

**Bentonville Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
May 18, 2015**

The Bentonville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met April 20, 2015, at the Bentonville Parks and Recreation Downtown Activity Center.

Present were members Tregg Brown, Courtney Schaefer, Tom McCoy, Amy Davis, Holly Hook, Chad Evans, Jon Terlow, Thomas Butrynski. Crant Osborne, Lee Farmer, Jack Cartwright, Josh Stacey, David Wright and Angel Stuler were present for the staff. Jennifer Snow was present for Visit Bentonville.

Meeting began at 5:01PM

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes from March meeting.
 - Motion to approve by Terlow
 - McCoy seconded the motion
 - Approved 7-0

New Business

1. Trail Maintenance Discussion
 - Osbourne updated PRAB on the south tunnels on Wishing Springs Trail. In order to completely clean the tunnels out, permits would have to be acquired. The tunnels belong to the highway department, not to Parks and Recreation. Boulder construction could clean the tunnels out if permits were acquired, but it would cost about \$70,000. If the parks department were to clean them, it's estimated that it would take about 7-10 truckloads. Permits are attainable, but it's the cost of the project that prevents Parks and Recreation from being able to clean them out right now. Brown asked about possibly consulting with engineers regarding building a bridge or something along the lines of one so that the tunnels could be used even when they are flooded. Schaefer brought up the possibility of asking the Bentonville High School Engineering department to take a look at it and see what they might be able to come back with. In addition, Osbourne updated PRAB on the solar lights in the tunnels. The project was supposed to be completely finished in January, but lights still have problems with the sensors.
2. Community Center Programming
 - Farmer updated PRAB on the Community Center programming. Farmer handed out a program schedule to PRAB. Schaefer asked about 8am-9am being a good time for the senior activities, she thought it might be a better time for moms. Farmer said that currently all of the feedback from other facilities, 8am-9am seems to be good time for senior activities. Davis asked if there will be indoor swimming lessons year round, and Farmer said swim lessons would be offered year round. Farmer discussed summer camps with PRAB. As of today, 575 kids are signed up for camps. A few of the many camps being offered include: Camp Adventure, Camp Legos, Star War Camp, and Soccer Camp. McCoy asked if the

Community Center was in good shape regarding staff. Farmer said yes, full time staff have been hired and part-time staff are in the process of being hired. On May 4th, the front desk at the Community Center will be staffed full time. Until that date, operational staff are staffing it.

3. Community Center Grand Opening

The Grand Opening for the Community Center is June 6th. The ceremony will take place from 11am-12:30pm with food trucks in place, live music, a ribbon cutting ceremony, a swim meet, events in the community rooms and the leisure pool will be open for people to swim.

4. PRAB Sub-Committees

PRAB Members were assigned to the committee they would oversee.

Recreation Programming – Jeff Smith & Amy Davis

Aquatics – Jon Terlow & Courtney Schaefer

Facilities – Tom McCoy

Public Relations/ Marketing – Chad Evans & Holly Hook

Budget – Tom Butrynski & Chad Evans

Parks & Recreation staff will coordinate the meetings with PRAB. The goal is for PRAB and the staff to meet in June for meetings. PRAB will meet back in July and discuss their findings.

5. Additional Topics

- Wright mentioned to PRAB that the Merchants event was rained out and has been rescheduled for Saturday. Parks and Recreation partnered with Bentonville Youth Baseball and commemorative Merchant's uniforms are to be worn by the youth playing that day. Brown asked that we get a picture of all of the kids in those uniforms. The event starts at 10am.
- Stacey said the Epic Mountain Bike Ride starts at 9am on Saturday at the DAC. There are 3 different ride routes and about 200 people are expected to ride in the event.
- Friday, May 8, is the soft opening for the Community Center. This opening is for the Premier Members and will be a learning curve for the staff.
- May 2nd is the opening of the Razorback Greenway. A no drop ride is scheduled to leave the DAC at 9am. Participants will meet with Rogers Parks and Recreation in Rogers at the Mercy Trailhead, and head to Springdale. There will be events in Springdale as well as a ribbon cutting. From Springdale to Bentonville, participants are on their own to get back.
- Brown said Lake Bella Vista is a hidden gem and asked PRAB to think about possible improvements for the park and to bring ideas to the May meeting. Brown also brought up the idea of fishing camps for the lake as well more kayaking. Brown believes it could be a great destination for Bentonville Parks and Recreation.

Meeting adjourned at DAC at 6:14PM