

Carrboro Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting
11 January 2021

Present: Chris Colvin, Maggie Funkhouser, Jeff Laufenberg and Deborah Filer (commission members), Anita Jones-McNair (staff liaison), Jacquelyn Gist (council member), and Wendell Rodgers (staff)

Called to order at 7:03pm.

Motion to approve minutes from November meeting (Laufenberg) and seconded (Funkhouser).
Approved unanimously.

Call for open items at 7:05pm.

Filer: Question about benches at Dr. MLK Jr. Park near pump track. Response: Hoping to add, depends on funding availability (two options)

Funkhouser: Mural on CommunityWorx looks great

Jones-McNair: Official Ribbon cutting in February, possibly.

Filer: What is the rule about masks at parks?

Jones-McNair: We encouraged the community to wear masks. Signage up throughout town, push out on social media and we've added staff going by parks periodically during this time. More people are wearing masks outside now. We will continue that messaging.

New Business:

1) Town's Recreation and Parks Facilities Presentation – Wendell Rodgers, Facilities Administrator

- Town Commons improved in 2018.
- Simpson Street Park
- Carrboro Elementary (joint use agreement with Chapel Hill Carrboro School system) park and baseball field
- Hank Anderson Park – most used park, half is forested, half is open fields, courts, fishing pond (license required for older than 16). Named for 1969-1997 Recreation and Parks direction and councilman. Added water fountain to dog park last year. Disc golf course is regional attraction. Replaced bathrooms in 2016. New lighting system is remotely operated and reduced spillage. New picnic shelter is ADA accessible. Added bleachers and dugout covers recently.
- Dr. MLK Jr. Park—land purchased in 1999, master plan in 2004, revised 2014, construction 2018-2020. Community garden, added garden shed and produce processes facility, cistern for using rainwater. Natural playground features. Repurposed wood on bathrooms. Student mural with QR code: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?” 8 quotes on plaques around the walking trail. 10 adult exercise stations. Looking forward to time when we can use amphitheater (50-70 people). Pump track is the most popular activity.

- Wilson Park – named after Charles Herman Wilson (public works worker). Baseball field dugouts recently renovated. 2015 replaced tennis courts. + Adams Tract, transferred to the town in 2004. Easement/clean water trust fund covers portions, which limit activities (no mountain biking).
- Baldwin Park—Community Garden established in 2010, expanded in 2013. Basketball court is not heavily used.
- Brewer Lane Mini Park—basketball park
- Smith Soccer Field 3B—rent the field to soccer groups and pay for the lights.
- Black Lives Matter Mural (CommunityWorx)
- Doesn't include zoning mandated playgrounds
- Gist: The amount of parks and extensive amenities are amazing for how small our community is and the staff does great work to maintain them.
- Laufenberg: Any glaring maintenance needs? Response: No. We're right where we need to be.
- Rodgers: Lifespan for equipment is something to keep up with (20 years or so). We're hoping to replace playground equipment in the next several years, but it could last longer.
- Colvin: What other murals have Recreation and Parks been involved with? Response: Libba Cotten, Firehouse bees, Grey Squirrel
- Colvin: What is graffiti/vandalism prevalence? Response: Very infrequent
- Colvin: What re maintenance needs for murals? Response: Not much, paints with protectant used, and a gloss finish.
- Colvin: What are some interesting types of questions/requests? Response: Popular with people making films/videos...location shooting requests, some people ask, others just go do it. Cyclocross training amenities, etc.

Reports:

Comprehensive Plan – No meetings since last Rec/Parks meeting, but resuming in Jan.
 Department – Winter/Spring brochure is out on the street (virtual and outdoor activities), staff is busy with these activities. GARE training starts tomorrow for staff.

Additional Items:

- 1) Send items for next month's meeting agenda to Payst/Colvin, Jones-McNair, or whole commission.

Adjourned at 8:00pm