there would be an emergency plan in place with the Rescue Squad. Also, there would be an employee at the end of the ride to show people where to get out.

Mr. Burnett stated that he will ask for this to be put on the City Council agenda for November.

- Terry Vernon shared with the Committee a possible plan of “Unification of Recreation” that would incorporate the YMCA, the Eden Boys Club and the City’s Recreation program into one unified program. It would incorporate Swimming, Basketball, Football, Cheerleading, Soccer and Tennis into one unified program. The City would hire Directors and Assistant Director’s for the programs. Mr. Vernon noted that he has not spoken to the YMCA or the Boy’s Club yet and wanted feedback from the Committee first.

Mr. Curtis asked the following questions: Who originated the idea, who would present the idea to the YMCA and Boy’s Club, and who would be on the Board. The idea was brought to Terry Vernon by City Leadership and he would present it and 1 person from each sub-committee would be on the Board.

Ben Curtis made a motion that the Committee would support the Unification of Recreation project, Matt Warren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Terry Vernon discussed the possibility of charging a \$300 deposit on Field Use due to the fact that ball teams reserve the fields months in advance and then don’t use the fields preventing other teams from using them. Matt Warren made a motion to charge the Field Use deposit, Charlene Pettie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, John Dabbs made a motion for adjournment. Matt Warren seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgette Spence
Administrative Assistant to the
Parks & Recreation Advisory
Committee