

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 11, 2010, 6:00 P.M.  
WORK SESSION WITH THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**PRESENT:** The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Mayor  
The Honorable W. Eugene Hunt, Jr.  
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman  
The Honorable Frank A. Kreiger  
The Honorable E. T. "Tom" Meree  
The Honorable Traci-Dale Crawford

Nikki Mas'Sey, Parks & Recreation Board Chairman  
Tom Powers, Parks & Recreation Board Vice Chair  
Robert Wheless, Parks & Recreation Board Member  
Carrie Rodgers, Parks & Recreation Board Member  
Robert Chiera, Parks & Recreation Board Member  
Judy Mas'Sey, Parks & Recreation Board Member

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager  
Judy F. Wiggins, City Clerk  
David N. Callis, Parks & Recreation Director

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Helsel at approximately 6:05 p.m. in the large Library Meeting Room. He asked for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to update Council on what is currently being done to advance and enhance the City's recreational programs/facilities and how Council can support them in this mission.

During the session, the following comments, suggestions and/or requests were made by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

- That the Board be permitted to rewrite Chapter 6 entitled "Community Facilities & Services" of the City's Comprehensive Plan to better reflect its recreational vision and goals.
- That City Council include a new community/recreational center in the upcoming Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) so that the newly formed 501(c)(3) Recreation Foundation could seek donations towards its construction.
- That the Board is actively seeking the following recreation grants: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Blueways grant, the John Smith Water Trail Program grant and, in conjunction with the Poquoson Museum, a Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) grant for a fishing pier at Messick Point.

- That property for a park in the Western Precinct is badly needed.
- That the City should impose Impact Fees on developers in order to raise money for additional parks.
- That the City/Schools should provide a bus run after each school day to take kids from the Middle School to the Elementary School for scheduled recreational activities.
- That Kids Island be either upgraded or torn down since it is badly deteriorated and continues to pose law enforcement problems for the Police.
- That the City needs a public boat ramp on Bennett's Creek and that other City ramps are in serious need of repair and upgrading.

In response to the Board's suggestions, comments and queries, Council offered the following responses:

- That the Board should indeed prepare an amended Chapter 6 for the City's Comprehensive Plan which would then be advertised for public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council.
- That a new recreational facility has been included in the proposed CIP, however, not in Year 1 or 2 and that a public hearing on the Plan is scheduled before Council on February 22, 2010.
- That the City does not have the authority to impose impact fees; however, City staff uses every opportunity to persuade developers to provide free-will proffers to the community whenever feasible.
- That the City would discuss with the School System the possibility of providing after school bus runs between PMS and PES to enable children to take advantage of planned recreational activities.
- That Council would direct the City Manager to meet with prospective developers in the Pump Station #2 service area to encourage them to provide amenities that would promote/enhance the City's recreational facilities and that the Board would be apprised of the outcome of any meetings that are held.
- That the Mayor and the City Manager would be meeting with a gentleman this week who is interested in developing a community facility and assured the Board that they would be notified of the outcome of this meeting as well.

- That, at this time, there did not appear to be a definitive solution to the Kids Island problem; however, Council would continue to investigate this matter.
- That City staff will provide the Board with an update on the Poquoson Marina public boat ramp and that other possible access points to Bennett's Creek would be researched.

In conclusion, Council commended the members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for their tireless efforts to promote the activities of the Parks and Recreation Department and to recommend needed improvements.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

City Clerk