

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board for the Town of Nashville held a Special Called Meeting Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room. Members Present: Chairman-Kirby Winstead, Vice Chair- Mary Richardson, George Jefferies, Lynn Hobbs, & Council Member Liaison Kate Burns. Staff Present: Randy Lansing-Town Manager, Marguerite Bishop-Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Julie Spriggs-Planning and Development Director, Tina Price-Planning Technician, & Tesa Silver-Deputy Town Clerk & Personnel Technician. Others Present: Thomas Gillespie-Nash County Recreation Director

1. Chairman Winstead called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Public Comments-There were no public comments.
3. Tree City
  - a. Review of Tree Board Ordinance

Chairman Winstead stated that it is the staff's recommendation to adopt an ordinance to create a Tree Board and by doing so will allow the Town to be designated as a "Tree City." Ms. Spriggs stated that she was present tonight to answer any questions that the advisory board may have in regards to the ordinance. Ms. Spriggs explained that the ordinance was crafted very similarly to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Board; the ordinance before them specifies the Tree Board's number of members, length of terms, and duties and responsibilities. The Tree Board will meet to discuss projects, and that will allow the Town to continue to be classified as a "Tree City." She clarified that enforcement would still be the responsibility of the Planning Department through code enforcement.

Chairman Winstead called for a motion to recommend to Town Council to adopt the ordinance creating a Tree Board. Ms. Hobbs made the motion, seconded by Mr. Jefferies. Chairman Winstead called for a vote, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). The recommended ordinance reads as follows:

Chapter 26 - Parks and Recreation  
Article II - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Sec. 26-44. - Establishment of Tree Board.

There is hereby established a Town Tree Board under the authority of the general statutes of the state.

\*This section satisfies the Tree City USA requirement of the creation of the Tree Board.

Sec. 26-45 - Membership; appointment; terms.

(a) Membership on the Tree Board shall consist of the membership appointed to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

(b) Members will serve the same term as that of the parks and recreation advisory board members.

\*This section satisfies the Tree City USA requirement of the terms of office of the members of the Tree Board.

Sec. 26-46. - Compensation.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

\*This section satisfies the Tree City USA requirement of compensation of the Tree Board.

Sec. 26-47. - Powers and duties.

(a) It shall be the responsibility of the Board to study, investigate, counsel, develop and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. The plan will be presented annually to the Town Council and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive town tree plan.

(b) The Tree Board, when requested by the Town Council shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon special matter or question coming within the scope of its work.

\*This section satisfies the Tree City USA requirement of the duties and responsibilities of the Tree Board.

4. Partnership with Nash County Parks and Recreation  
a. Review of Preliminary Information and Proposal

Chairman Winstead stated that the next item on the agenda was to review the preliminary information and proposal for a partnership with Nash County Recreation and Senior Services. Mrs. Bishop introduced Mr. Gillespie, Recreation Director for Nash County. Chairman Winstead asked Mrs. Bishop if she would like to speak in regards to the proposal. Mrs. Bishop stated that currently we have a duplication of services in athletics. Running an athletics program causes a number of strains on the department including limited programming in other areas (including those that have been requested by citizens), the large amount of funding utilized on it, and the burden and heavy amount of stress it adds to the staff we have because of the manpower needed to successfully run any type of athletic program properly. Mrs. Bishop stated that she feels most citizens will not be affected or notice the change in who is providing the service(s). Mrs. Bishop stated that there are several advantages to the partnership including increasing participation, increasing competition, giving the ability to have gender based teams, exposing the children to a higher level of athleticism, and allowing our department to further develop other programs and services.

Chairman Winstead stated by creating this partnership, a good portion of the budget would be available for use. Mrs. Bishop stated that was correct, that the Town would be able to focus on other projects such as acquiring an indoor facility, dog parks, and other projects similar in nature. Mrs. Bishop gave the board a timeline of what to expect; first she would need a recommendation from the advisory board to take to Town Council; then she would go to Town Council and ask for their blessings to move forward to discuss the agreement with the County, and then discussion would take place on the details of the Interlocal Agreement.

Mrs. Burns stated that she reviewed the information that the board received and she has compiled a list of pros and cons for this process; the most pressing concern is the \$35.00 fee. She stated to some people \$35.00 is not a lot of money, however for others that \$35.00 could be the difference in a child playing and providing the necessities for their home, especially in homes with multiple children. She asked if the county has or could provide some type of scholarship or hardship grant; Mr. Gillespie replied that they have a program in place. Council Member Burns asked what type of documentation people would have to provide in order to receive the funding. Mr. Gillespie stated they are currently reviewing the process; they currently do not require any type of documentation to support the hardship need, however the plan is to have the public provide some type of documentation such as proof of receiving governmental assistance in order to qualify, however the specifics are still being worked on.

Mrs. Burns asked if someone has transportation problems would the County be willing to put two children on the same team so that the child without transportation would have transportation; Mr. Gillespie stated they do this currently. Mrs. Burns asked if instead of the County owning the equipment, if a discussion could take place about the County leasing the equipment instead; there will be times when the Town will need to use the equipment; Mr. Gillespie stated they could look at changing the verbiage in the proposal. Mrs. Burns asked what happens with the park rental process once the County takes over, and she used an example of a Nashville Resident wanting to rent the park for a birthday party. Mr. Gillespie stated they currently charge \$20.00 per hour.

Mr. Gillespie stated the County has several other agreements similar to this with other surrounding municipalities and those are working extremely well; he stated that the towns are able to still host

events on their sites at no cost, at first availability outside of what is already scheduled by the County. Mr. Gillespie stated he feels that the Town and the County can have a great working relationship moving forward, like they do with Spring Hope, Bailey, and Red Oak. Mrs. Bishop stated that the Town would still be responsible for capital projects and they could include verbiage in the agreement about the responsibility of the maintenance of the parks belonging to the County.

Mrs. Burns stated that the timeline is very aggressive because once it's gone it's gone; she stated she would feel more comfortable if we have a public hearing to hear from the public. Mr. Lansing asked what exactly she had in mind; she stated she'd just like to give the public the platform and the ability to share their thoughts on this. Mr. Gillespie stated he believes the aggressive time line was a product of trying to get things in place prior to the start of the spring sports season. Mrs. Bishop stated that if we do not have an aggressive time line, the Town would have to hire a new employee, or not have a baseball season; Mr. Gillespie stated that if they are ultimately going to acquire the Town employees (since one position is currently vacant), the County would prefer conducting their own process for the applicant. Mrs. Bishop stated that spring sports registration would begin in January for the town, but in December for the County. Mrs. Burns stated that she is fine with the aggressive time line as long as enough opinions are considered from the public.

Mr. Lansing suggested putting an article in the Nashville Graphic about the potential partnership with the County detailing what has been reviewed and discussed thus far by the advisory board. Mrs. Bishop asked for clarification on the best way to proceed with how to receive comments from the public. Mr. Lansing suggested having a separate forum for the public. Ms. Hobbs inquired to Mr. Gillespie about the level of commitment from the County and the Board of Commissioners; she expressed concern about getting the public involved without some type of commitment from the County. Mr. Gillespie feels that Administration and the County Commissioners are open to having discussions about the partnership. The next meeting for the County Commissioners will be held November 4, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. and Mr. Gillespie stated that members of the public, staff, and the advisory board are welcome to attend. Council Member Burns stated that they could potentially get the Council's blessing contingent upon the results of the public forum. The board came to the consensus to hold the public forum on November 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm. at Town Council Chambers. Mr. Lansing stated that he had mixed feelings about this idea when Mrs. Bishop initially presented the idea, however after reviewing and reflecting he feels the Town will benefit tremendously from what the department would be able to provide due to the change.

Chairman Winstead called for a motion to recommend the Partnership with Nash County Parks and Recreation contingent upon a positive vote from council and a public forum being held. Mr. Jeffers made the motion, seconded by Ms. Richardson. Chairman Winstead called for a vote, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). The current proposal reads as follows:

# **TOWN OF NASHVILLE PRCR AND NASH COUNTY P&R PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL**

October 11, 2019

## **OVERVIEW**

### **1. Project Background and Description**

The Town of Nashville and Nash County both operate parks and recreation departments that are funded through taxpayer dollars. Nash County provides services and programs to residents generally outside of Nashville and in municipalities where an intergovernmental agreement is in place including Spring Hope, Bailey, Middlesex, Red Oak, and Castalia. Currently programming for both departments is similar in nature with offerings predominately geared toward traditional team athletics for both youth and adult. In order to provide more services to our constituents without an increase in budgeted funds to the department, it is proposed that Nash County Parks, Recreation and Senior Services assumes the responsibility of programming traditional team athletics for youth and adults at Glover Park. Nashville residents will immediately see an increase in the number of sports available for play each season and same gender teams available. This will allow Nashville's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department to refocus its staff hours and budget to offer noncompeting and more diverse programs to town and county residents.

### **2. Project Scope**

The project will entail entering into an interlocal agreement with Nash County. In this agreement Nashville will remain the owners of Glover Park and any improvement constructed at the Park will be the property of the Town. It is proposed Nash County P&R be responsible for all aspects of operation, maintenance, management and supervision of Glover Park, including, but not limited to supplying personnel/staff, maintaining/repairing Park facilities and managing/supervising recreational team sports activities at the Park, together with all associated cost and expense. All revenues generated from fees charged for rentals and recreational activities administered by the County will be paid to the County. These fees include field rentals, tournaments, programmed recreational activities, and concession. All decisions related to the operation, maintenance, management and supervision of the Glover Park shall be made by the County. Town sponsored events shall be exempt from any Nash County facility rental fees for any portion of the facilities requested for events and programs. The County will not offer any programs outside of the area of youth and adult recreational team sports within the limits of the Town as to not further duplicate program offerings. Any equipment purchased by the County to manage the Park and the athletic programs will be deemed as property of the County.

The Town will secure indoor space and expand program offerings into health and wellness, school readiness, community building, family building, afterschool and out of school programming, environmental programming, and cultural arts. The Town will not offer any adult or youth recreational team athletic programming.

It is proposed that the Recreational Supervisor and the Park Maintenance Worker currently employed by the Town of Nashville be hired by Nash County in a comparable roll. The Town would increase the budget for professional contracted services to contract with specialized instructors and hire part-time staff members as part-time programmers and administrative/marketing assistants.

## 1. Agreement Requirements

- Existing Equipment to transfer to the County:
  - Football equipment (helmets, pads, uniforms, tackling dummies, uniforms, etc.)
  - Cheer uniforms, pom poms, and bags.
  - Soccer goals, balls and pennies
  - Baseball equipment (batting tees, balls, bases, batting helmets, catching equipment)
  - Field preparation equipment (drag, rakes, field paint machine, pull behind sprayer)
  - John Deer Gator
  - 2 Toro Lawn Mowers
- County will have access and use of the metal storage building at Glover Park, office space at Glover Park, restrooms, vending room, and concession stand area.
- Signage at the field would direct users to call Nash County P&R for field rentals and inquiries about athletic programming.

## 2. Timeline/Schedule

The desired timeline for this project is for the transition to take place in January 2020 and for the County to assume youth and adult team athletic programming for the spring season. This is an aggressive timeline as registration for spring sports begins in January. If the project needed to coincide with the new fiscal year (2020-21), agreements would need to be signed and prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> so that planning for the summer months and summer sports season could occur.

5. Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers

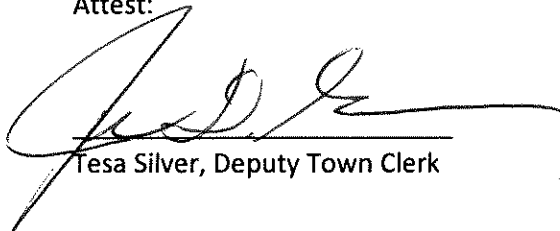
Mrs. Bishop stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in Town Council Chambers.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Winstead called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jefferies made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hobbs. Chairman Winstead called for a vote, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

  
Chair

Attest:

  
Tessa Silver, Deputy Town Clerk

