



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

BUNTEN ROAD PARK

THE MAX BUILDING
3180 BUNTEN RD
DULUTH, GA 30096

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023, AT 6:00PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

David Jones, Chair
Sharon Parris, Co-Chair
Alexis Server, Secretary
Annette McIntosh
Mark Carter

Curt Lindner
Ryan Marcinik
Mary Odum
Judy Putnam

PRESENT: David Jones, Sharon Parris, Alexis Server, Annette McIntosh, Curt Lindner, Judy Putnam,

ABSENT: Mary Odum, Ryan Marcinik, Mark Carter

CITY REPRESENTATIVES: James Riker, Kathy Marelle, Will Marvel

GUESTS: Tom Turner, Bryan Garrett, Jeff Bradford, Diane McCormick

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made Alexis Server, seconded by Sharon Parris to approve the March 8, 2023, minutes as presented. All for; motion carried.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW RECREATION COORDINATOR

The Director of Parks & Recreation Kathy Marelle introduced Will Marvel, the new Recreation Coordinator.

IV. CITY PROJECT UPDATES - CITY MANAGER JAMES RIKER

City Manager James Riker presented updates on projects and elected leadership. Mayor Nancy Harris will be retiring in December 2023 with Councilmember Greg Whitlock to continue City leadership as Mayor in 2024.

Mr. Riker discussed residential projects. Encore is residential construction that includes 465 single-family homes along with 51 townhome units. Nine acres of river land adjacent to the Rogers Bridge Park has been donated to the City. Sherwood Crossing Phase II is a residential community consisting of 34 townhome units. Riviere is a residential community consisting of 72 townhome units. SODO is a multi-family residential community that includes 257 units. Marlowe, Gardendale, and Evanshire are residential communities under development. Overall, the City has balanced residential development with 6,700 single-family homes, 2,300 townhomes, and 5,200 apartment units.

To enhance affordable, quality housing the City is dedicated to sewer improvements with coordinated funding efforts in various locations, in particular in areas with aging septic. Code Enforcement works with residents to sustain a clean, livable City. Public Works continues road resurfacing projects to maintain quality transportation surfaces. The Stormwater Department continues infrastructure inspections and scheduled repairs to failing areas.

The City is also committed to the business community. LR Burger recently opened on the town green adjacent to the new activity lawn. Thrive Coworking, a dedicated and shared workspace venue located across from City Hall will be opening in the near future.

In 2024, the City's solid waste provider will transition to an automated trash receptacle system. The automated receptacle will replace the bag system. The automated system is utilized throughout the county as companies develop effective and efficient operating systems to service growing development. The cost to the City is estimated to be \$20 per resident.

Tom Turner, Brian Garrett, and Jeff Bradford came forward and discussed the need for Pickleball courts in the community.

IV. PARK UPDATES - KATHY MARELLE / WILL MARVEL

Phase II of Rogers Bridge Park that includes parking areas, trails, and a pavilion are underway. The parking lot is estimated to be completed in 45 days. Phase II has an anticipated completion date of May 2024.

The W.P. Jones tennis facility has experienced erosion that has caused infrastructure of the foundation of the courts and bank area. SPLOST funds have been requested to construct a retaining wall to stabilize the courts.

The 1.08-mile recreation trail at Bunten Road Park has become compromised and is considered hazardous for the walking/ running/biking standard. This has become a priority for the department to appropriate SPLOST funding for trail reconstruction and improvements. Columbia Engineering is under contract for the project.

V. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD - NONE

VI. MATTERS FROM STAFF

Due to recent storm damage at W.P. Jones Park, the pavilion, restrooms, and the playground will be closed until all repairs are complete due to flooding. Full Circle Restoration is managing the repairs.

The playground at Bunten Road Park experienced ground damage at one of the entrance points due to recent storms. Repairs are scheduled.

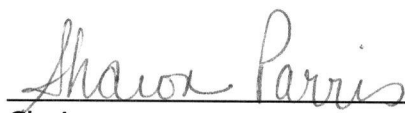
The eight-week summer camp was a great success. There were 1100 campers ages 5 to 14, that enjoyed outside activities, weekly special events, snow cones, and bimonthly water slides. No major injuries occurred this year!

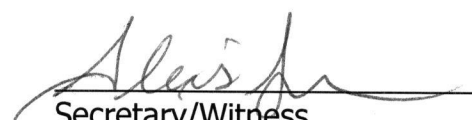
There is a full lineup of fall activities for all ages with the most popular being Pickleball, Active Adult Fitness, Yoga, AFUSA and Duluth Soccer Academy play, Tennis, and I-9 Sport activities. The youth basketball season will begin registration in October. The Bunten Road Park gym floor was refurbished recently with a new floor inlay design. The W.P. Jones Lodge active adult activities are three days a week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Jones, seconded by Annette McIntosh to adjourn at 8:28pm.

Approved this 11 day of October, 2023.


Chairman


Secretary/Witness