

**TOWN OF MINT HILL  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 14, 2020**

The Park and Recreation Committee of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on January 14, 2020 at 8:12 a.m. at the Mint Hill Town Hall.

**ATTENDANCE**

Chairperson: Julie Griggs

Members: David Thompson, Kobe Riley, Nicole Bertrand, Gary Charles, and Kenny Draffen

Absent: Michelle McDonald

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 Griggs at 8:12 a.m., who declared a quorum and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance

**Addition, Deletion and Arrangement of Other Agenda Items:** Deputy Town Manager Bailey added agenda Item B Maintenance Update on Tennis Courts and Item C Ezell Farm Community Park Planning.

**Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting:** Upon the motion of Mr. Draffen, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the minutes of April 9, 2019 regular meeting were approved.

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

- A. Meet Commissioner Patrick Holton Liaison of Park and Recreation:** Deputy Town Manager Bailey said Patrick Holton was the new liaison for Park and Recreation. The Park and Recreation Members were appointed by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. About every two years, the Mayor appointed the Commissioners to serve as liaisons to various Boards and Committees. Patrick Holton was a new Commissioner, recently elected and appointed to be the Park and Recreation liaison. The public could reach out to Staff or Commissioner Holton with any questions or concerns. Commissioner Holton said he appreciated everyone being at the meeting and was excited to work with Mint Hill. He tried to get the community more involved in response to the tennis courts conditions. He would like to help with the Ezell Farm Project to make sure Mint Hill gets what Mint Hill wanted. He offered his business card and was available to answer any questions. Deputy Town Manager Bailey said a lot of people thought they must wait for a meeting to bring up issues; however, they did not have to wait. Sometimes it was more efficient to bring up issues to the Staff. The Town does not have a Parks and Recreation department but instead a Public Works Department; Steve Frey, the Town Engineer and Public Works Director. Cassie Crutchfield, Program Support Assistant, handled park reservations, along with Minor and Major Event Applications. The larger applications, such as Mint Hill Madness, were handled by Deputy Town Manager Bailey and Executive Assistant, Sheryl Smith. The Town carved up the Park and Recreation duties and assigned it to existing Staff.

**B. Maintenance Update on Tennis Courts:** Deputy Town Manager Bailey said there were two main issues with the tennis courts: cracks and drainage issues. At Veterans Park there were drainage issues under the lower fields, and they believe it was from the rain garden, a water quality feature that was installed several years ago. For example, the problem was like putting a layer of asphalt on top of Jell-O, the Jell-O shakes, when saturated, the asphalt would break up and crack. They needed to figure out how to address and correct it. There was the financial piece of it, the budgeted allotment as far as maintenance and solving the problem. Before they started spending money, they would have to know what they were correcting. Engineer Frey said the cracking issue was an inherit issue that they would have with any asphalt. The drainage issue was at the four tennis courts known as the lower courts at Veterans Park. They had tried to fix the cracks but none of their ideas worked. They had a specialist studying the project and they had placed PVC pipes into the ground between the tennis court nets which was used for monitoring the level of water in the ground. The numbers collected would help them figure out if the water was being trapped by a layer under the court. He expected to have the report back this month with a recommendation of what they needed to do. To resurface the tennis courts would cost around \$30,000 per tennis court. It would be a waste of money if they tried to resurface the tennis courts without knowing what the issue was. They did have a repair procedure to take care of the cracks. Three years ago, they had invited multiple vendors to try to handle the crack issue but none of them warranted their product. The Town selected the most efficient product and that did make a difference but only for a couple of months. Beyond that, it would be a decision for Engineer Frey and Town Manager Welch to bring before the Board of Commissioners for a simple change to the budget. To repair the lower tennis court alone would cost \$150,000. Regarding issues of leaves and mold on the tennis courts, they were in process of correcting of it.

**C. Ezell Farm Community Park Planning:** Engineer Frey said Mecklenburg County bought the property ten to fifteen years ago. Mecklenburg County moved in five-year project windows which meant until they get into the five-year CIP, Capital Improvement Project, they were not funded. When they get into that period, they get locked in. The Ezell Farm Community Park was in that period and for some reason it had fallen out. They had public input meetings for the Ezell Farm Community Park. There was a low interest from the public which resulted a low intensity park. The Ezell Farm Community Park was back on the five-year CIP plan. Mecklenburg County agreed to have a public meeting to see if those were still the needs of the community. He encouraged the community to attend the meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall. They currently had a budget of \$3.5 million. Mr. Thompson asked if the information on the Mint Hill website? Engineer Frey said yes, there was a link that went to the County's website about the project. Mr. Riley asked if it was tied into the County's current master plan? Engineer Frey said he doesn't know how they worked internally but the master plan was supposed to be designed and delivered as soon as possible. The County was aware that Mint Hill needed a park. Mr. Riley asked if there was a sketch of the park on the website? Engineer Frey said no because it was a blank canvas of 90 acres. Mr. Charles asked where the meeting would be held? Engineer Frey said the meeting was at Town Hall in the Assembly Room. The funding, decisions, planning and design were all handled by the County not the Town.

**New Business:**

A. **Election of Officers:** Ms. Griggs was nominated for Chairperson; Mr. Thompson made the motion, Mr. Draffen seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Thompson was nominated for Vice Chairman; Chairperson Griggs made the motion, Mr. Riley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

**Other Business:** Mr. Riley said this was his first Park and Recreation meeting and he was happy to be appointed to the Park and Recreation Committee. He had four kids that played in the recreation parks and was excited about working with the Town.

**Adjournment:** Upon the motion of Chairperson Griggs, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Committee agree to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

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Cassie Crutchfield  
Program Support Assistant