

The Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Advisory Board for the Town of Nashville held a Public Forum on Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 5:30 pm in Town Council Chambers. Members Present: Chairman-Kirby Winstead, Vice Chair-Anna Whitehead, Members-Kate Burns & George Jefferies. Absent: Daniel Walker. Mayor Donald B. Street and Town Council Member Louise Hinton were also present. Staff Present: Marguerite Bishop-Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Director, Chris Taylor-Recreation Coordinator & Tesa Silver-Deputy Town Clerk & Personnel Technician.

1. Chairman Winstead called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Winstead explained that the purpose of the public forum was to hear citizens' suggestions, comments, and concerns concerning the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department. He asked that as each person comes to the podium to speak, that they state their name and address before addressing their comments or concerns. Mr. Winstead then asked Mrs. Bishop if she would like to say a few words.
2. Mrs. Bishop welcomed everyone. Mrs. Bishop informed the citizens that they have five minutes to speak at the podium, and not to be intimidated by the microphone; it is here for recording purposes for minutes. The minutes will be used for future planning; for writing a master plan, making improvements in what we already have and what we already do.
3. Public Comments.
 - a. Christine Ricci of 106 North Hilliard Street of Nashville approached the podium. Ms. Ricci stated "I want to say parks & rec. I think has a lot of great programs, but as a person who doesn't have children, I would like to see it expand to more programs for adults if possible, I know they have a lot on their plate right now, so expand, but not out of what they can do." Mrs. Bishop asked her if she had any suggestions on any type of programs. Ms. Ricci stated, "I haven't really thought that far in advance. I go to like the music those are great. I also go to the movies, even though they're a lot of kids movies, I like that. I really haven't thought that far in advance." Mrs. Bishop asked her if she wants more things like that as opposed to sports. Ms. Ricci stated "Yes, she played kickball last year, I liked the kickball. I just can't play this year because of my schedule. I like the kickball and things like that, so more sports and more cultural, I'd really like to see more cultural, but I know they have a lot on their plate. "The board thanked Ms. Ricci for her comments.
 - b. Helen Rabil 404 South Alston Street of Nashville approached the podium. Ms. Rabil stated "I am a native of Nashville, I grew up in this town and I did when I was growing up with Mr. Glover we participated in the sports and everything that they had then. As you know my son is scorekeeper for the Nashville Hornets and has been doing that for 20 years and we need a new press box. When I go out there I see in that little press box we have maybe at least 5 to 6 people, some from the Hornets and some from the other team, then Joey doing the scorekeeping, then there is umm....the announcer out there. And I feel like we need a bigger one, so it can be more suitable and more comfortable

for them to be all up there at one time and I hope that we will be able to do that and put it in the plans." The board thanked Ms. Rabil for her comments.

- c. Melissa Lumpp 112 South Church Street of Nashville approached the podium. Mrs. Lumpp stated "We are new to Nashville; we have only been here a year and a half. But I would like to see more family oriented activities. I know the movies are and the music is, but someone like myself I can't play kickball because of physical disability. Or play softball and things of that nature that require that amount of physical endurance, but if there were a walking group." Mrs. Burns stated that they needed to tell her about it. Mrs. Lumpp stated "I wasn't aware we had one, but also because we have a new grandbaby, things that could involve moms and their children. Just something that is more family interactive, maybe not so much a lot of physical activity but still getting outdoors because I do think our kids need to be outdoors." Mrs. Burns stated the county has programs for toddlers like art classes and mommy and me, things like that. She asked if those were the types of activities she is suggesting. Mrs. Lumpp stated "Yes something like that or maybe even just play dates type things. Where they can get more interaction and our children in the community are growing up with each other. They are getting to know other children; they are getting that community bond. But also they are getting outdoors they aren't sitting indoors in front of the TV or playing video games. More of the physical, but not ok I have to go play soccer, I got to go play baseball or whatever, it is still outdoors." The board thanked Mrs. Lumpp for her comments.
- d. Mary Richardson of 230 Regency Drive of Nashville approached the podium. Ms. Richardson stated "First of all I have really enjoyed the parks & recreation, I put on an event this summer and they were a lot of help for me and my community. Some things that, I actually talked to a few people in the community; I don't have children so I did speak to some people that do have children. Some of the things that were said were upgraded playground equipment, a bigger area for smaller children to play and better equipment, more bleachers on the football and soccer fields was another item that was brought to me. I would also add more activities for senior citizen or as she stated more activities for older adults who don't have families, that would like to come out and enjoy the parks a little bit more." Mrs. Bishop asked if she had any ideas or suggestions in particular when it came to the senior citizens or adults, or was it more cultural events. Ms. Richardson stated "I think a fitness area for senior citizens; I know I have been to some parks that have a designated area or fitness stations set up around the park. So stations like that senior citizens or older adults can use around the park." The board thanked Ms. Richardson for her comments.

Everyone thus far who registered to speak had done so at this point. Mr. Winstead used the time to quickly explain that nothing would be decided tonight by the advisory board, that the information discussed tonight would be discussed at the regular scheduled meeting, this upcoming Monday. He welcomed the citizens to join and stated it would

be at Town Hall in the conference room. Mrs. Bishop asked if she could read several emails she received into the minutes.

- e. Email received 9/26/2018: "Hi this is Johnna Statlet Swiger; I live on Old Wilson Road near Birchwood. I have a beautiful old white lab that I walk in Glover Park trails for 5 years now. This morning I passed a lady, we said good morning, I finished the trail. She was waiting in her car and was yelling at me that my dog was not allowed on the premises. I told her I've been walking the trail for years and with policemen sitting there and never had anyone question me. My dog is in his leash. She then accused my dog of pooping on the trail. I informed her my dog had not used the bathroom except to pee. She disagreed with me. I told her it might've been another dog. As I was on the back trail with my dog. She was yammering on and I heard enough so I called her a trouble maker and I walked off to my car. I asked Mark the grass cutter, he said Glover is dog friendly and to contact you. I'm happy to know nothing has changed at Glover except for the better. I love having this safe trail near my home. Thanks for your time. Johnna; "Mrs. Bishop stated she lives at 916 Old Wilson Road Nashville. She wrote again on 9/27/2018.

Email received 9/27/2018: "Hey it's me again; when I walked today I noticed that how the signs are situated does make it confusing that dogs are allowed (going into the sports field area). There's nowhere else in the park's entrance that says Glover is dog friendly. So maybe mention to the board to have a sign made letting the public know that we are allowed to bring dogs on the trail on a leash. FYI. Thanks. Also perhaps suggest installing a dispenser for plastic doggy poop bags, LOL.

- f. Email received 10/5/2018: "I can't make it to the open forum, but can I cast my vote for a pool with water aerobics and swim lessons? I would use leave hours to attend water aerobics in town. Getting to Rocky Mount to the Y is not convenient at all. I would also be willing to pay to attend water aerobics in addition to taking leave to be there." Emily Enderle, Director Harold D. Cooley Library 114 West Church Street Nashville.
- g. Email received 10/9/2018: "The Town of Nashville staff, specifically Marguerite Bishop and all coaching staff we have encountered go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure the Parks and Rec. programs run smoothly. I cannot express enough gratitude to the town of Nashville for having such structured and supportive programs for youth. My son started playing tball at 3 and is now playing soccer at 4 on a 5u team and it has helped build his confidence so much. I always feel that the sporting events are good family events and everyone I have met through the Parks and Rec. program has been nice, helpful, and welcoming. We live in Rocky Mount but chose and will continue to choose to participate in the Town of Nashville activities because I personally have had wonderful experiences and cannot sing its praises enough. I love the opportunities the Nashville parks and rec. programs have provided for my family. Please keep these sports available in the future. Thank you!!!" Ashley Oskiera 813 Bell Drive, Rocky Mount.

- h. Email received 10/9/2018: "Thanks for doing this; ultimately my suggestion is to add as much competition as possible to all sports and leagues. Yes, they are for fun, but competition is the draw for everyone...coaches, kids, parents, grandparents. Yes, folks will always complain, "this and that isn't fair, the referee cheated, the teams are stacked etc..." But competition will get folks engaged and interested. My suggested is keep standings for each league and post updates weekly. Then at the end of the season you can have a quality tournament with top seeds getting a bye. This will be a nice cap to a hard fought season, will give the kids something to strive for, but maybe more importantly teach them how to handle a tough defeat. I would award regular season and tournament champs, and then let coaches vote on an all-star team from the league that could potentially play other leagues best talent. Thanks for allowing my input!"
Matt Kannan 612 Golfers Lane Nashville.
- i. Jamey Baines of 3750 Rose Loop Road of Nashville approached the podium. Mr. Baines stated "What I have noticed is that the staff has done an excellent job with the rec. department and with sports and everything. But my concern is we are kind of double taxing our citizens by offering the same amenities that the county does. The county is in sports and they offer the same thing that we do and our citizens are paying for that service. I feel like we need to get ahead of the curve and offer something different, something different that the county is not doing. We got, I feel the main the goal with parks & rec. is our children, is to keep our kids off drugs, is to keep them focused on something of self worth, to make them focus on a better life. We aren't in the education business but I feel like we should take the opportunities with library and parks & rec. to do something different. Whether it be afterschool programs, tutoring I know we already do that, but I think we should elaborate on it a little bit more. I think there's other opportunities that we should be looking at. And I love sports, I don't want anybody to think I am putting down sports, ya'll do a great job with sports, but I think we should be looking at different perspective in parks & rec." Mrs. Burns stated that one difference with the county is that the closest park is 10 plus minutes away, they also charge \$35 per activity, and as a coach she does know she has had players that won't travel that far or couldn't afford the fee. Mr. Baines stated "I am not saying we completely get out of sports, broaden our horizons and look at something else that might capture that kid's focus and get them interested in something else, so we turn that. And also something that adults may be participating in a little bit more. I don't know I wish I had more to offer in ideas but I think that we shouldn't be in competition with the county; I think we should be doing something different. And I know they are building another park which is very close to ours, so that's my two cents." The board thanked Mr. Baines for his comments.

While waiting for additional speakers, Mrs. Burns asked the group what is the best way to communicate with them, to provide information. Ms. Rabil suggested advertising with the graphic. Mrs. Lumpp asked if there was a community board, her mom doesn't have a computer, but a board would be a good place for people who don't have a computer to find information. Mr. Lumpp suggested sending a newsletter with the

water bill each month. Mrs. Burns explained we aren't currently able to send them out with the type of water bills we have; the town has looked into switching the format of the bill to be in an enclosed envelope but it is costly. Mrs. Bishop stated she is currently trying to partner with a local business to send her newsletter along with the businesses and it would be only cost the department the printing cost. She explained how they sit down at the end of the year to plan events for the upcoming year, and it could be done then, the only issue that happens with a newsletter it doesn't capture anything that is added after the newsletter is created or if there is a change in date because of things like the weather. Ms. Ricci stated she knows that some schools have like a weather line, would it be possible to have a line that would have a recording of what's going on. Mrs. Bishop stated that she could do that with the fax line that is not being utilized; it is a great idea and maybe we could get the graphic to run an article to get the word out about the new activity line. Mr. Jefferies stated that it had been mentioned earlier to do activities that are less strenuous; he asked if some type of board game night be something that the group would be interested in. The group really liked the idea; someone suggested Scrabble and spelling tournaments. Mrs. Bishop asked if they would come to council chambers to do these types of activities. The audience stated it would be suitable and if the activity grew to the point where council chambers was not large enough then they could look into possibly using another venue. Ms. Rabil stated that the Community Center may be willing to allow the town to use it for a small. Mrs. Bishop asked about using the O.D. Moore Scholarship building and they felt this could work as well. Ms. Rabil also suggested asking the school system about using W.L. Greene.

Board Member Daniel Walker arrived at 6:02 pm.

- j. Mayor Donald B. Street approached the podium. He stated he is happy to see all these people here tonight and as times have changed it is time to think outside of the box. He really liked the ideas that were presented with tonight like the spelling contest and the Scrabble games. He is a firm believer in education and he feels we should invest in activities that are going to help children with their reading skills like Scrabble and their cognitive skills like chess. He thought it would be a good idea to have local reading circles, monthly book challenges. The more things that we can put into to get kids to learn, get kids to read, help kids participate or want to participate in is a good thing. The board thanked the mayor for his comments.

Mrs. Burns explained the Next Door App; which provides information for users about their community, recommendations for services, and simply things that you would ask your neighbor. Recently there was a poll on there to bring a dog park here. She asked those in attendance for their thoughts. Ms. Ricci stated she was indifferent because she doesn't own a dog. Another gentleman in the audience stated he didn't see the point in one, he drives by the one in Rocky Mount all the time and never sees it being used. Mr. Walker stated it is utilized heavily on Saturdays, but it may not be used everyday; that having one could have some benefits and really the only cost to having one would be

maintaining the grass. He also mentioned that all the ideas he heard thus far are good idea but the town is tax revenue based and we don't have the revenue to support all of the ideas. Mr. Winstead stated they had discussed a piece of property being utilized for something like this or for a walking trail. Mrs. Burns stated walking trails were another item on her list to discuss. Mrs. Bishop stated that even with the space several things have to be taken into consideration including being aware of the location of the property in proximity to other people's property or infringing on others properties. With the land being discussed for the walking trails, a part of it we would be able to access using our easement, but the other part is primitive so we would have to provide maintenance, then make sure it is safe for people to go in the area, and get Fire involved to make sure it is properly marked in the event of an emergency. Mr. Lumpp also mentioned that when easements and right ways back up to a piece of property that often times it increases the property owner's property value. Mrs. Burns brought up another item that is frequently brought up which is a splash pad. Ms. Ricci expressed concern about the germs and cleanliness of a splash pad. Mrs. Burns stated the intended audience for the splash pad is ages 0 to 5. A pool is another thing that has been brought up several times. Ms. Richardson thought the pool was a good idea, but only if we have the proper staff. Mrs. Bishop asked if they would utilize it; Ms. Ricci stated probably not and Ms. Richardson stated she would as long as it was clean. Mrs. Burns mentioned another thing that has been brought up several times is a pocket park that could have some features like Glover Park but separate from it. The audience liked the idea. Ms. Rabil asked about the property the town acquired near Nashville Elementary School; she stated it was suppose to be used for a park. Mr. Baines explained that after surveying the land the town could not find suitable use for it and returned it to the Valentine family.

- k. Cindy Puckett of 1405 Fairfield Drive of Nashville approached the podium. Ms. Puckett stated "I think one of the worst designs in Nashville, is that playground down at Glover Park Middle. I mean because I have two boys and when they were smaller my oldest one played ball, my youngest one wanted to be up at the playground. I would not let him go up there by himself, it was in a parking lot plus it was too far away I couldn't see what was going on. Whatever you do, if you build anything like that make it where it's visible to the parents. They could have easily put that park back there behind the concession stand where the children could go and play with it and the parents wouldn't have to worry about them running off, anybody grabbing their child, walking out in front of a vehicle. I mean it's a great little playground it's just terrible where it's at." Mrs. Burns asked if it would be better if it was closer to the soccer fields. Ms. Puckett stated "Maybe for traffic purposes but she still would not have let her child go that far to play with another child playing ball, he just had to stay with me and then he got 5 minutes after the game to play. It was a constant battle. I just think it would have been more efficient if it was down closer to the actual ball park." Mrs. Burns stated that she thought they would receive the same complaints if they moved it from parents whose children are playing soccer. Ms. Puckett stated "But you have 4 baseball and tball fields, but I get you're not going to make everybody happy, I just feel like...I don't think a

person who had children designed that.” The board thanked Ms. Puckett for her comments.

Mrs. Burns stated some people have talked with her, but not as many just because a lot of people don't realize we have acquired a pond, but something that was discussed by the board was a fishing area or a way to utilize the land that the town now owns. She asked the audience is that something that they would utilize. Mrs. Bishop explained that the land is near Doug Saul's but on the right hand side and Mrs. Burns stated it backs up to Stoney Creek. Ms. Ricci stated that she thought it would be a good thing for families or children. Mr. Winstead confirmed that they had discussed it, but there were concerns about the adjacent properties and proper access. Mrs. Bishop also lightly touched on the liabilities the town could be held accountable for with having people fishing at an open pond that is unstaffed. Mr. Walker stated that other municipalities post signs to use at your own risk and that appears to waive that liability.

- I. Brian Murphy of Westwood Circle of Nashville approached the podium. Mr. Murphy stated “So just a couple of things I was thinking about before the meeting in general I noticed that there's a lot of walkers in town, walking on the sidewalks whether for health reason, enjoying the town, shopping, doing different things like that, but we have a lack of water fountains in the area. So on these hot days we don't have an easy way to get hydration. So maybe just putting a few fountains throughout the town, so that way we have access to clean drinking water would be one suggestion. These are things I have just kind of being snowballing around so I'm just throwing them around for your consideration. A second thing my wife and I take our dog to Best Friend's Dog Park all the way down in Rocky Mount sometimes. It gets muddy a lot and it is a little bit of a distance I would love to see Nashville come up with a dog park with one or two sections. We have a lot of dog owners in the area and I think that would be beneficial for the community. So that might be a good suggestion. And then one last thing snowballing on that just a little bit. I know it's a bit of a reach, extrapolating off that same idea. There's a lot of travelers off the I-95 corridor and up and down 64. Many people just like our family will not leave home without their pets. I noticed we have the new development off exit 495, how about if we put a dog park over there. Maybe even combine it with a small shelter that has heating and air conditioner, so when somebody comes down the highway, hey I'm going to stop we're going to take our dog to the dog park use the dog park. Now I'm going to go ahead and use...you ever see a theme park where they have a locker that you can rent and you pay a few dollars. Think of a kennel that's self service that has air in July and a little bit of heat in January, now these people are not just visiting McDonald's and hitting the highway, maybe now they're eating at a restaurant, maybe they're shopping in our town, maybe they're walking around and spending some money in our community because they don't have to worry about leaving their dog in a hot parked car then that's something that is beneficial to the local residents and could bring revenue into our town. Just a couple of things to think about. Talking about the dog park I took a local survey on a local social media called Next Door; it is a small sampling of our community but over the last 3 weeks 90% responded and thought it was

a good idea to have the dog park, so I brought that with me to hand out as well. But those are my ideas and I thought that I would share those and see what you thought about them. Thank you." The board thanked Mr. Murphy for his comments.

Mrs. Bishop explained that this is something that has been talked about outside of the forum in the past. Stoney Creek Environmental Park had been considered as a location in the past, but it is flood way not just in a flood zone. The river is going to come through it and flood, and because of that there are limitations on what types of structures can be put up there. She had done some research and she can go back and revisit to find information on a retro fit dog fence, but it will be a large expense. There are things they can look into to try to figure out innovative ways to use the property that the town currently has that cannot be utilized for other purposes.

Mary Richardson asked if we have polled the children to find out what they actually want. Mrs. Bishop stated they partnered with Nashville Elementary School last year with the art teacher to have them depict what they would want in a playground. She still has the pictures and has compiled a list of what the children wanted based on the amount of times each item was pictured. They want trampoline parks, zip lines, places to play dodge ball, and big slides. There was valuable information within the drawings and once we begin planning we will go back and revisit those documents. Mrs. Whitehead stated that was something that they could take and expand upon. Mrs. Bishop agreed that they could go back into collaborate with the art teacher to get additional details for the playground but also for things like what they would like to do.

Cindy Puckett asked what about having a water slide, that she didn't think that we had one very close to us. Mrs. Bishop asked for a little more clarification on what she meant. Ms. Puckett stated she envisioned one like they have at Emerald Isle, they literally walk up and go up and slide down, there isn't a pool it's just a slide. Mrs. Bishop asked if there is one or more than one. Ms. Puckett replied that she believed there were three there. Mr. Baines stated the water slide would also have to include a body of water and treating that water. With the splash pad or the water slide you still aren't teaching them any life skills. If you're going to go that way I think you need to consider a pool so that they can learn some type of life skill, besides getting exercise. A life skill would be great to teach these kids or something that they can get into. Mr. Winstead felt that if we got one it would be just as economical to have them at one location so the pool could filter the water and they all could be tied into the same water system. Mr. Baines stated you would either have to have a large tank to disinfect the water or a pool.

- m. Wyatt McGee resident of Nashville approached the podium. Mr. McGee stated "I just wanted to make a suggestion about some shade trees around the playground area. I have been to that playground a number of times over the years with my daughter who is 7 years old now, and basically in my opinion playgrounds like that are not usable during the middle of the summer, during the daytime because they get so hot. I have been to...over the years we have been to lots of different parks in other cities and

locations and my favorite park is one in Hilton Head, SC where they basically built a playground in an area with live oak trees, with the playground equipment like up in the trees. You can go play on that playground when it's like 95° with 100% humidity because you've got nice shade over the whole area. So that is basically my suggestion and then the other thing I guess I was just curious I heard ya'll talk a little bit, as to how much ya'll had consider Nash County's plan out near Coopers Elementary and what they are planning there. In fact I was just talking to my wife who works for Nash County on my way here and they are looking to do a spray park in I think phase 2 and a dog park too. Those are some things to consider too; obviously they are going to have some other things like some ball fields too possibly tennis courts. It's just something else to consider, my main concern was about the shade trees around the playground areas. That's basically what I've got, thank you." The board thanked Mr. McGee for his comments.

Mrs. Burns asked when the county would begin phase 1 of the new park; Mrs. Bishop stated she was unsure of an official date. Mr. Walker encouraged the citizens to talk with the county commissioners about funding, that a lot of great ideas had been shared but the town does not have the funding to do a lot of things and that the county could potentially help with funding.

Mr. McGee re-approached the podium and asked if he could make another suggestion. "I have coached soccer, girls soccer, with Nash County ...I have been doing that for a number of years and I've been talking with several people about the idea. To me it is logical that if Nash County and the Town of Nashville could get together on their leagues and come together, because if you did that you would have more teams opposed to two different systems competing against each other right now. You've got people like myself, who live in Nashville and I'm going to Red Oak and participating in their program and vice versa. I really think it hurts the children in that, you've got less teams, less competition and it just makes sense that if you could have say....say Nashville has 3 teams of a certain age group and as I understand I think ya'll have had to like combine ages together to get enough children to have teams maybe even combine boys and girls and say Nash County has 5 teams you put those 3 and 5 together and you could have 8 teams competing with one another. So I know everybody has their own turf and nobody wants to work together sometimes, but I would like to see that. So I would like to encourage that again." The board thanked Mr. McGee again.

Mr. Jefferies brought Mr. Baines' suggestion back up to reach children in another way. Mr. Baines stated he wished he had some more ideas to give, but he feels we need to reach the children in a different way other than sports. That we need to offer something different to get ahead of the curve; we are missing something by only offering sports and so is the county that we need to include things the children are into. Mr. Walker stated that they are into video games. Mrs. Bishop stated we could offer coding classes that by leading with playing video games to get them engaged or end with a video game tournament. Mr. Baines suggested teaching job skills as well. He talked about having

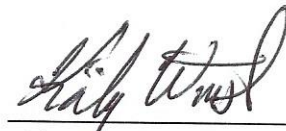
bad experiences just from going to fast food restaurants in town, and how he is sure everyone has had at least one here. He suggested taking those older kids (teens) and adults and teaching them job skills even something as simple as counting change or really stuff their parents should have taught them like manners. A citizen asked if that could be addressed through camps. Mrs. Bishop stated that it could, but this is leading towards what a true community center is for, that all the things that have been brought up tonight area great ideas but everyone also needs to remember that there are only 3 staff members in the department one of which works specifically on maintenance of the parks.

Mr. Murphy stated if there is interest he knows someone who works for the FDIC who he could reach out to who would be interested in coming out and teaching some of the courses that the FDIC offers. The courses teach a variety of things from something as simple as counting change, all the way into detail accounting, and things like financial planning. Mrs. Bishop asked Mr. Murphy if he had put his information on the sign in sheet so she would be able to contact him; he stated he had not but he would.

Mr. Winstead called for a short break at 6:59pm. The forum resumed at 7:09pm.

A discussion took place about receiving donations from area local business to try to help with some of the ideas that were presented tonight. Mrs. Bishop explained that a business can give her things, but she cannot solicit donations; she can ask for sponsorships because the businesses are receiving the advertisement from the town for their sponsorship. Mrs. Bishop explained that if the Parks & Rec. Department had a friends group, then the friends group could fundraise for the department, but something like that would require people to run it, by-laws, and of course approval for the establishment and its' parameters from town council. Mrs. Lumppp stated she would do some research on 401C organizations and get back with Mrs. Bishop. Mrs. Silver stated she would be willing to help as well.

4. Additional Business-There was no additional business discussed.
5. Adjournment-Chairman Winstead adjourned the public forum at 7:32 pm.



Kirby Winstead, Chairman

Attest:



Tesa Silver, Deputy Town Clerk