

**TOWN OF MINT HILL  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
March 13, 2018**

The Park and Recreation Committee of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on March 13, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mint Hill Town Hall.

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairperson: Sandy Barnett

Members: Michelle McDonald, Ray Thompson, and Dalton Taylor

Absent: Roger Bowden, Ron Freeman, Bryan Burns

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

Program Support Assistant: Cassie Crutchfield

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barnett at 8:02 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 April 11, 2017 Regular Meeting:** Upon the motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. McDonald, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of February 13, 2018 regular meeting.

**Reports of Committees, Members and Staff:**

**A. Discussion about the opening of the Athletic Park for 9801 Brief Road:** Chairperson Barnett asked for an update on the Athletic Park for 9801 Brief Road. Engineer Frey discussed the bid that went out in August. The first round of bids came back inconclusive. They didn't have enough bids because of the construction market; they put it back for a rebid. It was an indication that the price came back high of nine million dollars. The Board directed the staff to investigate the issues of bonds to the Athletic Park. The athletic program had not changed such as the layout and field count. Between then and now they had negotiated with a tenant concerning the baseball field. Engineer Frey said it was an economic involvement type deal and there wasn't too much information about it at this point.

*Chairperson Barnett asked what was the timeframe for researching the bonds? Manager Welch said the Board would vote in June to officially direct staff and vote in August to send to the Board of Elections. If it passed, they would work on redesigning the drawings such as the baseball stadium. It would happen either Spring or Summer of 2019; the Board must wait for the bonds to be voted upon.*

*Chairperson Barnett asked if the soccer fields would be ready by 2020? Manager Welch said it would take time to maintain the grass and let it grow.*

Engineer Frey discussed the process of meeting with the architects to get a better timeframe for the Athletic Park.

Manager Welch discussed how it was illegal for the Town to spend money supporting or opposing bond issues.

*Chairperson Barnett asked how the Committee could stay involved with the bond process?* Manager Welch said the Committee would need to wait until the Board votes in June and then it would be official.

**B. Update on Mint Hill Events:** Chairperson Barnett asked for an update on the Mint Hill Events. She wanted the Committee to be more involved and active in these events. Deputy Manager Bailey gave a discussion of the Mint Hill Events. The Mint Hill Madness would take place on May 25-27, 2018. Executive Assistant Smith handled the scheduling, financing, and coordinating with the vendors. The Town of Mint Hill wasn't sponsoring any other Mint Hill Events at the parks. They replaced Movies on the Lawn and June Tunes from last year to Family Fun Nights. Deputy Manager Bailey went over the schedule of Family Fun Nights:

June 9 SugarSmaX Live  
July 3- Queen City Brass Band  
August 18- Back to School Pep Rally  
September 8- Kids in America Live  
October 20- Fall Harvest Festival.

Deputy Manager Bailey said all these events would take place in front of Town Hall. These events were sponsored by Truliant Federal Credit Union, Carolinas HealthCare System and Novant Health.

*Mrs. McDonald asked if it was possible to do a bonfire again this year?* Deputy Manager Bailey said there would not be a bonfire at the park this year.

*Mrs. McDonald asked if there were plans made for the Mint Hill State Champion Basketball Team?* Manager Welch replied it was possible, however; he would need to speak with Executive Assistant Smith who coordinated these events.

**Old Business:** Engineer Frey wanted to share information of a family that lived in front of Wilgrove Park and they wanted to sell their property for a good price. The Town of Mint Hill purchased the property and carved out a nature walking trail through the woods. The path was 10-15ft width and patrolled by park security. There were signs posted at the entrance of Grove Hall Avenue.

*Mr. Thompson asked about the size of the property?* Town Manager Welch said the property was nine acres and heavily wooded.

Engineer Frey discussed the construction of a batting cage that was behind the Wilgrove softball field. There were signs that said don't kick, hit, or throw balls at the fence. Manger Welch said it

was not mechanical; someone could throw the ball and hit. The batting cage was in a closed net area.

**New Business:** Mrs. McDonald discussed how the Committee would like to be more effective and valuable to the Town of Mint Hill. She suggested to invite the Mint Hill Historical Society and Mint Hill Arts to get different opinions of how the Committee could be an influence. Mrs. McDonald would like to do an event for the seniors in Mint Hill.

*Chairperson Barnett asked how open were they to getting more ideas for the youth or seniors in the summer?* Manager Welch said it's the whole purpose of why the Town had Major and Minor Events. There used to be a lot of Major and Minor Events until it died off because the Town doesn't have enough staff. Deputy Bailey said they don't have a staff person advocate on who oversees Park and Recreation. Manger Welch said it was nothing they have done to cause them to stop coming.

Chairperson Barnett proposed to meet with the Committee on the side and come up with an action plan to reach out to different organizations. The Committee should try to change directions and see what they could accomplish together. Chairman Barnett would reach out to Mayor Biggers. Deputy Bailey said before the Committee goes forward with any type of action plan, the Committee would first need to have a conversation with the Elective Officials.

**Other Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Upon the motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mrs. McDonald and the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Barnett adjourned the meeting at 8:34 a.m.

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Cassie Crutchfield  
Program Support Assistant