

# **Collegedale Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

December 5, 2017

## **I. Introductions**

Director Bennett-Hobek called to order the regular meeting of the Collegedale Parks and Recreation Advisory Board a little after 6:10pm on December 5, 2017 at the Staff Training Room in Collegedale City Hall. The meeting started off with introductions by Director Bennett-Hobek.

ROLL CALL- Secretary Brown did not conduct a roll call, but instead wrote down all those present. The following persons were present: David Barto, Alexander Brown, Director Bennett-Hobek, Jack McClarty, Eric Sines, and Alice Tym.

## **II. Terms of Members**

Director Bennett-Hobek talked about the terms of members. She had to go back and read previous minutes that were taken from way back to what she could find to the present. Several of the members are about to have the terms come to an end, some are halfway through, and some have just begun. She informed the Board that she will work to get an up to date list of the terms for everyone currently on the Board, she also noted that when this Board was created that there were 10 members excluding the Director, which has just been created, and the Public Works Director. She would like to get a few more people on the Board.

## **III. Minutes from Spring Board Meeting**

Director Hobek discussed that the minutes were not taken at the Spring meeting and that this needs to change for our prospects of attaining outside and state money from sources like Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). The Board did not have a secretary, so, Alexander Brown, will now be the Secretary for the Board to keep such minutes.

## **IV. Progress**

- a) Presentation at April 24<sup>th</sup> Commission Workshop meeting

In March of this year, the Board met to discuss the need for programming and someone designated to lead recreational programs. In April, with the approval of the Board, Traci Bennett-Hobek presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission Workshop regarding programming, what Parks & Recreation looks like, the social and economic impact of recreation and a grant that can be applied for to help cities with departmental start-up.

b) TRIP grant

Director Bennett-Hobek informed the Board of the Tennessee Recreation Initiative Program (TRIP) grant that became available to cities across the state like ours in 2015. The grant is designed to assist cities that have just established Parks and Recreation Departments with a Director with providing more recreational opportunities for their citizens. The grant is offered over a three year period, but requires certain criteria to be accomplished on the city's end. First, in the first two years of the program being implemented, the city must match up to \$50,000, which the grant will match dollar for dollar. The city is responsible for all the funding in the third year. The city is also supposed to show that this Department is actively involved in parks and recreation, has an active Director and staff or volunteers, and keeps minutes at all of its Parks and Recreation Board meetings. Due to the timeframe for receiving these funds, and the desire to move forward with the Parks & Recreation Department and city programming, the Director's position was posted in October. Three applicants expressed interest in the position. Traci Bennett-Hobek was chosen and started in November.

c) Parks and Recreation, Public Works

Director Bennett-Hobek pointed out that there is a difference between Parks and Recreation. Parks, the Greenway System, and green space overall in Collegedale are very well established thanks to the generous help of community leaders, the Collegedale Tomorrow Foundation, and this Board. Recreation and programming, on the other hand, is a serious need in our city. We have a few highlight events that happen every year, namely the Independence Day Concert and Fireworks. We need to create programs and events to start bringing the community together. Communication to the public about programs and activities is essential. We need to reach out for partners within our community. There have been great achievements in the past from biking events to pickle ball events. This Department was started in the middle of the fiscal year, so we will be limited in what events we can do initially. Partnering and establishing relationships with local companies and organizations is very important. Director Bennett-Hobek asked for ideas for events and activities and to dream big as those dreams may become a reality in the future.

d) Volunteer Program

Director Bennett-Hobek has created a Parks and Recreation Volunteer Program that will accept individuals who fill out a volunteer application and go through a background check. There are some benefits for volunteers. An example would be youth volunteers (ages 14-17) who can apply and volunteer to get community hours for school. Director Bennett-Hobek encouraged the Board to reach out for

volunteers. She will also be going to several local schools to encourage them to consider this opportunity and possibly set up an internship program.

e) Collegedale Inspires, Healthier TN initiative

The Healthier Tennessee Initiative is part of The Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, which is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to enabling and encouraging Tennesseans to lead healthier lives. Collegedale is one of the first cities to get this designation by the Foundation, but it comes with requirements to keep such designation. The Collegedale Inspires Healthier Living, the Healthier TN Committee, needs at least 15 members for 2018 guidelines. If the Board knows anyone that might be interested, please direct them to Director Bennett-Hobek.

f) Outdoor Education, Flashlight Candy Cane Quest, Senior Fridays

Outdoor education programs have been delivered monthly through the Collegedale Public Library for a year. These programs will continue in partnership with the library's Kid Club.

The first annual Flashlight Candy Cane Quest event is this Friday. Candy Canes were donated by Wal-Mart. This event required RSVPs for each child and filled up quickly. The capacity is set at 50 and there is a waiting list. Families are excited about new activities for their children.

Senior Fridays will be starting January 12<sup>th</sup> from nine to eleven in the morning (9am-11am) in the West Room of City Hall. Examples of events for Senior Fridays will be social time, guest lecturers, stretching, wellness programs, etc.

Director Bennett-Hobek expressed the need to find what the public would like for recreational events and activities by talking to residents and members of organizations within the area.

## V. Future

a) Healthy Parks, Healthy Person

This topic was briefly touched on as an opportunity for anyone in the state to get involved and visit our many State Parks. To help promote parks as places for healthy living, visitors earn points on an app and the points can be taken to any Tennessee State Park for rewards. More can be found at [healthyparkstn.com](http://healthyparkstn.com).

b) Living Well with Chronic Illnesses Leader

Director Bennett-Hobek skipped this topic to be discussed at a future meeting.

c) New app, Parks and Recreation link

Reporting needs, finding contact information, resources, and communication- an app is in the works for residents to download and have access to resources and what is going on. FIT4MOM, Hidden Hills, Imagination Station guests, and other such groups/organizations need a communication platform. They are more likely to become involved and people can find activities to do with the app and resources. The application will be out in January to help with this. The next thing would be to market this application to get the public to plug into what the Department is doing. This will hopefully push economic development.

d) Parks and Recreation Foundation

Director Bennett-Hobek informed the Board of the need to start a Parks and Recreation Foundation, which can help pull in money to acquire land and achieve other goals. The National Recreation and Park Association has said that recreation pushes growth and real estate. The more that the city grows parks and recreational events for the community, the more benefit it will create for the community.

## **VI. Discussion**

Discussion went to several topics from the impact of the Collegedale Commons to the Collegedale Inspires Facebook page.

## **VII. NRPA Article**

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## **VIII. Adjournment**

Director Bennett-Hobek adjourned the meeting at 6:52pm.

Minutes submitted by: Alexander R. Brown, Secretary

Minutes approved by: Name