

**TOWN OF MINT HILL  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
April 9, 2019**

The Park and Recreation Committee of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on April 9, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Mint Hill Town Hall.

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairperson: Sandy Barnett

Members: Michelle McDonald, David Thompson, and Julie Griggs

Absent: Bryan Burns, Nicole Bertrand, and Kenny Draffen

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

Program Support Assistant: Cassie Crutchfield

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barnett at 8:25 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:** Chairperson Barnett made a motion to add Jason Hilly and Patrick Bolten from Woof'n Hoof to the agenda. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion; and the Committee agreed by consensus.

**Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2019 Regular Meeting:** Upon the motion of Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the minutes of February 12, 2019 regular meeting were approved.

**Additional Agenda Item:** Mr. Hilly and Mr. Bolten from Woof'n Hoof came to the Committee to propose a dog park at Wilgrove Park. Mr. Hilly said the unused basketball court at Wilgrove Park would be a great location to have a dog park of .4 acres. There would be 560 linear ft and 6 ft high fencing that would cost between \$8 - \$15 per ft. The total cost of the fence was \$8,400. They had many people on social media with over 200 signatures in favor of a dog park. Mr. Bolten explained how people were leaving Mint Hill to find a dog park. Chairperson Barnett asked if they had people sign their address so that it showed if they were a Mint Hill resident or non-resident? Mr. Bolten said yes. Other parks such as Indian Trail charges non-residents \$50 a year to have their dog in the dog park. Chairperson Barnett asked how did they monitor the dog park? Mr. Bolten said they have a system where people would apply at the town and verify their dog's shots and vaccination records were up to date. They would receive a code to the gate or give them a dog tag that lets the park security know their dog had been vaccinated. The park security would need to check the dogs' tags to be allowed in. The waste baskets would cost \$200 and were being paid by donors. As far as liability, North Carolina does have a dog bite law. They would get a statement of non-liability for the owners of the dogs. There are lights and plumbing at Wilgrove Park. The key card system was a way to collect data. Chairperson Barnett asked if they have thought about raising funds and had they spoken with the Town Staff? Mr. Hilly said they have not spoken with staff and wanted to bring the idea to Parks and Recreation first. Mr. Bolten said fundraising would not be an issue. He had many events planned where people could donate to the dog park. Mrs.

Griggs asked if the key card system would limit the number of dogs that could come in the dog park? Mr. Hilly said the owners would not receive a key card for each dog. The plan was to give one key card per owner. Mrs. McDonald explained how the dog owners monitor their dogs are very cautious of people and they treat their dogs like their own kids. Chairperson Barnett said Mecklenburg County would have a meeting in the fall and it was a possibility to have this feature in Mecklenburg County. Mr. Bolten said they would like to get the process done sooner than going through Mecklenburg County. It might be a longer process.

Mrs. McDonald made a motion in favor of researching for more information to have a dog park. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

The Board allowed Staff understood the request for a dog park. At this time, Staff did not want to set an expectation that there would be a dog park and disappoint the public.

**Reports of Committees, Members and Staff:** None.

**New Business:**

- A. **Discussion and Decision on Park Major Event Application for Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society:** Chairperson Barnett asked for more information about the Major Event? Deputy Town Manager Bailey discussed how the Amateur Radio used an emergency radio network in case of some type of disaster. They set up radios, antennas, and connections to outside relay systems. They test their radios for two days and make up a disaster scenario. Chairperson Barnett asked how many years have they been doing this event in Mint Hill? Deputy Town Manager Bailey said five or six years at least. This was not a carnival type of setting. The Amateur Radio Society brought in a couple of trailers, tents and antennas. They use their own generators because they were simulating a disaster situation. Their only requirement was to have a public access to advertise it and they did it at a public park for public education.

Chairperson Barnett made a favorable motion to approve the Major Event Application for Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

- B. **Discussion and Decision on Park Major Event Application for Barks, Bones and Biscuits:** Chairperson Barnett asked if they were up to 3,000 to 4,000 attendants that attend this event? Deputy Town Manager Bailey said yes. Chairperson Barnett asked if they reserved the softball field? Deputy Town Manager Bailey said they were requesting to use the entire park. They were going to have vendors and selling pet related items. They plan to have shows and public education. The funds go to the Matthews and Mint Hill Police K9 Programs. Chairperson Barnett asked if they had any problems in the past cleaning up after this event? Deputy Town Manager Bailey said no, they have volunteers to clean up afterwards.

Chairperson Barnett made a motion to approve the Major Event Application for Barks, Bones and Biscuits. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

**Other Business:** Chairperson Barnett thanked the Town for letting Carolina Crush use the softball field for their lacrosse clinic. Chairperson Barnett asked if the soccer fields could be open in the summer? Public Works Operations Manager Cochrane said the soccer fields were always shut down in June and July because it was the best time to let the grass grow. If they do not let the grass grow between those months, the grass would get worse every year. Town Engineer Frey said depending on how the budget process goes this year, they were asking for equipment that would help promote healthier, stronger grass. Chairperson Barnett asked for the Town to keep the Board updated.

**Adjournment:** Upon the motion of Chairperson Barnett, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Committee agree to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

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Cassie Crutchfield  
Program Support Assistant