LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2015

MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, January 26, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were Chad Spivey, Harry Stryffeler, James Emerson, Liz Kovasckitz, Ed Underwood and Commissioner Ricky Frazier.

Also present were John Payne, Director and Debbie Carroll, secretary.

Absent members were Bill Oberkirsch, Eric Davidson, Mark Kline and Nicole Ingram.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Harry Stryffeler and motion made for approval of last month's minutes by Liz Kovasckitz.

Seconded by James Emerson and approved by all.

II. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of agenda by Liz Kovasckitz.

Seconded by James Emerson.

Unanimous approval by all.

III. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (public comment)

None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update O.T. Sloan Park Project

Focus group meetings are scheduled for this Thursday concerning the feasibility study on the sports complex at O.T. Sloan by Bransford and Dunlevey. Two will be done Thursday, one at 5-6:30 p.m. and one at 7-8:30 p.m., and two Friday sometime in the morning, with elected officials.

John will tour all park facilities with the consultants prior to the focus group meeting and Tim Shaw, General Services director with the City of Sanford.

The original time frame for the consulting company was 5-6 months, so they should be completed by May or June.

Members continued to discuss some of the projects hoping to be put at Sloan.

B. Update Horton Park Project

John is doing an assessment of all of the parks right now. The cost for a total facelift at Horton would be about $500,000, if the pool is included in the plans, as the pool by itself, along with all filters and mechanical works and the bathhouse, with ADA compliance, would be $375,000-400,000.

Members talked about the three options for Horton's renovations, parking, tree cutting across and in front of the park, the planned solar farm, Brick Capital's plans, and other scenarios, such as filling in the pool space and making an enclosed building to rent out.

John said the main immediate need for Horton was freshening up with paint, roofing, the playground area and the basketball court.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. San-Lee Park discussion

Commissioners voted to spend what is needed of $47,000 to remove asbestos from San-Lee Park's existing building that burned over the Thanksgiving weekend. Commissioner Frazier said the asbestos in the building had to come out quickly for safety reasons. The insurance company has recommended Enpuricon, an Apex-based company that specializes in the removal of asbestos, mold and lead. Insurance will cover $31,000 of the $47,411 needed for the asbestos removal.

Mr. Crumpton's proposal to the Board of Commissioners was to relocate the building and demolish the old one. John said the recommendation is to build a 6,000-7,000 square foot building and a 1,500 square foot shop for the park ranger behind it to store and work on equipment. Commissioner Frazier said it would not be feasible for future plans to have the building stay in the same spot, as the building is in a flood plain, and would be more expensive to be remodeled.

John Payne explained to members how the cost of the building is only part of the problem. There are lost revenues from the rental of the multipurpose room, the rental of the upper classroom where there are theme-based birthday parties, summer camps and intersession, the displacement of the animals and nature center, and loss of offices and equipment. He said the loss of just the multipurpose room would be $5000, and that would be if it reopened by this June.

Dr. Frazier said on February 2nd the commissioners would be voting on whether or not to pass the project.

B. Dog park at O.T. Sloan Park discussion

All monies needed are in to finish the dog park. Two generous donors came in before Christmas and wrote checks for the balance needed of $7,500 each, totaling $15,000.

C. Fees & Charges discussion

John talked with members about a director's state conference he went to. He said he had always held the opinion of keeping costs low for positive recreation enrollment, but said at the meeting, the speakers said sometimes the public sees if something is offered at a low price, it may be viewed as low value. He will be evaluating each program for its direct cost for supplies, equipment, officials, etc. to see what percentage of cost recovery would be needed to run each program.

Members discussed the low costs on rental of fields, gyms, shelters and buildings compared to other counties, and possible price increases. They also discussed the need for an area, such as a basketball court or soccer field, for kids and adults that want to just play or have an impromptu "pickup" game.

John suggested the old Optimist building beside the Jaycee Hut be razed because of black mold and disuse, and an ADA compliant shelter with restrooms be installed back into the same place. Members said the Kiwanis Children's Parkplace is used a lot and a shelter at the same area would be a good choice because of the existing playground and tennis courts.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John is reviewing vehicle usage and costs associated with the vehicles. He said the county manager has talked of a vehicle replacement plan to keep down the cost of expensive repairs on older cars kept within the departments.

Mr. Underwood questioned members about meeting at an earlier time, but most members work, and some work out of town, so they said they wanted to continue at the same time of 5:30 p.m. each month.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. by Ricky Frazier.

Seconded by Liz Kovasckitz..

All were in favor.

_____, Chair
Lee County Parks & Recreation Commission

_____
Debbie Carroll, Secretary