

# Parks and Recreation-June 2021



## Highlighted Project for June 2021

### City-County Welcome Sign Hwy 66



*Maintaining the above City County Welcome Sign at Exit 407 has been challenging over the years. We applied Pine Straw this month, removed all weeds and sprayed. The banks of this area are extremely steep which creates challenges for workers safety as well as keeping landscaping materials on the side of this mountain. Hopefully... we have found the answer with Pine Straw...time will tell!*

## THE DIRECTOR'S BOX for June 2021

*'The Directors' Box'... Bob feels you need to know about the following....June 2021*



### -Ups for the month.

*-After years of planning... our City Leaders approved contracts for design and engineering for improvements to the Community Center and the building of a new 77- acre park in East Sevierville. We are also moving forward with some Blueway recommendations. 🤝*

*-We assisted Public Works in the building of a rain garden in Burchwood Subdiv.*

*-The PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD met this month, please find the minutes of that meeting at the conclusion of the monthly report.*



### -Not So Much an Up for the month

*-After trying mulch, rock and wild- flowers; we applied Pine Straw to the City-County Welcome Sign at Exit 407- it seems to be working. This sign has been a major challenge due to the topography, lack of water.*

*-After a high-speed chase through Downtown Sevierville a Street Light and a Tree were damaged. We had both the tree and the light repaired the next day.*

*-We are again without an Administrative Assistant...thanks to Beth and Nicole for stepping in and helping....*

# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## *kids unlimited*



- Our Children Program completed a very successful and busy first, three weeks of Summer Adventure 2021. It great to be back to doing what we normally do in the summer!
- Our five new Kids Unlimited Staff are doing an outstanding job: Zach Arwood, Taylor Reagan, Alex Mount, Joe Grindstaff and Matti Fagan. This is almost an entire new staff this year!

## *aquatics*

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- We have about 60% all New staff members for the Family Aquatic Center, everyone is doing a good job.
- Cleaning was completed and the staff did a great job.
- Food / drinks ordered, and we are trying to stay as low as possible to save money for the Splash pad repairs.
- Group rentals for the Family Aquatic Center are on the rise!
- Maintenance Staff is assisting with the vacuuming situation at the Family Aquatic Center. Due to the pool being used from 6am until 6pm daily; the Aquatic Staff can not vacuum that early in the morning, night unrealistic, due to the dirt still floating around and not settled to the bottom of the pool.
- Swim Team held their pool party June 8, 2021 at the Family Aquatic Center. Date changed due to weather.





## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### *athletics*

- 
- Completed Spring Co-ed softball season on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Continued Tuesday pickleball lessons and play with Sally Worden.
- Hosted 3 weekend tournaments, which brought a total of 195 teams into town. (2 boy's baseball, 1 girl's softball) **THESE TOURNAMENTS ARE A MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT TO SEVIERVILLE.....!**
- Continued maintenance and management of soccer facility at SMCC, working with Sevier Starz Football Club.



Spring 2021 Co-ed Champions—Off Again

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Boys Baseball Tournament June 4-6

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### *fitness*

- The fitness center equipment was serviced, other than having to replace some cables, the equipment passed the test.
- Our class attendance is staying up, we usually see a decline in numbers during the summer, but not this year.
- We welcome our new Fitness Instructor, Natasha Lashin.

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Our classes are back to full capacity

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## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### *bowling center*

- Hosted the SMUSBC Generation Gap Bowling Tournament. We had 45 bowlers participate.
- another one of our High School Bowlers, “Cooper Brackins” sign College Scholarship papers with Milligan University, this makes the 5th high school bowling from Sevierville to receive a college scholarship this year.
- Several large group outings from out of town come here for their Bowling Event.

### *civic center*

- Nicole Sutton took the CPRP exam on June 2nd and passed, she is now a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional.
- Staff removed partitions in Council Hall installed for COVID-19 requirements, disassembled and stored.
- Civic Center Supervisor now works directly for the Director and has been assigned with Tree Memorial program.
- Events are really picking up again with all various types of event. Pictured below is a traditional Latino celebration.....  
“Quinceañer” part birthday party, part rite of passage, it symbolizes a girls entrance into womanhood when she turns 15



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# Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Board Minutes



## Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Committee

### Agenda –June 28, 2021 -5pm Community Center

Present: Chairman Bubba Fox, Elizabeth McCarter, Eddie Helton, Steve Springer, Alderman Devin Koester, Dennis Snider

Others Present: Bob Parker-Director of Park and Recreation

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- **Call to Order was made by Chairman Fox, who then introduced new Member Eddie Helton.**
  - **Tour New Spinning Studio and Kids Space:** The Committee took a tour of the new Space for the Children's Program and the new Spinning Studio.
  - **Review of FY 2022 Budget Highlights:** The Director reviewed the FY 2022 Budget Goals and Objectives. There were no questions from the Committee.
  - **Update on Major Capital Projects from June 21st BMA Workshop and June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting on Fund Raising:** The Director gave a report on the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding hiring a Professional Fundraiser (Copy of Report is attached). The Director informed the Committee that the Mayor and Board of Alderman had approved the Design and Engineering for the New East Sevierville Park and the Community Center Expansion.
  - **Recommendations on the Proposed Improvements to Mt. Ton of Fun Playground:** The Director presented the recommendations to add Swings, Slide, and a Shade Structure to the Mt. Ton of Fun Playground @ City Park. The Committee had a few questions, but no recommendations for changes. The Director indicated that the goal was to have this equipment installed by January 1, 2022.

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**Recommendations on Proposed Improvements to the Tennis/Pickleball Courts:** The Director informed the Committee that the details are still being worked out, but there are funds to resurface the tennis/pickle ball courts and replace the lighting on (4) four Tennis Courts. The Director indicated that this work would probably be accomplished in Spring 2022.

**Recommendation for Location of Storage Building @ City Park:** The Director informed the Committee about the proposed location of a 9000sq. ft storage building that would be placed at City Park. There was discussion, however there were no recommendations to change the proposed plan and location at City Park.

**Discussion and Update on Tree Memorial Program:** The Director presented the updated list of Memorial/Honorary Trees that had been purchased since Arbor Day 2021. The Director recommended that the Tree Memorial/Honorary Tree Program only offer the wording: In Honor of or In Memory of with the person's name on each ground plaque. No other wording will be allowed on these 8' x 4" plaques in order to keep the cost of the program at the current rates.

**Review of Community Center usage Numbers and Recommendation on Expansion of Bowling Center:** The Director presented a report on the Usage of all Programs at the Community Center over five fiscal years, along with specific recommendations on the proposed idea of adding additional lanes to the Bowling Center. A copy of the report is attached.

**Dennis Snider made the motion to Adjourn.**



# Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Board Minutes



## Director of Parks and Recreation Report on: June 10<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Parks & Rec Foundation Capital Projects and Fundraising Options

### ***\*Professional Fundraising***

#### **This is what I know:**

- 1- I do not think the city should spend \$25-\$35,000 dollars to do a Feasibility Study when they have committed \$20M+/-.
  - 2- The Parks and Recreation Foundation has \$1M set aside for Challenge Grants.
  3. The comments I received following the Presentations on June 10<sup>th</sup>, CONVERGENT FOR NON-PROFITS was the Firm of Choice, if the city should choose to go in that direction.
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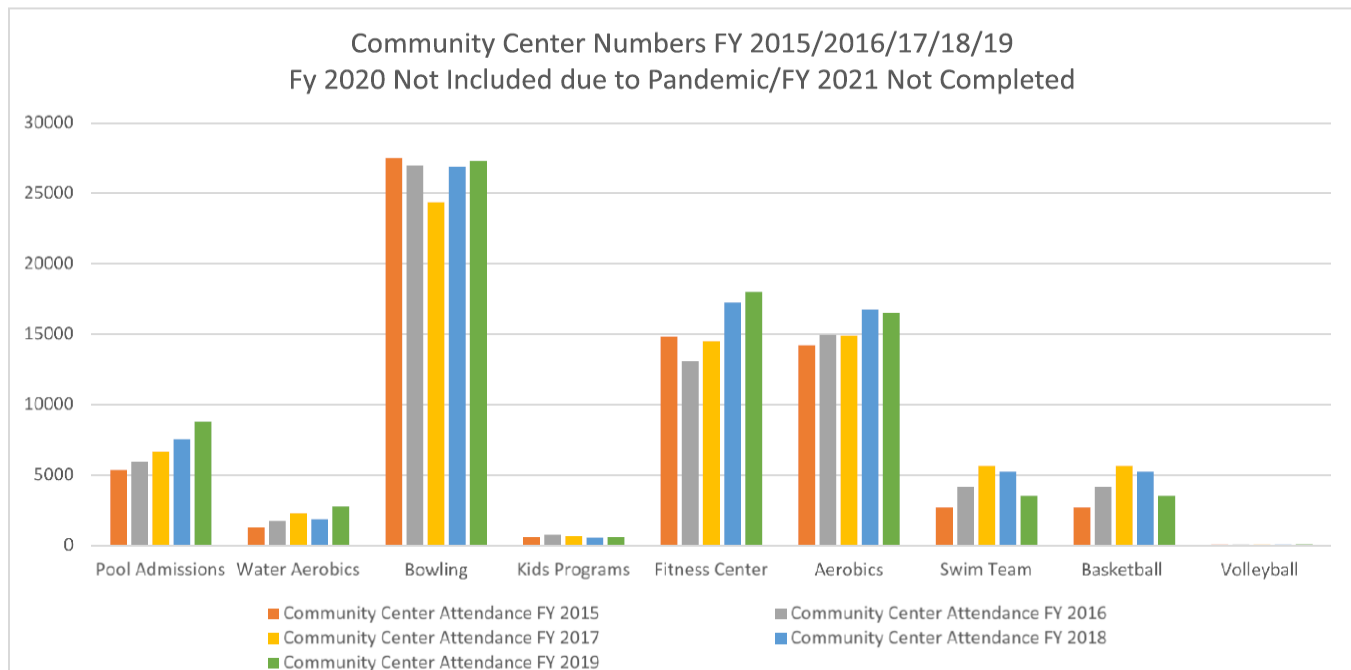
#### **This is What I think/feel:**

- 1- I feel Staff and the Foundation Board needs Guidance and Direction on how to Maximize this \$1M dollars for Challenge Grants.
- 2- I have contacted CONVERGENT FOR NON-PROFITS and they feel a Feasibility Study continues to be necessary to even address a Plan to Maximize the Challenge Grant Opportunities.
- 3- I will recommend that the Foundation take a “wait and see” approach and see how these projects develop”. Time should create momentum and thus, giving the Board time to develop some training and/or strategy regarding Challenge Grants.

Bob Parker-President



# Parks and Recreation Services Advisory Board Minutes



## Community Center Observations for Five Year Period FY 2015-2019

- Pools Admissions/Lap Swimming have seen a steady growth over this five- year period.
- Water Aerobics/ /Kids Programs/Fitness Center/Fitness Classes have remained consistent or have increased. This is mainly because the number of users has maxed out the available of space in those venues.
- Bowling revenue remains consistent, although there remains space for additional usage within the current footprint of 10 lanes. League Bowling has seen a major decline in the last few years, but Open Bowling is trending upward.
- Swim Team and Basketball users saw steady growth from 2016 until 2018 with a slight decrease in 2019.
- Volleyball has remained steady over this five-year period.
- FY 2020 and FY 2021 are not included because of Covid-19/Pandemic. But it appears that “post covid19 user numbers” will show an increase.

### Bowling:

- At the June 21<sup>st</sup> BMA Workshop; I was asked to revisit the recommendation to increase the size of the Bowling Center by two lanes. I have reviewed the previous three Fiscal Years prior to COVID (2017/18/19) and discussed the current situation in the Bowling Center with Staff. Below are some observation, trends, and recommendations.
- Over the three-year period of 2017/2018/2019 the below numbers are the trends:
  - League Bowling has Decreased by 8%
  - Open Bowling Increased by 123%
  - Cosmic Bowling Increased by 14%
  - Bowling Birthday Parties decreased by 25%
  - Tournament Play increased by 14%
  - We have plenty of room for growth with the current 10 lanes we have.
- I have asked the Bowling Supervisor to evaluate the condition of the existing Bowling Equipment with the goal of only upgrading the current the equipment and not expanding the bowling center.
- I have asked the Bowling Supervisor to contact Brunswick Bowling to provide our Staff with the newest training or development of a Business Plan to maximize the 10 lanes we have with the goal of increasing usage i.e., revenue for the Bowling Center.
- I do not recommend at this time we expand the Bowling Center by two lanes, as was recommended in 2018 when the Master Plan was adopted.

*Bob*

Robert H. 'Bob' Parker

Director of Parks & Recreation