Town of Winterville

Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes TUESDAY, April 28th at 6:30PM

Meeting called to order: 6:31 p.m. Introduction:

Members Present: CJ Wanczyk, John Powell, Johnny Fleming, Randy Bowers &, Lindsay Price

Members Absent: Anthony Yocum, Katrina Jones, Rashana Carmon and Bill Richbourg

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

Introductions: Mayor Ricky Hines, Councilman Johnny Moye and Councilwoman Veronica Roberson

Citizen Input: None at this time

I. Old Business

- **Special Events Update**
  - The Human Relations Board will host a community yard sale/community day at Hillcrest Park, May 2nd. It was brought to the Parks & Recreation department at the April Town Council meeting.
  - The annual Summer Bash is scheduled for June 13th. Planned activities include water slides, games, food, and participation from police and fire departments. A pickleball/tennis demonstration will also be introduced to encourage community engagement.
  - Volunteers are needed for Summer Bash and other upcoming events. Will send a list out to RAB members for anyone interested in signing up. The Mayor suggested t-shirts for the volunteers.
  - Cal Ripken State Tournament
    Scheduled for June 24th–28th. Will be held at the Winterville Recreation Park.
    Coordination with league officials is ongoing to determine team participation and scheduling.
    Volunteers will be needed, particularly for scorekeeping and event support.
    Discussion included potential fundraising opportunities such as gate fees, concessions, and food truck participation.

Board Engagement Discussion

Mayor mentioned increasing board member visibility and involvement in community events. We informed both Mayor and Council members that has been in discussion since the last Summer Bash. Since the RAB members are representing the Parks and Rec department and want them to be able to advocate for us and help answer any questions if they see folks in the grocery store, or different places, etc.
Greater participation may improve community awareness and interest in board activities.

II. New Business

- **National Fitness Campaign Grant Opportunity**

- The town has been awarded a $30,000 grant toward a potential outdoor fitness court.
- Councilman Moye asked the total project cost: Total project costs range from approximately $180,000 to $280,000, with additional funding to be pursued through grants (e.g., PARTF, Lowe's, T-Mobile).
- The fitness court would provide free, accessible outdoor exercise equipment for all ages and fitness levels.
- Potential benefits include community wellness, increased park usage, and possible insurance incentives for employees. The Mayor mentioned reaching out to HR to see if that would be something to help insurance.
- A RAB members suggested to reach out to Truist formerly BB&T to see if there were any grant funding opportunity. They helped with Water Tower park years ago.
- Possible locations include multiple parks; final selection will be determined by the National Fitness Campaign committee.
- Maintenance requirements are minimal (primarily periodic cleaning, two power washes a year).
- Ownership and upkeep would be the parks and recreation department's responsibility.
- Councilman Moye suggested visiting existing installations to better evaluate the project.
- A motion was asked in support of continuing pursing grants to fund the project. The goal is not to use tax payers dollars.
  A motion was made by John and 2nd by Johnny to support and continue pursuing grants and approved to proceed with the grant application process.
- Councilman Moye asked if the video that was shown during the Town Council, Community Input meeting and the Recreation Advisory Board meeting could be posted on the website so anyone could see what project we are looking to pursue.

III. Recreation Programs & Maintenance Updates

- **Golden Age Seniors Program:**
  - April's activities were Yoder's and Bingo. May's activities will be Picnic in the Park on the 14th and Cards and Games on the 28th. It was suggested by Ms. Veronica to ask for ideas from the seniors to help plan the rest of the year. Index cards were given to each table and seniors were asked to write down any activities they would be interested in doing. As long as it's feasible we can add it on the calendar for future activity.
- **Park Maintenance and Recreation Programs**
  - Staff continue routine inspections and maintenance.
  - Walking trail repairs are under review, particularly regarding root damage. Councilman Moye asked what was being done. Staff informed him, quotes have been requested for the 2026-27 budget year. We did inform him tracks and trails would need to be resurfaced every 10-15 years depending on the condition and use of the track and trails. And also if any new roots have surfaced. Mayor mentioned talking with the Assistant Town Manager about getting in contact with the arborist (or arboriculturist) for them to come out and look at the trees near the track and trail.
  - Board members are encouraged to report issues observed during park visits. For them to help staff be additional eyes and ears.
  - A second girls' flag football clinic is planned for July following a successful initial session.
  - Discussion included exploring additional recreational opportunities for youth, such as non-competitive softball and other inclusive programs. Staff will reach out to Ayden Parks and Recreation and see when their season is and if that would be a possibility of playing games with them.
  - Youth self-defensive class

IV. Other Agenda Items

- One of the RAB members mentioned the “Bike to School Day” event is scheduled for May 6.
- We followed up about the Traffic Garden improvements and mural installations are in progress at Hillcrest Park. It was asked for Kat to bring the design in front of council. Staff will reach out to Kat and let her know what was asked.
- Summer concert and movie series will begin in June.

Announcements

- Concert & Movie in the Park Series start June
- Summer Bash: June 13th
- Cal Ripken State Tournament: June 24–28

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Next Meeting

- June 23rd at 6:30 PM (no meeting in May)