Town of Winterville

Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, February 24th at 6:30PM

Meeting called to order: 6:30 p.m.

Introduction:

Members Present: CJ Wanczyk Anthony Yocum, Randy Bowers, John Powell, Johnny Fleming, Rashana Carmon, and Lindsay Price
Members Absent: Bill Richbourg & Katrina Jones.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Johnny, 2nd by Anthony, all in favor. Minutes passed.

Citizen Input: John shared that during the Christmas parade, he heard several community members and Town Council representatives discussing the possibility of a community building. He was unsure of the current status and had heard that land may have been purchased. Randy confirmed that property has been acquired and that the project is currently in the design phase. While the topic has been discussed previously, he noted it would be beneficial to provide a public update.
Jordan added that the Town has been working with McGill & Moseley on the design process, which was briefly mentioned at the January meeting.

I. Old Business

MP Center Planning Update

Staff continue discussions with McGill & Moseley regarding the general design of the MP Center. The design incorporates information gathered from the Comprehensive Plan and Site-Specific Plan.

Accessibility Improvements

Work continues with Rivers & Associates to improve accessibility at Winterville Recreation Park. Current projects include:

- Making two field dugouts more accessible
- Adding a viewing shelter

Spring Interns

Two spring interns are assisting with programs, including Zumba, the Daddy Daughter Dance, and other events. They have also participated in baseball evaluations and the draft process. Staff look forward to their continued development.

All-Star Discussion (Continued)

The Board continued last month's discussion regarding the formation of All-Star teams for each age group. Further discussion took place under New Business.

II. New Business

Opening Ceremony & First Pitch

Staff discussed suggestions for throwing out the first pitch at the baseball season opening ceremony. One staff member suggested a participant from the Golden Age Senior Program who regularly attends and played baseball in his youth.

Anthony suggested inviting a former participant who is now playing college or professional baseball; however, scheduling conflicts may make that difficult.

Due to adjustments in evaluations and drafts, Opening Ceremony has been moved to **March 28**.

- Games begin the week of March 23
- Opening Ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Games start at 10:00 a.m.

This adjustment allows teams an additional week of practice.

Movies and Concert in the Park series will start in June.

The Movies in the Park series will begin in June.

- The Human Relations Board has requested to host a movie on June 19 or 20 and plans to show *The Princess and the Frog*. This will be the only movie scheduled for June.
- July's sponsor, a local realtor group, requested a housing-themed movie and suggested *Up*.
- August will be skipped due to the Watermelon Festival.
- The series will resume in September. Suggested titles include *Zootopia 2* or a Mario-themed movie.
- For October (during Fall Baseball season), staff suggested a baseball-themed movie. Since *The Sandlot* is not available through Swank, alternatives discussed included *A League of Their Own*, *Field of Dreams*, *Little Big League*, *The Rookie*, and *The Perfect Game*.

Board members noted that *Field of Dreams* is a classic favorite. Staff will continue internal discussions before finalizing selections.

Concert in the Park Series

The Concert in the Park schedule will mirror the movie series:

- June
- July
- Skip August

- Resume in September
- Conclude in October

Staff met with Joe, who handles band bookings, to review date options and check availability. October scheduling will be finalized after reviewing the ECU football schedule to avoid conflicts with Freeboot Friday events. Anthony noted that early September football dates have already been posted.

The plan is to bring back bands that consistently draw strong attendance while also introducing at least one new band. One well-known local artist who previously performed at the Watermelon Festival was mentioned. To reduce weather-related cancellations, staff may consider moving concerts to Thursday if Friday's forecast predicts inclement weather.

Official All-Star Vote

The Board revisited the issue of players "playing up" in older age divisions and how that affects All-Star eligibility.

Scenario Discussed:
An 8-year-old plays in the 9–10 division and makes the 9-year-old All-Star team. The following year, as a 9-year-old, the player may want to compete for the 10-year-old All-Star team, particularly if playing with older players on a travel team.

Key Discussion Points:

- Historically, players returned to their age-appropriate division the following season.
- A proposal was discussed requiring second-year players who played up to formally declare which age group they intend to be considered for All-Stars.
- Once declared, the player may not move back down if they do not make the older team.
- This ensures clarity and fairness for all teams.
- Parents assume the risk if choosing to play up (including possibly not making a team or limited playing time).
- If insufficient players exist to form separate teams, age groups may be combined.

After discussion, all Recreation Advisory Board members agreed to adopt a clear policy:

- Players must declare their intended All-Star age group prior to nominations.
- Once declared, they may not switch back.

Jordan will draft formal guidelines outlining this rule and its implementation.

III. Recreation Programs & Maintenance Updates

Golden Age Seniors

February activities included:

- Valentine's-themed arts and crafts

- Decorating picture frames and canvas bags
- Bingo

In March:

- A potluck will be held on the second Thursday
- Interns will help plan upcoming monthly activities

Board members are encouraged to share program ideas.

Park Maintenance

Maintenance staff are preparing ballfields as practices begin. Work includes:

- Edging
- Adding clay to infields as needed

Tee Ball & Pee Wee Registration

Registration opened February 9.

- 81 participants registered for T-Ball (Thinking we will end up with 10 teams)
- 72 participants registered for Pee Wee (Thinking we will end up with 8 teams)

Girls Flag Football Clinic

Scheduled for March 21–22.
Registration is ongoing, and marketing efforts will continue to increase participation.

Basic Skills Baseball Clinic

Twenty-eight participants attended the clinic, working with Next Level staff to prepare for evaluations.

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Announcements

- Girls Flag Football Clinic-March 21st & 22nd
- Baseball Opening Day Ceremony- Changed to March 28th originally March 7th
- Easter Eggstravaganza- March 21st

ADJOURN- 7:13

NEXT RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MARCH 24TH AT 6:30 PM