Town of Winterville

Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes TUESDAY, August 25 at 6:30PM
Meeting called to order: 6:34 p.m.
Members Present: CJ Wanczyk, John Powell, Johnny Fleming, Randy Bowers, Anthony Yocum, Katrina Jones, Rashana Carmon
Members Absent: Lindsay Price and Bill Richbourg
Citizen Input: None

I. Old Business

Golden Age Seniors

Staff discussed expanding activities and outreach for the Golden Age Senior Program. Ideas include providing activity/travel bags to seniors who are unable to attend the regular program but participate in the Police Department's senior check-in program.

Potential items for the bags include:

- Small games and puzzles
- Art activities
- Information about upcoming Parks and Recreation programs
- Information about events such as Coffee with a Cop

Staff are also exploring the possibility of creating a Golden Age Senior tote bag. The tote could help participants feel recognized as members of the program while also increasing awareness of the program throughout the community.

Girls Flag Football Clinic The planned girls flag football clinic was not held in July because the coach was out of the country. Staff plans to reconnect with the coach after the school year is underway.

Staff have also discussed the possibility of working with South Central High School and its athletic department on future football clinics. There was mentioned of the potential use of Hillcrest fields by the high school's flag football program for practices, scrimmages, or possible games.

Feedback from Murals… Staff provided an update on the proposed murals. Feedback was provided to the artist regarding the designs, including the possibility of adding an outline or visual border around the artwork near the concrete benches. Staff will follow up with Kat regarding the requested revisions.

II. New Business

Staff distributed information regarding the bicycle and pedestrian route planning process and encouraged Board members to complete and share the community survey.

There was a discussion about the existing bicycle routes and the potential for additional routes throughout Winterville. Members shared positive experiences using the existing routes and discussed ways to make bicycling more accessible to beginning riders and families. Members discussed the possibility of establishing designated bicycle lanes in additional areas. It was noted that clearly marked bicycle lanes can improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

Staff plan to discuss potential improvements with Kat, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator, to see the possibility of restoring or adding marked bicycle lanes.

Members also revisited the previously discussed greenways. Concerns from nearby residents had previously prevented the project from moving forward. A question was raised whether existing town-owned property could potentially be used for future walking and bicycle access/parking.

III. **Recreation Programs & Maintenance Updates**

Fall Registration Staff provided an update on fall registration.

Current registration numbers, as of August 24, included:

- Baseball – Major: 72 participants, with 5 on the waiting list
- Baseball – Minor: 60 participants, with 1 on the waiting list
- Baseball – Rookie: 104 participants, with 10 on the waiting list
- Cheerleading: 55 participants, with 3 on the waiting list
- Flag Football, ages 5–6: 33 participants
- Flag Football, ages 7–8: 36 participants, with 3 on the waiting list
- Soccer, ages 4–6: 64 participants, with 14 on the waiting list
- Tackle Football, ages 8–10: 30 participants
- Tackle Football, ages 11–13: 37 participants

There were approximately 491 total participants registered at the time of the report, compared with 474 participants in 2025. It was noted that registration has increased and that additional field space continues to be needed. The department is exploring improvements to the smaller field at Hillcrest to make it more suitable for T-ball, pee wee, and Rookie League practices. Improvements could provide additional field availability, particularly during the spring season. A member brought up and it was discussed interest among local teenagers in additional sports opportunities, including wrestling and basketball tournaments. Some members asked and discussed the possibility of partnering with the City of Greenville Parks and Recreation Department or other organizations to utilize existing gymnasiums and athletic facilities until additional facilities are available in Winterville. Staff explained that potential partnerships would depend on facility availability, scheduling, fees, staffing, and the requirements of the organization or facility owner.

Movie & Concert reminders

Upcoming movie events include:

- September 11: Zootopia 2
- October 23: Field of Dreams

Upcoming concerts include:

- September 18: Spare Change
- October 16: Cooper Greer

IV. Other Agenda Items

Watermelon Festival

Staff reminded the Board that the Watermelon Festival will take place later in the week.

Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Police, Fire, Electric, and the Watermelon Festival Committee have been coordinating preparations for the event.

The carnival rides will be on the Ruritan field, while the concert will be on the Kiwanis field.

Recent Special Events

An update on the recent Back-to-School Splash, National Night Out, and Market event held August 14th. Approximately 140 book bags, with 40 book bags donated by the Winterville Human Relations Boards, all 140 containing school supplies were distributed. The Police Department provided hot dogs, and snowballs were given out. The event also included a water slide and inflatable activities. Due to construction at the market, the event was moved to the rear

parking area to provide a safer environment for children. This was a partnership between Parks and Recreation, the Police Department, and the Winterville Chamber of Commerce.

Upcoming Special Events

Glow Golf

Glow Golf will return in October in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

- October 2: Mini-golf tournament
- October 3: Free family fun night

This event has continued to grow in popularity and provides a family-friendly recreational opportunity.

Fright Fest

October 25: Fright Fest will be held downtown in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.

The event will include:

- Candy distribution by town departments
- Participation from downtown businesses
- Vendors and activities
- Inflatable games and other family activities

Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting

December 12:

- Christmas Parade: 2:00 p.m.
- Tree Lighting Ceremony: 5:00 p.m.

Board members were encouraged to participate in the Christmas parade.

Future programs for teens and seniors The Board discussed ways to gather feedback from teenagers and senior citizens regarding future recreation programming.

For teens, staff are considering working with local schools to distribute a survey or QR code through school communications, subject to appropriate school policies and permissions. Surveys could also be made available at parks and community events.

The Board discussed the possibility of using the Watermelon Festival as an additional opportunity to collect community feedback.

For seniors, staff plan to explore both electronic and paper survey options.

V. Announcements

October 2nd & 3rd Glow Golf

October 25th Fright Fest

December 12th Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Next Meeting

- September 22, 2026, at 6:30 PM