

TOWN OF JONESBOROUGH
Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center
117 Boone Street

MEETING NOTICES

Thursday, October 26, 2023, 6 p.m.
Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Members of the public wishing to speak concerning any item on the agenda during the Public Comment period must sign up by calling the Town Administrative Office at 423-753-1030 with their name, address, and subject about which they wish to speak no later than 2 hours before the meeting if the meeting occurs during normal business hours or by 4:45 p.m. the day of the meeting if the meeting occurs after hours. Otherwise, such member of the public must sign in at the location of the meeting, prior to the beginning of the meeting, by seeing the Town Recorder at meetings of the Tree and Townscape Board, or the secretary or staff of any board, commission or committee constituting any other governing body under this resolution.

Each individual shall be given three (3) minutes to address the Board regarding Agenda items. Comments shall be limited to items on the meeting's Agenda

The Jonesborough Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN, to consider the following agenda:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Financial Report, Wetlands Water Park
4. Wetlands Water Park
5. Tiger Park at Jonesborough School
6. Recreation Programming
7. Appointment of Chairperson
8. Other
9. Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Agenda Presentation

Date: October 26, 2023

Agenda Item: 3

Subject: Wetlands Water Park Financial Report

See attached financial report for Wetlands Water Park.

Recommendation: Approve the financial report, as presented

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2023

Members Present: Susu Floyd, Jimmy Rhein, Jason Davis, Marilyn Buchanan,

Staff Present: Rachel Conger

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Wetlands Water Park Financial Report

There was not a financial report for presentation at the meeting.

Tiger Park at Jonesborough School

Rachel Conger reported that the Town was formally awarded the Local Park and Recreation Fund Grant through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation for the 2023 grant cycle. She said the grant will provide \$2.4 million for the development of Tiger Park that will be located on the campus of Jonesborough Elementary School at the new location.

She reminded the committee that the LPRF application is for funding assistance that essentially completes the development of recreational/athletic facilities located within Tiger Park. She said there are four playground areas within Tiger Park, one of which is located in the middle of the four major field areas and the tennis/pickleball courts. This playground has many climbing and fitness features and is focused on healthy exercise for young people while games are going on the surrounding fields. The other three playgrounds are around the school and with a focus on age and ability. The preschool playground is designed for very young children and is located adjacent to the two preschool classes in the school. It and the other playgrounds close to the school have outside access through the fencing to facilitate community use. She said that the playground next to the Comprehensive Development Classes has equipment designed for any child, but it has additional equipment intended to enhance the experience of a disabled child. The large K-5 playground area that includes basketball goals, tether ball and sheltered seating is close to the multipurpose field area where youth soccer practices and games will be held frequently.

Rachel reported that the Tiger Park project also includes the lighting of all four field areas: baseball, softball, large football/soccer, and the multipurpose field area for numerous "field" sports. Two tennis/pickleball courts will be constructed, fenced, an acrylic surface applied, and lighting installed. A concession and restroom building will be constructed in a central location between the field areas, and a picnic pavilion sized for four (4) hexagon

tables will be constructed close to the concession. The project includes applying a ½ inch rubberized surface to the asphalt track around the football/soccer field to help reduce any potential muscle and/ or bone damage, especially with younger children and seniors. Recreation accessories like bleachers, bike racks, benches, trash cans, score boards, etc. are also included in the project, she reported.

Rachel reported the Town cannot incur any costs associated with the grant until we have a fully executed grant, which should be around October 1st. She noted that the Town's contract will be dated October 1st.

Rachel noted that staff anticipates much of the work associated with Tiger Park will be completed by the time students occupy the school in January. Because of timelines associated with manufacturing and production, she said it will be a tight schedule to execute all of the components of the project.

Rachel updated the committee on the landscaping, noting that the landscaping for the school, funded outside of the LPRF grant, but through the budget for the construction of the school, has been bid out. This is quite a large landscaping project that should take 3 – 4 weeks to install. She said she anticipates the plants coming in around the end of October and completing the project around mid-November. This time of the year should provide favorable planting conditions.

Wetlands Water Park

Rachel presented a proposal from Blake Duggar related to the locker room at Wetlands. Based on his report, the locker room has not been used for several seasons, more of a storage room. She noted that Blake indicated there is about 240 square feet of usable space.

Blake's proposal is to use the room as a party room. His report noted that rates are based on Kingsport aquatic center which has similar rooms. Blake's proposal was that the room would be available twice daily for every operation day of the season. His report noted that it could potentially result in a \$3,500 weekly revenue once full booked.

Blake's proposal was to rent the room for 2 hours during normal operating hours at the cost of \$250. Rental would include admission for 20 people and use of the party room. This would not include food or cake, as previously done. Parties would potentially be rented 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. or 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The discussion of the proposal began among committee members, noting that utilizing the space for a birthday party was a good idea. Currently, a birthday party utilizes the upstairs dining space, so it would be nice for people to have their own room for a party. However, committee members voiced concern over not providing food or cake for a birthday party. The primary argument was that people purchase a birthday party package primarily for convenience. If someone is having to bring in their own food, drinks and cake for a party, it's not quite as convenient. Other similar venues that provide entertainment for children such as Just Jump or Wallabies have similar party rentals and

they provide food as part of the package. The committee essentially landed at approving the use of the Locker Room for private parties but keeping the part of the package to provide food, drinks and cake.

Parks and Recreation Programming - Tiger Park Programming

Rachel reported that work continues by staff on planning for programming at Tiger Park for 2024. As previously reported, she said the Town is working to implement a spring 2024 soccer program to kick off recreation programming at the park. In order to offer a spring season, she said registration would have to begin early in the calendar year, in late January/early February. She noted that would put practices beginning in mid-March with games beginning in April, running through May.

As for recreation programming the remainder of the year, she said work has begun to plan for pickleball programming, including instructional leagues and tournaments.

Rachel explained that what makes the most sense, given the size of our staff and resources, is to partner with other organizations to expand our recreation programming. She said the hope is to work with folks who are already implementing pickleball in our area, particularly the programming offered through the Senior Center.

Thinking ahead to summer camps and programming and thinking about possibilities with partnering with groups who might directly benefit from our programming, she noted it might be beneficial to work with Crockett's soccer teams to offer summer programming at Tiger Park. Not only would it be beneficial to offer that service to our community, but also potentially benefit Crockett's program.

Appointment of Chairperson

The committee discussed appointing a chair for the Advisory Committee. Jimmy Rhein noted that Mark Merriman would be a good candidate for the job. Susu Floyd agreed. Jason Davis said that he knew Mark is busy with his work at his school, so he's not always able to attend meetings. He said he would be willing to serve as a co-chair and tag team the responsibilities with Mark. Rachel said she would communicate with Mark and follow up at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Agenda Presentation

Date: October 26, 2023

Agenda Item: 4

Subject: Tiger Park at Jonesborough School

The Town has received an executed contract from the state for the Local Park and Recreation Fund Grant. This means we can begin incurring expenses as part of the project.

As previously discussed, staff has worked to bid out the major expenses of the project over the past few months: lighting on the ball fields, grading and rubberized surfacing of the tennis and pickleball courts, playground equipment and installation, accessories (benches, trash receptacles, tables) and fencing. By doing that, we were able to save a lot of time so that when we received our executed contract, we were able to proceed with the purchasing of the already bid items.

We are working now on executing all of the elements that make up the Tiger Park project through the LPRF grant. Setting up ordering and manufacturing, timing and installation of all of the bigger items is a fairly complicated process. For example, the playground manufacturer will not have the playgrounds ready to ship until the end of December. And that is early, considering we got bumped up in the queue. Once shipped, the site for each playground has to be prepped. The fencing for the playgrounds have to be installed now because those are part of the building side of the project, so in order for BurWil to complete their side of the project, they have to be installed on the front end. This is fine, the installers for the playground will be able to work around the fencing as long as they have plenty of room to get in through the gates. However, they have to excavate about 8" of topsoil out of the playground, fill partially with rock and then with the impact absorbing material. In the process, they have to install the playground equipment and then as the last step, lay down the artificial turf. Installation of each of the playgrounds is expected to take 2 weeks each.

Otherwise, work is continuing on the exterior of the school. Summers Taylor has been working on completing asphalt trails around the property and smoothing out some of the fields that had become rutted up due to some heavy equipment going over them. The parking lots are getting work as well with much of the first layer of asphalt going down, with curbs being poured this week. The parking lot lights are also going up and fencing around the playgrounds is on the schedule for the coming weeks of October.

Landscape installation around the property has begun as well. We just got in a couple of trucks of plant material last week and the remaining plants will be in this week. Prep work

of the soil and installation of landscaping began in the courtyard. This part of the project should take around 4 weeks to complete.

There are a lot of moving parts and pieces to the project and it's a juggling game to keep things moving in the right direction. Town staff is working hard to ensure that the school is ready for the students when they begin classes in January.

Recommendation: None

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Agenda Presentation

Date: October 26, 2023

Agenda Item: 5

Subject: Wetlands Water Park

Blake Duggar has completed a maintenance assessment of the Water Park of items that need to be addressed in preparation for the 2024 season. Those will be presented at the meeting.

Recommendation: None

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Agenda Presentation

Date: October 26, 2023

Agenda Item: 6

Subject: Parks and Recreation Programming

Tiger Park Programming

Staff has been working on planning programming for 2024 at Tiger Park. Specifically, the programming that's being planned is:

- Spring soccer – timing on this would likely be parallel with Little League. Signups would be in February with practices beginning in March and games following in April and May.
- Lacrosse – there is a huge growth in lacrosse across east Tennessee. Several years ago, we were approached by a league out of Johnson City who wanted to expand into Jonesborough. We didn't have the space to be able to expand in that direction, but with the addition of these new facilities, lacrosse is now a possibility.
- Summer programming – we want to be able to offer week long sports camps that would include soccer, pickleball, baseball and football. This would all be planned in conjunction with partnering organizations.

School athletics will have priority in terms of scheduling. At this time, staff is working to coordinate with Josh Kite, the Athletic Director for this part of the county whose schools feed into David Crockett. Some sports such as football and soccer have two school teams where Jonesborough is combined with Grandview school. Previously, practices and games have been held at Grandview. Staff is working to communicate with Mr. Kite to see where those sports practices and games will be held once the new school is open.

Recommendation: None

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Agenda Presentation

Date: October 26, 2023

Agenda Item: 7

Subject: Appointment of Chairperson

At the last meeting, the committee discussed appointment of a chairperson for the Advisory Committee. The consensus was that Mark Merriman would be a good candidate, but because of his work at his school, his availability is not wide open. Jason Davis indicated he would be interested in serving as co-chair with Mark so they could share the role. As Mark was not at the meeting, he was not part of the initial conversation. Staff communicated with Mark and he indicated he would be happy to serve in the role with the help of Jason Davis.

Recommendation: Nominate and vote on a chair/co-chair for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.