

St. Andrew's Parish Parks & Playground Commission

Commission Meeting Minutes - September 20, 2007

Page 1 of 3

Present: Jeff Gladwell, John Johnston, Mike Eykyn, Ron Bailey, Kevin Walsh, Ron Koch, Frank Stefan, Tim Orvin, and Rachel Ebaugh.

Call to Order: Mr. Gladwell called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: Mr. Johnston led the Commission in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the August 23rd, 2007 Minutes: Mr. Johnston made a motion to approve the minutes, which as seconded by Mr. Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the August 2007 Financial Reports and Summary Balance Sheet: Mr. Eykyn made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Walsh reviewed the financial section of his report so that it was clear.

Deputy Director's Report: Mr. Koch had nothing to add to his report.

General Manager's Report: Mr. Stefan stated that the thief who stole four of the air conditioning units outside of the fitness center had been caught.

Department Proposals

Fitness: Per the proposal done by Ms. Betz, Fitness Director, Mr. Stefan proposed a change in the personal training fees at SAFFP. These changes would bring SAFFP in line with how many personal training companies are configuring their session and fees. Session would be thirty minutes instead of sixty, and the fee for a half hour session for one person would be \$35. After much debate, Mr. Eykyn made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Motion carried three votes to one, with Mr. Johnston voting against.

Unfinished Business

Annexations: 1903 Savannah Hwy. (.41 acres), 2090 Marshland Drive, 1808 2nd Drive (.20 acres), Bonanza Rd. (.45 acres), 1904 Savannah Hwy. (.41 acres), 9 Forest Creek Ct. (.33 acres), 1715 Savage Rd. (1.04 acres), 548 Savannah Hwy. Units A & B (.24 acres).

501(c)-3: No update at this time.

St. Andrew's Hall of Fame: Still trying to reach Darius Rucker to set up a ceremony.

SAFFP Pool Renovation: The following items have been installed: windows, toilets, sinks, mirrors, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and shower curtains. The electrical inspection

passed. The water is on and some caulking still needs to be completed. A call has been put in to Jeffrey Brown for final inspection.

St. Andrew's Park at Hunt Club: The final appraisal and title are clear. The property will have to be surveyed and re-platted before closing can occur.

Soccer Club Agreement: The Charleston Board of Education approved the three way agreement with the City of Charleston, but St. Andrew's has not yet received a copy of the written agreement.

Ten Year Plan to Eliminate Taxes: This plan is still in progress.

Capital Improvements: The gym floor has been completed, the pool renovations will be completed by September 24th, and then the staff will move on to the concession stand project.

Greenbelt Funds: St. Andrew's is looking into the possibility of purchasing a piece of property located at 1710 Dogwood, which is 2.4 acres. The asking price is \$545,000 with the house, \$365,000 for just the land. Greenbelt Fund monies cannot be used to purchase the house. Mr. Walsh recommended making an offer on 1710 Dogwood based on the appraisal and applying for the Greenbelt Funds to purchase the property. Mr. Gladwell reported that he has been in touch with Mac Rhodes regarding a price of property his family owns located on Highway 17. The property is fourteen acres with an entrance on Main Road. This property is mostly wetlands. Mr. Rhodes is checking with family members to see what their wishes are for the land.

New Business

Baseball/Softball Affiliation: With the Dixie Youth and Dixie Boys baseball leagues not always seeing eye to eye and the unwillingness of allowing players to change age groups, St. Andrew's has been searching for the past 18 months for other baseball/softball league affiliations. Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken is growing and progressive, and has some flexibility with moving players to different age groups; they allow the local leagues to decide if a child can move up to a higher age group. Mr. Orvin met with officials from Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball and heard them speak; they are an international organization in all 50 states and 6 countries. A couple of other departments in the state have move to them, and a few more are considering making the move. Mr. Orvin feels it is time to move on. Mr. Orvin requested that St. Andrew's moves to Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball & Softball. Some of the benefits are: one rule book and one organization for all age groups, the rules are very similar to Dixie, St. Andrew's will not have to use a specific medical insurance company, Cal Ripken has a 50/70 program, and St. Andrew's facilities meet the requirements of Ripken. The City of Charleston is moving to Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken. Mt. Pleasant was ready to go; they are waiting to see who else goes. Goose Creek is bringing it to their Commission next month. The Isle of Palms will most likely follow whatever Mt. Pleasant decides. Mr. Walsh recommended paying the Dixie franchise fees to keep the boundaries and also to have something to fall back on if Ripken doesn't work out. Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, and Myrtle Beach are already playing Ripken. Mr. Bailey made a motion to switch to Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball which was seconded by Mr. Eykyn. Motion carried unanimously.

City Youth Sports Agreement: Mr. Walsh passed out a flyer to the Commission with updates. Instead of St. Andrew's residents paying \$30 and City of Charleston residents paying \$20, the

cost to play would be \$25 for every player in the City or St. Andrew's PSD. The fundraiser would be eliminated. Per the agreement, St. Andrew's will administer the basketball league. Players outside of the St. Andrew's PSD or City of Charleston would pay a "non resident" fee on top of the registration fee. St. Andrew's would keep track of all costs and they would be split between the two departments based on the number of residents each had in the program. Ms. Yarbrough from the City of Charleston asked about baseball. Mr. Walsh was concerned about combining them. He shared some pictures of City facilities showing items that need to be corrected. Mr. Walsh stated that St. Andrew's would have to be in charge of field maintenance. St. Andrew's would require the City to over-seed its fields. St. Andrew's has been talking about combining services for a long time. There is a good bit of trust that would have to be involved in this. Mr. Walsh feels that Ms. Yarbrough is very trustworthy and would do her best to make it work. The combining of the basketball leagues would be a good stepping point to where St. Andrew's want to go. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Gladwell asked for the authority to make an immediate decision in regards to the agreement. Mr. Johnston made a motion to pursue the agreement with the City of Charleston and to give Mr. Gladwell and Mr. Walsh the authority to make a decision in regards to the combining of the leagues, which was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Holiday: Mr. Walsh requested to give the staff Monday and Tuesday off this year for Christmas instead of Tuesday and Wednesday, per the policy manual. A motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Johnston which was seconded by Mr. Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Policy Review: Section 7, Policy 6 – Basic team uniforms: Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve which was seconded by Mr. Eykyn. Motion carried unanimously.

Reimbursement of Taxes for Annexed Properties: Mr. Johnston made a motion at 8:27 PM to go into an executive session to discuss a contractual matter, which was seconded by Mr. Eykyn. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission came out of executive session and re-convened at 8:47pm.

Mr. Johnston made a motion to give Mr. Gladwell and Mr. Walsh the authority to negotiate with the City of Charleston and our attorney to resolve the tax liability issue. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

SCRPA State Conference: Mr. Walsh handed out a copy of the state conference reports to each commissioner. Mr. Johnston stated that the St. Andrew's staff did a great job with the conference. Mr. Walsh mentioned that he received a letter from Mike Waters, Executive Director of the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association, complimenting the staff, especially Frank Stefan on what a fine job they did at the conference.

The Commission adjourned unanimously at 8:50 PM.