

Parks Advisory Board Meeting – June 14, 2023

Members Present: Chris Armour, Corinne Derenburger, Michael Ebbs, Maureen Fraser, Micah Miller, Katie Mims, Jeremy Smith, Kathy Thiele

Members Absent: Jimmy Turner

Staff Present: Greg Clark, Lisa Gaither, Tress Shields

Guest(s) Present: NONE

Corinne Derenburger called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Micah Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. Kathy Thiele seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Katie Mims made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes.

Public Comments

NONE

Items

1. Recreation Programming – Lisa Gaither shared photos of activities and events at the Linda Kerley Center (LKC). She stated that the center opened in October 2017. She encouraged the board members to stop by and tour the facility. It is located at 175 Poplar, the former middle school gymnasium. Lisa announced that they had 42 participants at Bingo today. Maureen Fraser asked if the participants pay. Lisa answered that they pay \$7 (includes lunch) and bring a \$1 prize. Sometimes, they have a caller from within the community who will bring the top prizes.

Lisa Gaither gave a brief overview of all programs at the LKC starting with senior exercise. She mentioned that they have an email database of 642 people with a total of 197 active participants. Anywhere from 48 to 58 people attend senior exercise classes. Lisa informed that about 20 of our police officers have come to participate in the class the last two months. Last fall, line dance lessons started at the LKC, and around 48 participants attended the first class. The average attendance is about 35 per class. Pickleball: Four courts are used at the

H.W. Cox gym and three at the LKC gym. Play is four days a week at each location. Pickleball lessons are held at the LKC gym ten months out of the year, and they take up to ten participants each month. Lisa reported that they have 557 names in the email database with nearly 200 active Pickleball participants. Pickleball is all recreational/noncompetitive. Creative Aging is a program that was started about three years ago. The programs are funded through a grant from the Shelby County Housing Authority. Creative Aging monitors the grant, and they provide workshops such as Sculpting, Painting, Pottery, Creative Writing, Spanish, etc. They also provide bands that come out to perform.

Lisa Gaither revealed that they host a multitude of miscellaneous activities such as bridge, card games, chess, billiards, corn hole, adult CPR, etc. They receive puzzle donations, and the seniors swap them. They also have a library where they swap books. The LKC consistently has walk-ins, receiving an average of about 16/month. They experience about 14% crossovers amongst the various programs. Lisa expressed that the majority of the participants are Collierville residents. However, they welcome everyone; no one is turned away. Lisa conveyed that she has three part-time staffers, she is the only full-time staff person. She commented that they use almost every space in the building, and they have lots of fun. Most of the seniors in their programs live on their own and drive themselves to the center. Lisa remarked that they are very grateful to have the facility.

Lisa Gaither communicated that the tennis program continues to grow. This past fall, we had 147 tennis participants and 190 in the spring. We offer youth and adult clinics, cardio tennis, and youth and adult leagues. We also have Junior Team Tennis, USTA adult leagues, private individual lessons, and group lessons. Lisa announced that the courts are usually full, and that concluded her report. The board members thanked her, and she told them that volunteers are always welcome at the LKC.

Greg Clark asked if anyone had questions. Chris Armour inquired about the status of the outdoor Pickleball courts. Greg answered that the courts are out to bid. We should get the bids back towards the end of July. Then, it would go to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) for approval if we have the funding. The courts would go in at the upper softball field at Suggs Park.

2. Independence Day Celebration – Greg Clark gave an update. The celebration is Monday, July 3rd with a rain date of July 4th at H.W. Cox Park. Vendors open at around 6 p.m., entertainment starts at 7 p.m., and the fireworks are around 9:30 p.m. We will recognize Meg Krisle, active MS Army National Guard 114th

MP Co, for her service and will acknowledge other service members and veterans.

Director's Report

Greg Clark announced that *Titanic, The Musical* opens this weekend. He then turned it over to Kathy Thiele for further details. Kathy pointed out that she is off this summer. She is not a part of the production staff, but she mentioned that the set and costumes are beautiful. The cast is really talented, and the public performances begin this Friday. Then, she reported the remainder of the theatre season which includes *Twelfth Night The Musical*, *Elf*, and *Nine to Five*.

Greg Clark gave an update on other events going on around town such as the Main Street Concert Series which is each Thursday evening in June and July. Then, he announced that Camp Smile is July 10th – 21st and that the Morton Museum is very busy. Then, Greg gave an update on projects. The soccer turf fields base bid came in under budget. The BMA members are supportive of doing all five fields at one time. It also includes replacing the existing turf at W.C. Johnson. It is about a \$3.4M project. Greg stated that he had a work session with the BMA regarding the Wolf River Pedestrian Bridge. We received \$3M from Governor Lee. The most expensive part of the bridge is the handicap accessible ramp. The plan is to install the bridge and put handicap accessible ramps on the south side that will meet up and join in to the existing boardwalk. We will do a turnaround overlook on the north side. Greg noted that this is likely a two-year project.

Greg Clark affirmed that the fence is installed at the Ryan's Hope Playground. We will add springs to the gates so they will automatically close. Micah Miller asked about the Depot grants. Greg explained that we have three active grants for renovations and improvements to the Town Depot.

There was no additional business. Micah Miller made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Thiele seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.