

**Town of Windermere
Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2024 5:30pm**

Members present: Sue Ann Reichard, Jill Ata, Tracy Mitchell, Tracy McLaughlin, Steven Dimino, Christine Yonge
Member Applicant: Kelley Duell
Council Liaison: Mandy David

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:43pm by Sue Ann Reichard based on a quorum present to conduct business.
2. Doug Bowman - Town Council approved naming Windermere Recreation Center tennis courts Bowman Courts. The committee would like to set up an event in Doug's honor. Tracy Mitchell reached out to Marcelo to assist with organizing this event; they are planning for a Saturday morning in January 2025, possibly 1/11 or 1/25.
3. Event Updates:
 - A. 22nd Annual Run Among The Lakes will be held on Saturday October 5, 2024.
 1. Kelley Duell, an experienced runner, ran the proposed new RATL route recently with Tracy McLaughlin. After examining the old route and new route, detailed feedback was provided to the committee, including photos and examples. Some of the new route challenges outweigh the old route challenges, including confusing loop backs that overlap the 5K route, with directional signage that will need to be moved mid-race. After discussion, the committee decided we would like to keep the original route. The committee would like to embrace using the pedestrian path that goes through the barricade and make it somewhat of a feature instead of an obstacle. Fun ideas and ways to keep everyone safe will be further discussed at the RATL planning meeting. Tracy McLaughlin will reach out to Sommer Sports to share this update to keep the original route.
 2. Kim provided additional RATL artwork samples and were presented by Sue Ann. Committee members looked at all of the designs and made notes for the final submission.
 3. We discussed changes for race shirts. Jill ordered material samples and reviewed pricing.
 4. Beer Fest will be held on the same day as the race. Fun ideas to incorporate this will be discussed at the planning meeting.

5. Sue Ann updated the group with advertising information and deadlines; she will bring additional information to the planning meeting.
6. The planning meeting was scheduled for 6/20 but due to attendance issues, we will need to reschedule. The new date will be given to TOW admin.

B. Halloween Costume Parade and Hayride will be held on October 26, 2024.

Sue Ann received a request from the local non-profit bunny rescue asking if they could set up on the stage to allow families to learn about adoptions, if interested. The committee is in agreement.

Sue Ann also received requests from vendors interested in the event. However, at this time, the committee would like to keep this event small and focused on this community.

C. PetFest will have a hiatus for 2025.

4. Tennis:

Maintenance discussion took place. Mandy provided an update on Tonya's behalf. Wind screens were addressed but recent storms have caused additional damage. Pest control and weed control were completed. Irrigation was added for new trees at Main Street courts but we still need to have the watering times adjusted. We also still need a trash can added for the main street courts.

The committee noted a need for rule reminders due to recent events.

Pickleball: Tonya ordered replacement nets. The committee would like to include additional pickleball options in the strategic planning session.

5. Parks:

Windermere Rec Center: We are encouraged to continue to report any light outages on the Duke Energy website. The lights in question need to be marked with a yellow ribbon.

Lake Down: TOW plans to install fencing with an area for residents to access the park. We do not have any additional updates at this time.

Central Park: The committee would like to repave the old walking path that is in disrepair and connect the two play areas, adding bumpers, mulch, and proceed with removal of a scrub tree blocking the connection. The committee would like to honor the centennial celebration by calling this new path around Central Park "The Centennial Parkway" or Path. Tonya has begun to get estimates for the Pour in Place path. The committee will continue to discuss the new path in the strategic planning meeting.

Palmer Park: Jill is working with Public Works to get the ADA accessible swing's height fixed, a special extended chain needs to be added. The second soccer goal was ordered and will be installed.

Park Signage: Need to consolidate signage and determine exactly which signs we need at each park, and trail signs. Tracy Mitchell presented some sign examples. Tracy Mitchell made a motion to create a sub-committee to work on signs and benches in common spaces. Steve seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.

6. New Business:

- a. The 2024-2025 financial information and 5 year capital improvement plan will be discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting.
- b. The Town Council approved Christine Yonge's membership in a unanimous vote. Welcome, Christine!
- c. New Member vacancy: Sue Ann Reichard made a motion to approve the application for Kelley Duell. Christine seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the application for Kelley Duell as a new Parks and Rec committee member. Kelly's application will be forwarded to the Town Council.
- d. Liaison Reports provided by Mandy David, including updates from Tonya Elliott-Moore.
- e. A few residents have complained to P&R committee members about non-residents trying to break in, or repeatedly asking to be let into the courts, leaving messes, etc. The committee would like to draft a letter/email with court rules refresher and reminders, including non-emergency numbers to call for assistance if needed.
- f. Tracy Mitchell made a motion to approve May Meeting Minutes. Steve seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.
- g. Dates set for upcoming planning meetings.
RATL Planning - TBD, likely the last week of June
Strategic Planning I - June 27th at 5:00pm
Strategic Planning II - July 18th at 5:30pm

The committee would like to move the regular monthly meeting from July 11th to July 18th after the 2nd Strategic Planning meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be Thursday July 18th at 5:30pm.