



MINUTES
Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Department
August 13, 2020
5:30pm
ZOOM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Sawyer Nicholas Harvey
Merwyn Smith Sue Ellen Maddux
Dr. Gary Wojeski Christopher Bradshaw
Kelly Jarman Antonio Hardy
Dr. James Sylvia Rosalyn Yarus
Jeremy Barnett (present after voting had occurred)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sonya Berry

The August 13, 2020 meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Sue Ellen Maddux. A motion was made to approve the July 9, 2020 minutes.

Motion – Harvey; Second – Smith; Vote – Unanimous.

There were no committee reports.

Corey Povar discussed the COVID-19 baseball/softball tournament rules and safety procedures proposed by the recreation department staff. These were discussed, via email and phone, with the subcommittee (Amanda Sawyer, Sue Ellen Maddux, and Jeremy Barnett) for any suggestions or additions before being presented at the City Council meeting on July 20, 2020. There was no official vote by the recreation commission before being approved, with additions made, by the City Council. Sue Ellen Maddux stated that it is imperative that a recreation department staff member be present at all tournaments to ensure that all tournament directors and/or sponsoring agents are enforcing all rules and safety procedures. Corey stated that Andrew Spence, Bryan Dawson, or Thurman Pate would be present at all tournaments and in direct communication with all tournament directors. Dr. Wojeski asked if there was a waiver to be signed. Corey stated that the waiver, attached to the rules and safety procedures, is the responsibility of the tournament directors to collect. Nicholas Harvey questioned Antonio Hardy if the city attorney approved the waiver and that if it released the City of Kinston from any liability. Antonio stated that it was approved by the city attorney and did release any liability of the City of Kinston. Sue Ellen stated that as we progress and navigate through these COVID-19 issues, that if any adjustments are to be made to these rules and safety procedures, that it must be approved by the recreation commission. Antonio stated city council members would be in attendance at some of the tournaments. Sue Ellen encouraged all recreation commission members to do the same. A motion was made to approve the Parks & Recreation facility properties as venues for baseball and softball tournaments, excluding school properties, under the direction of the Recreation Department.

Motion - Wojeski; Second - Jarman; Vote – (6) Yes, (4) No; motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the COVID-19 baseball/softball tournament rules and safety procedures, as amended and approved by City Council.

Motion – Wojeski; Second – Jarman; Vote – (6) Yes, (4) No; motion carried.

Dr. Sylvia stated that USTA sanctioned league matches could not be played at our tennis courts even though surrounding cities are allowing it, so travel was required for every match. The local teams would like to have their USTA sanctioned adult and junior league matches approved for home so travel isn't required for every match. Sue Ellen Maddux questioned if there were any tennis

guidelines available. Dr. Sylvia stated that the USTA had their own and that surrounding cities such as Goldsboro and Greenville are following those. Dr. Wojeski suggested that each individual program/sport should have their own set of guidelines and that the contact person for each program/sport should propose these to the commission for approval. Sue Ellen agreed and stated that all of the guidelines for individual programs/sports should be discussed by the commission and approved before moving forward. Corey Povar stated recreation staff would be present at the September meeting to propose these guidelines to the commission. Merwyn Smith questioned if these guidelines would be emailed to the commission prior to the next meeting. Corey stated that they would be emailed in advance so the commission has time to review them before discussing them at the meeting.

Dr. Wojeski questioned if anyone had been laid off or if employment had changed in any way during the closure of the Kinston Community Center and Recreation Department . Corey Povar stated that no one had been laid off but only full time staff were currently working and were cleaning and helping in whatever areas were needed. He also stated that the parks were still being visited daily and the parks staff were as busy as usual. Sue Ellen Maddux questioned how things were going at Lions Water Adventure. Corey stated that things were going well with the limited capacity and there had been no COVID-19 outbreaks among the staff.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion – Harvey; Second – Wojeski; Vote – Unanimous.

Melissa McCoy

Secretary to the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Commission