

**TOWN OF MINT HILL
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 14, 2017**

The Park and Recreation Committee of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on June 14th, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mint Hill Town Hall.

ATTENDANCE

Chairman: Ron Freeman

Members: Sandy Barnett, Roger Bowden, Ray Thompson, Bryan Burns and Dalton Taylor

Absent: Michelle McDonald

Town Staff: Lee Bailey, Steve Frey, Chris Cochrane and Cody Hasty

Program Support Assistant: Candice Everhart

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Freeman at 8:00 a.m., who declared a quorum and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence.

Addition, Deletion and Arrangement of Other Agenda Items: None.

Approval of Minutes of June 14th, 2016 Regular Meeting: Mr. Thompson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Barnett and unanimously agreed, to approve the minutes of June 14th, 2016 regular meeting.

Reports of Committees, Members and Staff: Mr. Bailey asked if Mr. Cochrane would introduce the new Parks Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Cochrane introduced Cody Hasty to the committee. Mr. Hasty has a degree in turf maintenance and six years of experience working for the City of Monroe.

Old Business: *Mr. Bowden asked, is the tower is down at Veterans Park?* Mr. Bailey said, yes.

Mr. Bowden asked, is there a possibility of expanding the park? Mr. Frey said, there has been talk of expanding that area to a dog park. One of our K-9 Officers approached me and asked if we had the capacity to start a design and building a dog park and I told him that we would have to pump the brakes on that due to sidewalk projects. He had mentioned he had people that would like to donate some materials to help keep costs down. Other than that there are no ideas on cost, design or timeframe.

Mrs. Barnett asked, is there any way to work with a local college to see if there are students who could submit designs for a dog park through a project? Mr. Frey said, I would open any opportunities. We've also had others organizations who would like to donate projects through Eagle Scouts and such.

Mrs. Barnett asked, is this something the Commissioners would need to put in a budget or say they would want to start this project in 'x' year? Mr. Welch said, there are different ways of using

supplemental uses budget from our Police Department since this would potentially also serve as a K-9 facility training as well as other aspects of the budget, but yes it would ultimately come to the Commissioners.

Mrs. Barnett asked, any thoughts on making the other front field a play field or practice field? Mr. Frey said, there hasn't been any talk about grading and leveling that out as it is also a portion of our parking for Madness.

Mrs. Barnett asked, how do we generate talk about that if we want to see that done? Mr. Welch said, there hasn't been any talk about it mostly because our main concern about fields is being put into the new park project on the twenty-seven acres on Brief Road. Once we have that underway, then we can talk about other field projects.

Mrs. Barnett asked, do we have an update on the Athletic Fields? Mr. Frey said, we did not get selected for the PARTF Grant. The coordinator from the State said we are next in line to receive a Federal Grant for \$167,000. The plans are between 70-100% completion in getting ready to go out to bid. We had a pre-qualification meeting last week to get contractors excited and involved with great turnout. We are targeting late-May to early-June to put it out to bid. I don't have a firm date on construction start or end, but it is about an eight month construction process which doesn't include growing in natural turf areas. The layout has not changed any. The only other hiccup we've had is with the septic system. It has delayed us a couple weeks in design.

Mrs. Barnett asked, is it going to be a practice field where the septic system is? Mr. Frey said, no. It will be more of a grassy, multi-purpose area where I envision kids would fly kites or just kick a ball around. It is not going to be completely level for playing soccer or anything such as that.

New Business:

- A. Discussion and Decision on Park Major Event Application for Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Easter Eggstravaganza:** Mr. Bailey said, this has always been a Minor Event in the past so you haven't seen the application. They have set up to clean up from 8:00am – 12:00pm. This is out of the honesty of the people at Philadelphia because they had a little more than 250 people last year so they just wanted to be upfront about that for this year. There are no complaints or operational issues, it was just that they had over the 250 people.

Mrs. Barnett asked, where are they going to park the 200 cars? Mr. Cochrane said, last year they were parking where they could. Basically they parking lot was full, but they had a shuttle coming back and forth. I didn't see or hear any complaints about parking cars or from our security staff last year.

Mr. Bailey said, as we usually do on Major Events we would have someone coordinate with our Public Works on parking and make sure they have everything they need.

Mr. Thompson asked, is there any overflow parking? Mr. Cochrane said, no.

Mrs. Barnett asked, is there a reason this is not at 218? Mr. Bailey responded, Wilgrove Park is their personal preference for this event.

Mr. Burns said, the park out at 218 is probably better from a parking and safety concern. Mr. Bailey said, we could suggest it, but I would think that the trees and shade provide more places to hide eggs at Wilgrove.

Commissioner Newton said, we do have about six attendants parking cars and directing them. I never felt it was an issue and Wilgrove Park is a better venue.

Commissioner Ross said, they did not park on the grass. They parked on the paved areas only. The attendants have a map of where eggs will be placed so they know where not to park cars.

Commissioner Newton said, we also have the bus that brings people to the park and takes them back to the church.

Mr. Freeman made a favorable motion to approve the Major Event Application for Philadelphia Presbyterian Church Easter Eggstravaganza. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

B. Discussion and Decision on Request Filed by Terry Brown for Mint Hill Men's Softball:

Mr. Bailey said, this is the same request as in years past. I am going to have Mr. Brown come up here and talk to you about the request and some of the maintenance that he does out there to assist the Town. It is my understanding that they do pay the light fees for every night they use them.

Mr. Brown said, what I would like to start out with is we are requesting the field from March 15 through October 15 from 6:00pm to closing. The spring league is a closed church league, summer is for just men and in fall we run a co-ed and a men's league. Being retired I am able to do everything else so that if you are playing in the league all you have to do is show up to play. The Town of Mint Hill cuts the grass. I drag the field, fill in the batters boxes every day. I wet them down and pack them and I've made a template for those boxes and mark those off. The league pays for the infield marking lines so I mark the foul lines and batters boxes and coaches' boxes. Every day I fill in around the pitcher's mound and first, second and third base because softball players like to slide into the bases and dig into the dirt with their feet. The Town has put in horse stall mats that are one inch thick that we put in the ground under the boxes to help keep them from digging down too much and it has worked. Every day I still have to rake them, wet them down and pack them to make sure they are flight. The Town was gracious enough to supply us with a marking machine and they did supply us the paint. I will request they still supply the paint so that I can continue to mark the lines. Home plate was misaligned last year because the Town put in really good South Carolina clay which is great softball dirt. I went to Chris and he said they didn't have time to realign the plate and I told him if he would give me permission, I would reposition it, and he did. The league does everything for that field except mow the grass. The Town gives me permission to go to Monroe Hardware and buy the paint to do the lines and I take him the receipts so that is the only cost the Town incurs. We still pay for the lights every night. Most of the people

who play in this league are Mint Hill residents. I spend about an hour and a half out there every day because I want the field to look good. The only evidence that you will find that we've been there are cleat marks on the infield because we pick up all of the trash and clean up after ourselves. The only request I have is that you waive the rental fees, we will still pay the light fees, and that the Town supplies the paint. We are family oriented, play by ASC rules, and because I sign paperwork to reserve the field I do have the Terry Brown rule and that is that each player will conduct themselves in an adult, Christ-like manner at all time or you can take your glove and leave. I think we are an asset to the Town and the community of Mint Hill.

Mr. Freeman said, I would like to thank Terry for his hard work and dedication to the community. We appreciate what you do.

Mr. Burns asked, how much paint are we talking about? Mr. Brown said, the paint lasts just over a week. The first initial time will take about two cans to spray the lines and then every eight or nine days I will go over them with a can.

Mrs. Barnett asked, are there any people trying to reserve this field? Ms. Everhart said, the most request we get for the field are for Saturdays.

Mrs. Barnett asked, do you use it Monday through Friday? Mr. Brown said, the church league does not use it on Wednesdays. I know there is a little girls' softball league that practices down there on Wednesday and sometimes there is a senior men's leagues that will go down there and use the field also.

Ms. Everhart said, if those leagues are down there they do not reserve it.

Mrs. Barnett asked, so there are no issues or conflicts Candice? Ms. Everhart said, no.

Mr. Thompson made a favorable motion for the request filed by Terry Brown for Mint Hill Men's Softball. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. Mr. Freeman asked for those opposed, which Mr. Bowden agreed. Mr. Freeman asked for those in favor which, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Barnett, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Burns and Mr. Taylor agreed. The favorable motion carries.

Other Business: None.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Freeman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Thompson and the Committee unanimously agreed. Chairman Freeman adjourned the meeting at 8:29 a.m.

Candice Everhart
Program Support Assistant