AGENDA TOPICS

A. Call to Order – Andy Kirk, Chair
   • Roll Call

B. Adoption of Agenda

C. Adoption of Minutes – September 21, 2020 Athletic Committee Meeting

D. Public Speaks Out
   *Instructions for submitting comments.

E. Reports
   • PRCR Advisory Board Update-Andy Kirk, Chair
   • Teen Council Update- Yogi Koppu
   • Staff Update-Ted Jeffcoate

F. Cary Sports Vision – reimagining the Sports program after the break
   • What are our goals? What are we trying to accomplish?
   • What existing plans, statements, etc. might inform what we do?
   • Who are the stakeholders in the project?
   • What are our sources of data and information?

G. Information Share (time permitting)

* The public may submit written comments for the Public Speaks Out agenda item. Comments should be sent to Tracey.Hedgpeth@townofcary.org and have Public Comments for October 19 Athletic Committee Meeting in the subject line. Comments received by noon on the day of the meeting will be summarized at the meeting and a full copy of the comments will be provided to members prior to the meeting. Comments received after noon but prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to members the following day. All comments will be an exhibit to the minutes.

Please contact Tracey.Hedgpeth@townofcary.org with any questions regarding this agenda. The Town of Cary is committed to providing all citizens with the opportunity to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person with a disability who needs an auxiliary aid or service in order to participate in any meeting may contact the Town Clerk (Virginia.Johnson@townofcary.org) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Phone number (919)469-4011; TDD number is (919) 469-4012.
Call to Order/Roll Call

Andy Kirk called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and welcomed the committee's new Teen Representative for 2020-2021, Yogi Koppu.

Roll Call: Andy Kirk, Brian Ainslie, Peter Bolac, Kathy Hackett, Fonda Ingram, Devkanth Jijjavarapu, Rick Jones, John Manuel, Reggie Jones, Yogi Koppu

Absent: David Morehead

Staff: Ted Jeffcoate, Kirk Matthews

Adoption of Agenda
The committee reviewed the September agenda.

Action: Peter Bolac made a motion to accept the agenda as submitted, second by Rick Jones, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

311 Presentation – Carolyn Roman and Wes Everett
Carolyn Roman, Services Design Coordinator and Wes Everett, 311 Director presented information on the Town's 311 system. The system which serves as a central line of communication for all non-emergency Town services officially launched in January 2020 and is currently operating remotely at full capacity. Committee members were encouraged to use the new service and spread the word to others as well.

Adoption of Minutes
The committee reviewed the August 17, 2020 minutes.

Action: Peter Bolac made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, second by Brian Ainslie, motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Public Speaks Out
None

PRCR Advisory Board Report – Andy Kirk
The board met last week and discussed virtual programming for the month of September. FitCary Virtual 5K, The Cary is hosting Beyond the Cary, a virtual film festival, starting Sep 24, Senior Center virtual program calendar and virtual Nature education programs.

Teen Council Report – Andy Kirk
Kick-off for the new Teen Council year is Tuesday, September 22nd.

Staff Update – Ted Jeffcoate
Facilities will be closed through at least February 28, 2021. No decision has been made on winter programming (basketball). The focus is on producing virtual programming. The FitCary virtual 5K is part of a slate of programs for FitCary month. There are currently
411 runners registered and 158 times submitted. The first 350 registrations will get a swag bag. Those will be available for pick up at Inside Out Sports. There will be a virtual disc golf program in a couple of weeks. Sports Programs also coordinating Trivia Tuesdays each week in October and the sCary Halloween Hike (take pictures on greenways in costumes and post on social media) the last week of October. No change to report on ability to reserve baseball/softball fields or sand volleyball courts. There is some in person use of multipurpose fields/WakeMed Soccer Park, USA Baseball and Cary Tennis Park, but programming is on pause for the most part. The West Cary Disc golf course is close to opening, with signage being the primary last hurdle.

**Sports Calendar Modifications**

Ted gave an overview of the current sports calendar for all leagues we offer and reviewed some of the participant and staff challenges with that calendar. The primary participant challenge is the length of the spring baseball/softball season. Families go on vacation when school is out in mid-June, which affects attendance at tournament games. The primary staff challenge is workload from early February to early April. Staff is trying to wrap up winter basketball tournaments while accepting registration and preparing for the spring baseball/softball season. Staff is looking at options to minimize the overlap between the two seasons.

Option 1: Change the start/end dates for some of the seasons or move some age groups in leagues to different times of year. Moving the start of fall basketball (age 5-8) to July and start of winter basketball (age 9-18) to October would create space prior to the spring baseball/softball season. Could also move 5-8 year olds to the winter basketball season. This would most likely increase participation of the younger players, but would limit the number of participants overall due to an existing lack of gym space. The older age groups (15-18) could be moved to another time of year (summer/fall). Moving 15-18 year olds to another time would create conflict with football and girls soccer in the fall and AAU/Travel teams in the summer.

Comments: School facility use during summer camp months may be limited. Using year round school gyms could help with this issue. There is already a negative impact from players who register for Town leagues, make their school team and then withdraw after Town drafts and team formation. The challenge is that school tryouts are going on while team formation is occurring in the Town’s leagues. If the Town season started earlier teams would be further in and have to adjust to withdrawals further into the season. Moving the fall basketball season earlier, before the start of the traditional school year, could create the same issues of lower attendance due to summer vacations.

Option 2: Shorten all of the seasons by one week.

Comments: Would need to decide whether to cut a week of pre-season practice or a week from the regular season, and whether to cut the number of games. The opportunity to add additional practices during the shortened season would still exist. Some coaches/teams need the full three-week pre-season practice period as some players are new to the sport. Coming off of the current extended layoff, practice and conditioning will be especially important to prevent player injuries. Staff agreed and suggested the possibility of an increased focus on skills clinics/camps and conditioning for the spring 2021 season. Currently the NC High School Athletic Association has not released a clear plan for the Spring of 2021, creating challenges to Spring planning. Cutting a week could also work in the adult leagues. Most teams get 15-18 games per season and the team fee is based upon that number. It would be easy to decrease the number of games and the associated cost. A committee member who participates in adult basketball felt that keeping the two-week pre-season practice schedule was important.
Overall the committee felt that the current schedule/timing is the most practical for the recreation level player and the best option to explore would be shortening each season by one week. If this option does not work staff could look at making additional changes. Staff feels that participants would be disappointed if we returned to play with everything looking the same. We should use this year off to take a thoughtful look at ways to reimagine and plan for significant improvements to the Sports program. This could include offering new programs, eliminating underperforming or redundant programs, and improving the delivery of current programs. Committee members supported this effort.

Meeting adjourned 7:39 p.m.