

**Manchester Parks and Recreation Department  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
January 14, 2021**

The Manchester Recreation Commission met on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at the Ada Wright Building. Members present were Alderman Bill Nickels, Chair Prater Powell, Brent Parsley, Stan Rogers, Leslie Brasfield, Leslie Trussler, Director Bonnie Gamble, and Assistant Director A.J. Fox.

Director Gamble mentioned that the current restrictions set in place for the department due to COVID-19 will be lifted as of Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Restrictions to be lifted include only ten patrons allowed to attend group fitness/water aerobics classes, members only being admitted to the recreation center, and renting of the Ada Wright Building will resume. Director Gamble also believes that baseball and softball will be able to operate their leagues this season without restrictions.

Personnel changes were discussed due to the resignation of Activities Coordinator Tiffany Clutter. Heber Campechano will be transferred from Wellness Director to Activities Coordinator since the Activities Coordinator job description is more in line with the duties that Heber performs. Cindy Weber will be transferred from Aquatics Director to Wellness Director per her request. The Aquatics Director position will be vacant after the personnel transfers are complete. The position will be advertised as of January 20<sup>th</sup>. Maintenance Tech Blake Herman was terminated within his ninety-day probationary period due to several infractions. Discussion was held as to who was performing the duties of the vacant positions and it was stated that all staff was assisting in covering the areas.

Director Gamble gave an update on grants.

- An application was submitted to the Tennessee Department of Health for the construction of an outdoor basketball/pickleball court on the campus of Westwood Elementary School to service the school and the community in the area. The estimated project cost is \$47,000.00 with no match required by the city. The construction of the court would require a joint use agreement between the school system and the parks and recreation department.
- The outdoor club that is funded by the Tennessee Department of Health has been unable to meet due to COVID-19 but is currently scheduled to resume January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The farmer's market is scheduled for this fiscal year ending June 2021 to have the concrete slab poured, plumbing and electrical conduit stubbed, and the outer walls erected. The project will be bid with construction materials and installation labor separate. It is possible that the parks and recreation department staff will perform the necessary labor, if time permits with other maintenance tasks that are already scheduled. Brent Parsley asked if the farmer's market facility would be able to be rented similar to the Ada Wright Building in regards for family reunions, birthday parties, and etc. Director Gamble stated that the farmer's market would be used to sell items from the community garden, individuals in the community, and maybe even local grocery stores.
- TDOT Greenway Grant: Phase 1 of the environmental has been completed. The location of the greenway has been officially changed in TDOT's database from extending

from the Riverview area to the Bonnaroo property to starting at the Manchester Coffee County Conference Center to the Bonnaroo property. The survey for the proposed greenway is complete. HFR Design will have the right-of-way easements ready the week of January 18<sup>th</sup>. Director Gamble mentioned that it is possible due to COVID-19 impeding the necessary processes to meet the July 1 deadline that the project might not be able to be continued. However, TDOT officials have mentioned that the city can reapply in the future and the application will be looked favorably upon.

- Local Parks and Recreation Fund Grant: An application has been submitted for a Local Parks and Recreation Fund grant to upgrade the existing lighting on the baseball/softball fields. Director Gamble is planning to seek additional funding from the city school system and Park Partners.

A maintenance report was given in regards to the Babe Ruth Field and the therapy pool. The Babe Ruth Field light that has a short in the wiring is scheduled to be repaired by C&H in February. The therapy pool received a new boiler due to the coils in the previous boiler failing.

Discussion was held about a new lease on cardio and possibly strength equipment. Leslie Trussler asked if a company could maintenance the spin bikes. Director Gamble stated she would look into a company to do so. Stan Rogers asked about the condition of the Jacobs Ladder. Director Gamble stated that a company was contacted about making repairs and the department is waiting on a reply.

Director Gamble finished the meeting by discussing the results of a survey that was distributed to the community.

Prater Powell asked why swim team appears to dominate pool time. Director Gamble stated that swim team uses time that when the public would not. She stated that the public would not use an open swim time during the week right after school is dismissed.

Leslie Brasfield and Stan Rogers inquired about additional lighting be installed at the rear of the recreation center for safety purposes since patrons are asked to exit the facility at the rear. A.J. Fox said that he would contact Duck River Electric Membership Cooperative about the possibility of installing a light on an existing power pole.

Prater Powell set the next meeting for Thursday, February 11, 2021, from Noon - 2:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,



A.J. Fox

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director