

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The Zebulon Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met Monday, November 21st at 6pm.
This meeting was held at Zebulon Town Hall, 1003 N. Arendell Avenue.

Advisory Board Members in Attendance: Brandon Wiggins, Genia Newkirk, Wendi Watson, Dexter Privette, Erica Parsons, Quinton Taylor

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
Erica Parsons called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.
2. Approval of Agenda
Brandon Wiggins made a motion to approve.
Dexter Privette second the motion.
All voted in favor.
3. Public Comment
None.
4. Consent Quinton Taylor arrived at 6:05 PM.
 - A. Adoption of Minutes
 1. October 24th, 2022
Brandon Wiggins made a motion to approve.
Genia Newkirk second the motion.
All voted in Favor.
5. New Business
 - A. FY 2024 Budget Preparation
Erica recognized Sheila Long to discuss FY 2024 Budget Preparation.

Sheila stated that before they began she wanted to introduce the new Advisory Board member, Wendi Watson. The members went around the table to introduce themselves.

She presented information to the board and discussion was as follows:

- There was a review of Play Zebulon mission, vision, goals, and subsystems.
- There was a review of program implementation recommendations.
- Staff reviewed policy implementation recommendations.
- Staff discussed FY 2024 Considerations:
 - An analysis of program categories and age groups that emphasized gaps in service.
 - The Advisory Board engaged in discussion about the calendar. General comments from the advisory board were as follows:
 - What is happening with the Pool near Whitley Park? (Erica) Sheila responded that the Town was working to take ownership of the property and to demolish the pool for safety purposes. A future plan will be determined for the property.

- Wendy asked what could be done to increase opportunities for youth. Brandon noted they are difficult to reach. Quinton recommend exploring a digital playspace. Quinton also suggested meeting teens where they are and offering programs like digital professionalism and having photobooths with 360 degree cameras at events. Genia shared experience
- Sheila discussed opportunity to change the 2023 event calendar. Changes would include expanding concert opportunities to offer more like events in the spring at Town Hall and add craft vendor opportunities in lieu of a separate Saturday Artisan Market.
 - The Advisory Board engaged in discussion about the calendar. General comments from the advisory board were as follows:
 - Liked the opportunity to change things up and try something different. (Dexter)
 - A Friday night concert for families to gather and visit a food truck with other vendors would be enjoyable. (Erica)
 - The town has tried various things to make the Saturday market work, but we should try a different direction. (Brandon)
 - Other similar markets are having the same challenges. They start strong and then fall off perhaps due to over saturation. (Quinton)
- Maximize Impact of Resources
 - Sheila suggested some spaces are underutilized while also being over utilized in some areas. Rethinking how space is used to create more opportunities to serve more in our community will be important.
- Partnerships
 - Sheila discussed continued enhancement of securing partnerships to expand programming. We are currently working to bring in additional partners that can assist with teens and special needs. We also are looking for partners that will help us connect with more citizens.
 - Genia shared positive experiences she and her family have had with 4H.
- Outreach
 - Sheila expressed a desire to expand opportunities to go into the community to reach citizens where they are to engage them and better serve them. Examples include going to the Boys and Girls Club, schools and various neighborhoods.

6. Open Discussion
None

7. Staff Updates
 - A. Quarterly Update

Sheila provided a brief overview of the July- October 2022 quarterly report. A review of completed projects and programs as well as trends for future consideration.

Dexter stated that he liked the new format of the quarterly report.

Erica stated that there has been a lot growth.

8. Adjournment

Brandon made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Erica second the motion

All voted in favor.