AGENDA TOPICS

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

B. Adoption of Agenda

C. Adoption of Minutes - November 16, 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-Volunteer/Coach Management

G. Virtual Programming Demonstration-Trivia Tuesday
   a. Committee members, be sure to have an internet-connected second screen available in addition to the one you use for the meeting. Can be smartphone, tablet, or second computer.

H. 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 December 14 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 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Andy Kirk, Brian Ainslie, Peter Bolac, Kathy Hackett, Fonda Ingram, Rick Jones, Yogi Koppu, David Morehead (arrived 6:11 p.m. after adoption of agenda and minutes).

Absent: Reggie Jones, Devkanth Jijjavarapu, John Manuel

Staff: Ted Jeffcoate, Kirk Matthews

Adoption of Agenda

The committee reviewed the November agenda.

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

Adoption of Minutes

The committee reviewed the October 19, 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

Andy reported on several events that are taking place. The Turkey Trot 5K, sponsored by Inside Out Sports will be held at WakeMed Soccer Park on Nov 21. The ACC Men's Soccer championships with no spectators will be held at WakeMed Soccer Park on Nov 22. As of now, the First Walk event on Jan 1 will be held, with more information coming out soon. Downtown Park update: Groundbreaking is scheduled for May of 2021, construction will being the summer of 2021, anticipated completion in summer of 2023.

Teen Council Report – Yogi Koppu

Cary Teen Council will be meeting tomorrow. Volunteer opportunities are still virtual only (donating food, books, etc.).

Staff Update – Ted Jeffcoate

The new disc golf course in western Cary opened in late October. It's been very popular and has received great feedback from users. The Downtown Urban Open disc golf tournament, which is traditionally held on town hall campus the weekend after Thanksgiving will be held at the new course on December 19 & 20. Some of the Sports staff have been helping with OneCary Kids, a free daycamp/virtual learning program for the children of town staff who have to work onsite. E-sports program momentum is growing. This program is not currently included in sports programming, but some sports staff are
helping. An E-sports tournament was held on Halloween. The Sports division will be more involved in future E-sports programming. A committee member pointed out the E-sports national junior college championship tournament to be held in Raleigh and hosted by Wake Tech as a sign that the demand for E-sports is growing. Sports staff will be holding a January basketball shooting competition. Staff will record a demo video of the different shooting challenges and participants will be able to submit their scores and see them reflected on a leader board. The Trivia Tuesdays program is also back for January.

2021 Committee Meeting Schedule
Committee consensus was to remain on the current meeting schedule of the third Monday of the month at 6 p.m. for 2021, with noted exceptions due to holiday conflicts.

Spring Sports Plans
Sports staff is having internal discussions regarding programs/leagues to recommend running in the spring of 2021. Kirk Matthews is working on re-opening/safety plan for spring baseball/softball to be reviewed by the Town’s executive team. He is putting together basic guidelines and best practices, developed in part from the experiences of other communities that ran youth baseball/softball leagues in the fall of 2020. This plan will include more specifics on league logistics like team placements, how the season will run, safety precautions and how to handle spectators. Staff will be submitting the recommendation to the executive team by the end of November, with final safety plans to be completed by late January if approved.

Committee Comments/Questions:
Will masks be mandated? Staff will be considering this option. Some sports leagues that ran this fall did require spectators to wear masks, with most complying. Some leagues did not appear to have a mask mandate, but spectators did appear to remain in family pods with appropriate distancing between groups. We would need to be consistent with state and county guidelines, as well as any stricter guidelines suggested by the Town. If we do require masks enforcement could be challenging.

Could we limit the number of spectators? A committee member noted NCFC soccer discouraged anyone other than immediate family from attending and players were wearing masks when not in the game. We would also need to space out games to limit interaction between teams leaving and arriving at the field. Staff noted that Apex did not permit spectators at adult games. Staff also suggested using bleachers as an extension of the dugouts to spread players out more. Spectators would need to bring their own seating and spread out along the fence line.

Will it be up to the coach, parents or staff to monitor symptoms if a participant is not feeling well? Staff noted that Raleigh had staff at every practice and game taking temperatures and monitoring symptoms. We probably do not have the staff capacity to do that so our plan would be more education and self-monitoring/checks prior to attending a practice or game. guidelines for attending practices. Staff is also looking at scenarios on how to handle a player testing positive during the season.

Will pitching for 9-10 years olds be introduced if the 2021 spring season is held? Staff will be discussing that as well as the merging of the two Bronco divisions that was also planned for the 2020 fall season. Staff anticipates both changes will be incorporated if the 2021 spring season is held. What, if any feedback did staff receive from announcement
regarding merging the divisions and incorporating pitching at 9-10? Staff did make the fall league coaches aware of the changes, but doesn't recall much feedback.

Staff does not know what the timeline will be for getting approval of the plan, but will give a “drop dead” date where a final decision will have to made for the programs to proceed, be delayed, or be canceled. Town facilities are closed until Feb 28th so there may need to be adjustments to the registration period and season schedules as well.

**Cary Sports Vision – Definition of Core Services**

Staff has been discussing what the program will look like after this pause and the need to take advantage of this crisis to make improvements to programing, efficiencies, etc. What programs does the community insist that we keep? Staff and committee members have good ideas for new programs, but with limited staff capacity, something would have to be eliminated to add new programs. What does the committee think are our core services?

**Committee Comments/Questions**

Core services should be youth leagues/programs. Could adult leagues be administered by the players themselves/volunteers and the Town’s role only be maintaining and renting them the facilities? Staff said that could be on the table, but it would be rare to find a volunteer to commit to running a league. The Town would possibly need to pay a contractor to run the league. Staff has recently been approached by a flag football organization who would run a league and organize the volunteers and the Town would provide the field space.

A committee member has a family member who manages her own sand volleyball league, handles scheduling, reserving courts, etc. Could the adult league players be enabled to run their own league with help from a staff advisor? She felt that senior and youth leagues would need more staff involved administration. Staff reported that quality control is a concern with programming. We would need to make sure that any programs run by volunteers/outside contractors would meet the Town’s standards.

A committee member noted the duplication of adult and youth sports leagues throughout the year. Instead of offering the same sports multiple times a year, could some of that duplication be cut to offer new sports/programs? Staff has discussed whether we need to offer multiple season of same sport. Low registration is typically a factor in deciding to cut a program. It would be a different discussion and challenge to justify removing a program that is popular, even though it's a duplication. Staff would need to come up with a justification and list of benefits of cutting a popular program.

A committee member noted that we only offer 4 league sports. Diversity in the town is growing and we should focus on matching the needs of our increasingly diverse community. The Town’s role should be to provide as many opportunities to as many people as possible.

Staff was pleased to hear the committee’s suggestions aligning with internal staff discussions. There is a lot of enthusiasm among staff to pursue opportunities that will encourage people who aren't currently participating with us to join. How do we create space to diversify programming? Should we focus more on events or short term programs that encourage people to try something different?

The teen representative commented that teens aren’t joining rec leagues because they would prefer to play with friends and not be drafted on to a team by a coach. He suggested
having players pick teams themselves and compete. Staff reported that some youth leagues accept team registrations, but there would be concerns about losing parity among the teams.

Staff is also interested in more social sports opportunities for adults instead of the more traditional leagues currently offered.

A committee member expressed concern about turning leagues over to volunteers/outside organizers. He had concerns about the quality of the programming and what would happen if a volunteer organizer didn’t want to deal with issues that staff has been trained for and has the experience to deal with. He wouldn’t want to see the program fail because volunteer interest wanes.

A committee member asked if we could also look at structure of existing programs. What would the impact be to removing practices from the adult sports league schedules? Staff reported that the impact of removing practices might not be significant, but there are changes that could be made to the standard league schedule (practice/games/tournament).

A committee member asked if the Town had ever partnered with the Cary Teen Council older members on an internship program to see if they might be interested in pursuing Parks and Recreation as a career? Junior or Senior Teen Council members could apply and interview for the internship and perhaps help with the current staffing challenges. Staff reported that we have used teen council members to keep score at games in the past with mixed results, but we have not explored an internship program. Volunteer coaching could also be a way for Teen Council members to get involved. The Teen Council representative felt there would definitely be interest in this program.

Will staff meet prior to next committee meeting to provide more discussions points for committee? Yes, staff will be meeting on this topic prior to the next committee meeting.

The committee chair reminded members that the next meeting is scheduled for December 14 (2nd Monday of month).

Information Share
A committee member and her family are participating in the Town’s gifting tree project. They will be decorating a tree which will be displayed on Academy St. People vote for their favorite on the Town’s website and the winner will get $500 to donate to the charity of their choice.

Meeting adjourned 7:32 p.m.