

The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Advisory Board for the Town of Nashville held a Special Called Meeting Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Members Present: Chairman-Kirby Winstead, Vice Chair- Mary Richardson, George Jefferies, Lynn Hobbs, & Council Member Liaison Kate Burns. Staff Present: Randy Lansing-Town Manager, Marguerite Bishop-Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director, Julie Spriggs-Planning and Development Director, Tina Price-Planning Technician, Samantha Sanchez-Finance Director, Tressa Rudd-Accounting Technician, Otis Chancey-Library Assistant, & Tesa Silver-Deputy Town Clerk & Personnel Technician. Others Present: Council Member Louise Hinton.

1. Chairman Winstead called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Winstead stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to review and discuss the Proposal for Partnership with Nash County Parks and Recreation. He stated that Mrs. Bishop, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director, would be providing a presentation tonight and then he turned the meeting over to Mrs. Bishop.

2. Partnership with Nash County Parks and Recreation.

- a. Presentation by Marguerite Bishop, Director

Mrs. Bishop presented the following power point presentation:

Nash County and Town of Nashville Partnership

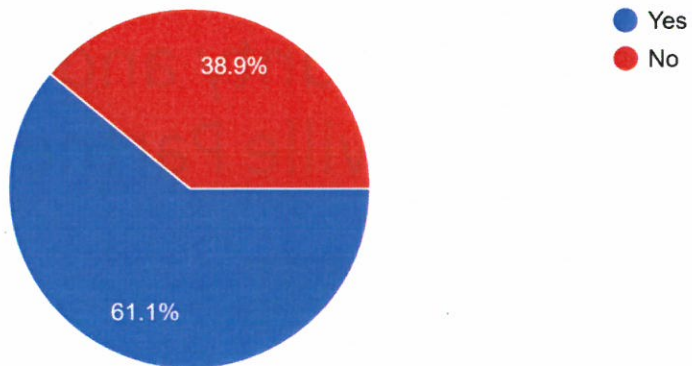


PRCR Needs Assessment Summary

Fall 2019
398 Respondents

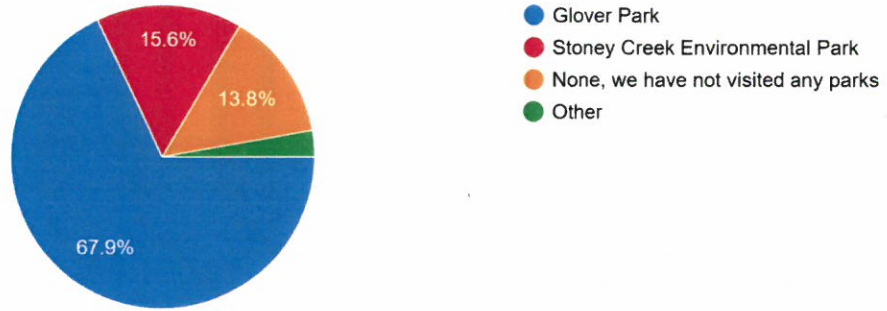
Do you live within Nashville's town limits?

398 responses

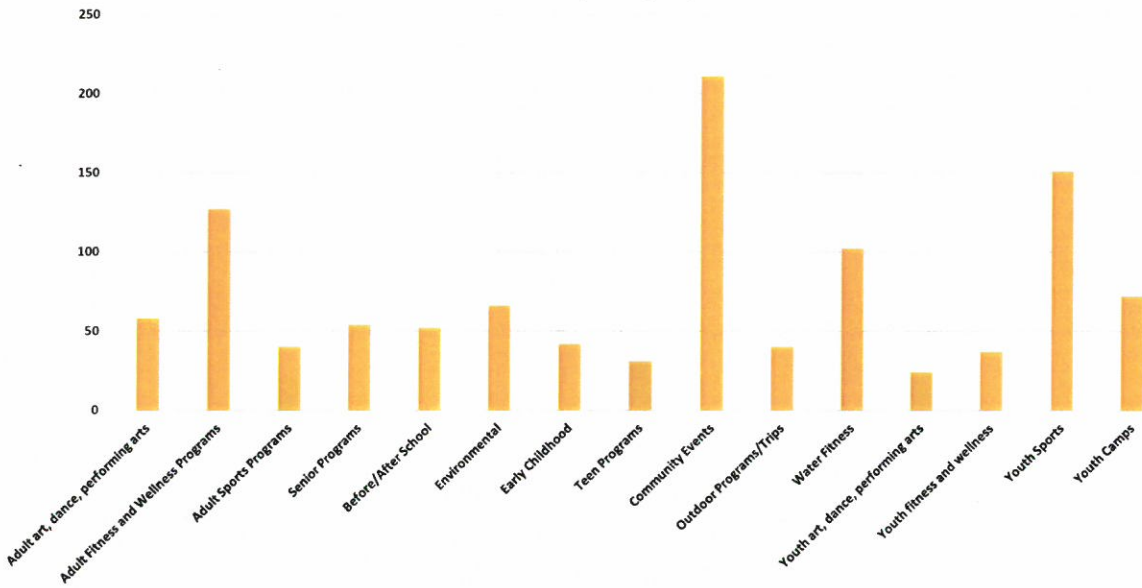


Which of the parks listed in Question #2, also listed below, do you VISIT MOST OFTEN?

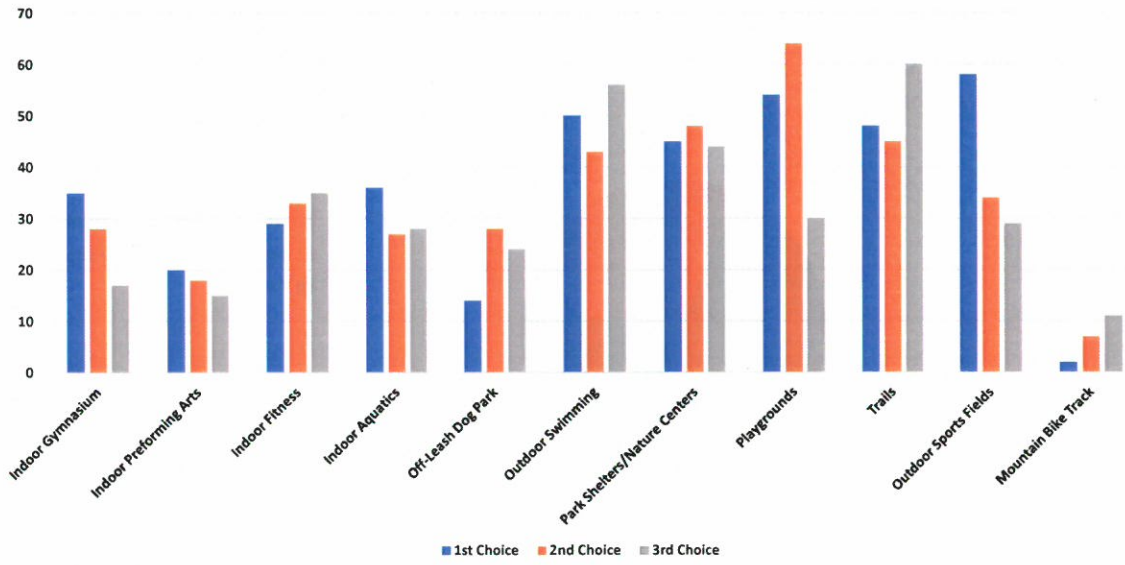
392 responses



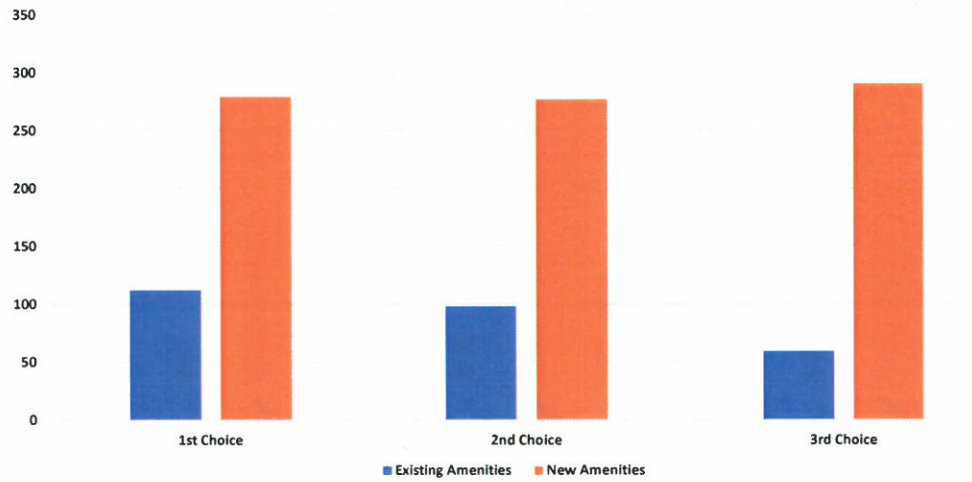
Activities Desired By Survey Respondents



Which THREE amenities from the list included below, are MOST IMPORTANT to the Town of Nashville or your household?

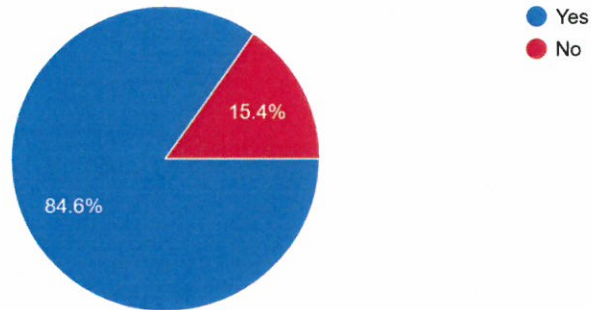


Desired Amenities

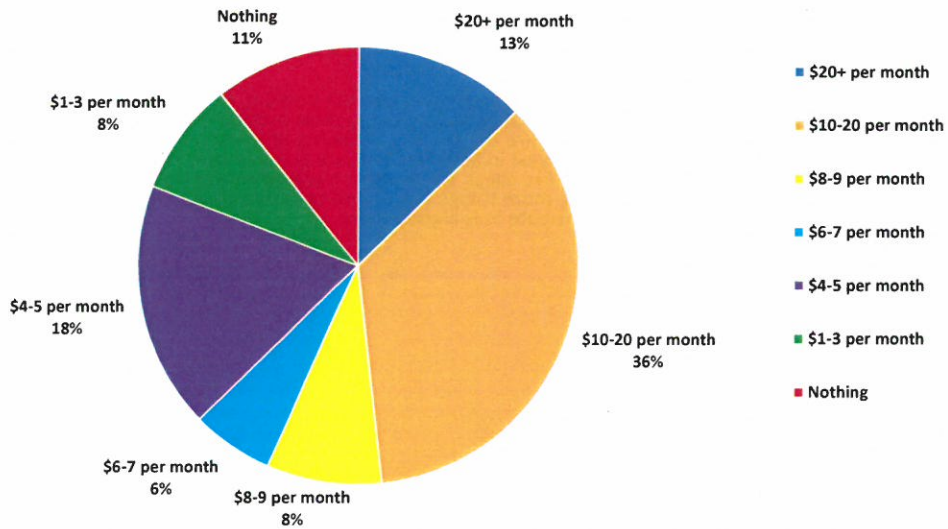


Would you be willing to pay additional fees to fund the items that are most important to you?

390 responses



If so, please indicate the highest amount of additional fees you would be willing to pay for those items per household:



Public Forum

October 2018

- Christine Ricci- Like to see more programs for adults
- Melissa Lump- More family oriented activities and “play date type things” where children can get to know other children
- Mary Richardson- 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
- Emily Enderle- pool with water aerobics and aquatics
- Matt Kannan- 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
- Jamey Baines- “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.”
- Mayor Donald Street- 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
- Brian Murphy- Dog Park
- Jamey Baines- Job skills

Concerns Raised at Public Forum

November 13, 2019

Price for Participants

- **Current Fees**
 - **Nash County**
 - \$35 per participant (soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, cheer, etc.)
 - \$45 per participant (football)
 - **Town of Nashville**
 - \$10 per participant residing outside of town limits
 - Free for participants living inside of town limits, coaches, and town employees
- **Solution**
 - Need based scholarship provided by Nash County
 - Separate fund held by the town to subsidize the cost of town residents participating with Nash County. (estimation \$9,275 based on half of the total number of participants in 2019).
 - 15% of households in Nashville receive SNAP benefits

Current Employee Jobs

- **Current Employees**
 - **Full-time Maintenance**
 - Absorbed by Nash County
 - **Part-time**
 - Can apply with Nash County if desire to stay with athletics
 - Can re-train and help deliver new programming
 - Walk With Ease Instructors, Fit and Active Instructors, part-time administrative, part-time marketing, school enrichment facilitators
 - Current part-time needs that will persist
 - Movie and Music Event help
 - Summer Camp Counselors

Location of Athletics and Transportation

- **Thomas Gillespie, Director of Nash County P & R stated**
 - **Registration will run as it does in other municipalities**
 - Select home field for practices
 - Most games will be located at home fields
 - Carpool requests will be honored 99% of the time
- **The Town currently assists in with transportation and will continue.**

Participant Safety and Competition

- Nash County provides the same level of player safety measures as does the Town of Nashville
 - Coaches' Background Checks
 - Heads Up Football Coaches' Training
 - Soccer Coaches' Clinic
- Players participate in appropriate age groups
 - Not currently provided by the Town of Nashville due to lack of participants
- Players participate on same gender teams
 - Not currently provided by the Town of Nashville due to lack of participants
- Teaches fundamentals of equitable competition
 - Larger number of participants
 - More teams
 - Appropriate age and gender groups

Cost for the Town of Nashville Current Program

- FY 2019-2020 Budget

Total Budgeted Expenditure (Capital and Operating)	\$430,435
Operating Costs (no capital and grant amount to be refunded)	\$303,725
Total Recreation Generated Revenues (operating)	\$9,000
Total Operating Supplemented by Taxes	\$294,725

Cost for the Town of Nashville Current Program

- Cost to Taxpayer

	Town of Nashville	Nash County
Cost in cents per every \$100	10.56¢ (7.38¢ operating only)	1.37¢
Homeowner Pays with \$150,000 House Annually	\$158.40 (\$110.70 operating only)	\$20.55
Total amount Town of Nashville homeowner pays annually to fund similar programs offered by both departments		\$178.95
Total # of Participants Annually (In and Out of Town)	530	3,500
Total Cost Per Child Supplemented by Taxes	\$795	\$254
Total Operating Cost Per Child	\$556	\$254

Options for Consideration

Option #1

- Discontinue Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department only maintaining state mandated funding in accordance with PARTF for park upkeep
 - No athletics, community events, camps, tutoring
 - No employees
 - Saves \$258,044
 - Total Cents of the Current Tax Rate 1.14¢

Option #2

- Same level of programming and facilities with no expansion of services using the same fee schedule
 - Cost to taxpayer 10.56¢ (7.38¢ operating only) per every \$100 value
 - Not addressing PRCR Needs Assessment
 - Still duplicating services provided by Nash County at higher cost per participant

Option #3

- Keep Current Programs but Increase Fees
 - Reduction in number of participants may decrease
 - Still duplicating services provided by Nash County
 - If the fees were to change to \$25/in-town and \$35/out of town
 - \$15,900 in additional revenue (with no decrease in participation)
 - Savings of 0.40¢ on tax rate (less than half a cent)

Option #4

- Discontinue Athletics (Do NOT partner with Nash County)
 - Potential savings of \$76,382
 - Saving 1.91¢ on the tax rate
 - May lead to reduction of part-time staff
 - Capital needs related to park and facilities maintenance will vary by year.
 - Glover Park will be maintained by the Town

Option #5

- Partner with Nash County for overlapping programs (athletics) and return savings to the general fund
 - Savings of \$118,000
 - Saving 2.96¢ on the tax rate
 - No office space for director (\$24,000 is estimated but space is not located)
 - No additional programming or meeting space
 - Does not address any desires on Need Assessment

Option #6

- Partner with Nash County and invest the savings in new programs and community events guided by the needs assessment.
 - Not duplicating program offered by Nash County
 - More programs offered for residents based on needs assessment
 - Provides indoor space for community use as well as departmental use
 - Savings of \$19,711
 - Saving 0.49¢ on the tax rate
 - Could be more based on fees charged for programs

What does space do for Nashville?

- **Option #6 proposes that indoor space is secured**
 - Currently indoor space is limited
 - Town Council Chambers
 - Indoor space could be utilized by all departments allowing for two spaces to be used for trainings, meetings, programs, etc.
 - Potential Source of Revenue
 - Space could be rented for community use (birthday parties, meetings, other functions)

Potential New Programs

- **Community Events**
 - Sweet Potato Festival and Craft Fair in the Fall
 - Focus on our agricultural heritage
 - Opportunity to partner with Extension Service and local producers and packers
 - Partnership with Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Businesses for street events bringing people into downtown
 - Cruise-ins
 - After Five Nights
 - Music at Mid-Day



Potential New Programs

- **Adult Health and Wellness Programs**
 - Opportunity to partner with local health care providers and become part of ParkRX program
 - Funky Fitness Fridays
 - Mommy and Me Classes



Remember.....

- **With Option #6**
 - Youth athletics are still offered, but without duplication of programming
 - J.W. Glover Memorial Park is utilized to its fullest potential and is still owned by the Town of Nashville
 - More people will come to Nashville through tournaments being hosted
 - New programs being offered within the Town of Nashville with a desire to drive people into the downtown business district

Why Now?

- Needs assessment
- Addressing needs of non-athletic participants across all ages
- Staff vacancy can drive hiring process in new direction
- Encouraging people to come to Nashville
 - Increase in economic vitality
 - Tournaments by Nash County
 - Varied programming by Town of Nashville
- Calendar of Parks and Recreation Departments
- Drives the current year's budget
 - Delayed decision increases cost and reduces savings

The Proposal for Option #6

- Town of Nashville budgets \$20,000 every year for capital improvements at Glover Park (already in the numbers presented)
- Two older lawnmowers and gator (10+ years) are transferred to Nash County
- Equipment used to run team field athletics is transferred to Nash County
 - Uniforms, helmets, pads, drag, rakes, tees, soccer balls, etc.
- Any capital purchase that we make in the agreement will be Town of Nashville's
- Any purchases that Nash County makes while running athletic programming will be Nash County's
- Can revisit agreement and adjust as necessary
 - Five year term on agreement giving opportunity to reassess
- Town retains ability to program at Glover Park and will be given first priority after events that Nash County has scheduled

b. Discussion

Council Member Burns asked how much money the Town would save by partnering with the county and expand programming and how much the Town would save if we do not expand programming; Mrs. Bishop stated that if we turned athletics over to the county and don't expand programming the Town will save \$118,000; if we do expand programming there will be approximately \$19,711 in savings. Mrs. Bishop stated that she went back through her budget line by line after the last Town Council meeting and cut everything she could to come up with the estimated \$19,711 in savings where previously there was no cost savings for the town.

Council Member Burns stated that one of the main concerns that had been discussed was the fee that the County charges. She stated that based on the presentation that it looks like there are 2 options; option 1 is for the participant to apply for a scholarship through the County's scholarship program. She asked if option 2 was for funding set aside to be used as a safety net to pay for participants who are not awarded a scholarship. Mrs. Bishop stated that those funds would be used to pay for anyone who wanted to participate in a County athletic program. Council Member Burns asked where that \$9,275 was coming from. Mrs. Bishop stated it is not included in the budget; Council Member Burns stated it would cut the savings down from \$19,000 to around \$10,000. Mrs. Bishop stated that Council Member Burns was correct; that the figure is based off of current participation numbers and that the figure could change based on an increase or decrease in participation.

Council Member Burns asked Mrs. Bishop to explain what personnel would look like in the department if we pursue a partnership with the County, with Mrs. Bishop remaining the director of the department. Mrs. Bishop stated there would be a need for one full time recreation supervisor and part time staffers. Council Member Burns asked if the personnel needed is included in the \$19,000 savings estimation; Mrs. Bishop stated that was correct.

Mrs. Bishop stated one of the things that she would like to highlight out of Option 6, is for the proposal of securing indoor space. Indoor space is a commodity within the Town of Nashville; the indoor space could be utilized for other things outside of Parks & Recreation needs; some examples she provided were trainings, meetings, programs, anything that needs a large open space and that it could provide a potential to generate an additional revenue source by renting the space for birthday parties, banquets, and other gatherings. Ms. Hobbs asked if option 6 include the cost to secure an indoor space; Mrs. Bishop stated that there is an estimate of \$54,000 included for the cost to secure an indoor space.

Mrs. Bishop stated she wanted to highlight some of the additional programming that could be offered under option 6, while taking into consideration results received from the needs assessment and the visioning forums that Mrs. Spriggs, the Planning and Development Director has conducted. The examples she provided included festivals (sweet potato festival), craft fairs, street events, cruises, after 5 nights, and music at mid-day; events that are not athletic based, but will help build a better sense of community. Council Member Burns stated that these were things that have discussed in the Municipal Service District Advisory Board meetings; she wanted to know if tournaments would still be held locally if we partner with the County. Mrs. Bishop stated that was correct; with option 6 Glover Park would utilized to its' full potential, the Town would still own the park, and by hosting tournaments the Town would see an increase in the volume people coming through supporting town businesses. When Mrs. Bishop spoke with Mr. Gillespie, Nash County Recreation Director about tournaments in Nashville, Mr. Gillespie stated that he would like to see 8 to 10 tournaments hosted at Glover Park a year, which could

help create new businesses in Town. We do not currently have the staffing ability to run those types of tournaments. Mrs. Bishop stated she would also like to increase health and wellness programming; that there are a lot of new developments happening in the health and wellness community, and she would like to get on board with those programs now and not have to catch up with other municipalities on the back end. She mentioned that Funky Fitness Fridays and Mommy & Me classes are other programs that we could offer. The new programming would allow the department to service the whole family.

Council Member Burns stated that there was a concern about the new park being built up the road by the County, how would the County support both parks; she stated that if they have fields it will decimate our program; what will happen if they have fields at Coopers. Mrs. Bishop stated that the fields at Coopers will most likely cause the Town to see a dip in participation numbers or it will decimate the program; this partnership is giving us the opportunity to be proactive and not reactive. Mrs. Bishop stated that activity will start on the fields at Cooper in the fall of 2020.

Mrs. Bishop stated that there are a lot of questions as to why now and based on the needs assessment result, it has become relatively clear that we are not fully servicing our community. She feels that as a civil servant it is her duty to address as many of these needs as possible; this is one of the ways she feels that it can be done. From a personnel perspective, the department is in a position to determine whether to rehire a recreation supervisor who has an athletic background or who has the ability to program. The calendar of Parks and Recreation is also a driving factor; this is a slow time of year that the department is able to sit down now and handle any type of changes to the department, to programs, and for budgetary needs. She also explained there is a need to decide now so registration can be handled appropriately to have a spring season.

Mrs. Bishop wanted to assure everyone that this isn't a quick decision, that this process has been under consideration for a long time, it has been discussed for a long period. Chairman Winstead stated that they could see this coming; when the facility started being built in Coopers we saw that the area is closing up around us. He stated they then started to think about what would the department do, that's within the best interest of everyone. Mrs. Bishop stated at this time she needed as much guidance as possible on how to proceed. Council Member Burns stated that while they have been discussing this for a while, the first time hearing from the public was at the Town Council meeting last week; she would like to allow more time to allow more input from the public, to give the advisory board more time to digest the information that has been presented tonight, and to allow the new Town Council to have at least one meeting before having such a huge decision thrown at them. She suggested that Mrs. Bishop proceed as if she was running as usual, and hire who she feels she needs to; she does want to ensure that it doesn't appear that they rushed to make a decision, or that they rushed and made the wrong decision.

Ms. Hobbs stated she agreed with what Council Member Burns stated; she is in favor of a partnership with the County, she also feels that the contract with the County needs to be evaluated, whether it be by the Advisory Board or someone else, and that the advisory board should look at the agreements that the County has with other municipalities. Ms. Hobbs asked if the County would be maintaining Glover Park at all times or only when it pertains to athletics; Mrs. Bishop stated that it would be all the time and that the Town will be able to notify the County in the event that something hasn't been done or not to a certain standard or specification. The Town would continue to have ownership of the park and the Town would include \$20,000 a year within its' budget for capital

improvement projects. If the County identifies a capital improvement project, the County would come before Town Council and discuss that matter at that time.

Mrs. Bishop explained that the equipment in the proposal includes the older Gator and 2 older lawn mowers; she and Mr. Gillespie discussed the potential to lease the equipment, but did think it should be pursued due to the value of the equipment. The Town would keep all the new equipment that has been recently purchased. The equipment that is used for team athletics would be repurposed and given to the County, but any equipment they purchased down the road would be County property. Any capital purchases the Town makes, the property will continue to be owned by the Town. Mrs. Bishop reminded the board that the agreement can still be altered for any necessary changes.

Mrs. Bishop then stated that the Town will be given first priority on hosting events at Glover Park outside of the scheduled athletic events planned by the County. She stated that most of the other inter local agreements with other municipalities have 5 year terms. The County stated that the interlocal agreement is being prepared and she hopes to have it by tomorrow afternoon. Mr. Lansing stated that at that time it could be forwarded to the advisory board, Town Council, and to the Town attorney for review. Ms. Hobbs stated she would like to review the agreement before making a decision and she asked if they could have copies of the other municipalities' local agreements. Mrs. Bishop stated that she has the agreements for The Town of Middlesex and Red Oak; however the agreements will look different because the County helped with the granting process for those locations.

Mr. Jefferies asked how long the time could be extended by. Mrs. Bishop stated it would be ideal to know at the latest by January, to attempt to have a successful baseball season. Council Member Burns suggested moving forward as if the department would have a baseball season, and if the partnership is approved simply moving those teams to the County. Mr. Lansing stated that even with some possible confusion, we could make it work to so that the decision is not rushed. Mr. Lansing stated that at the December 3rd Town Council Meeting they would hold a special public comment period to allow the public to speak about the proposal. Following that the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Advisory Board will have a regular meeting on December 9th with a public comment period allowing people to speak about the proposal, then the advisory board will make their recommendation. He stated that once all this occurs, Council can hold a special called meeting to hear the advisory board's recommendation to make a decision. Mrs. Bishop stated that the County Commissioners are willing to call a special meeting as well if needed.

Mr. Jeffers asked if we stay how we are now, would we offer less; he stated that we don't have a basketball program, and if the Town had a partnership with the County we would. Mrs. Bishop stated not necessarily; that we do not have a basketball program now and the County does. Council Member Burns asked if what we are currently doing is sustainable; Mrs. Bishop stated it is not. Council Member Burns stated then we would be offering less; Mrs. Bishop stated you can offer more, but will have more staff burn out. Mrs. Bishop stated that it will not be sustainable with Coopers coming on. Council Member Burns stated that Mrs. Bishop has been working on what works and what doesn't for the Town and now it seems as if we are running two programs. Mrs. Bishop stated that she is correct and it is not sustainable in that manner. Ms. Hobbs stated she agrees, Mrs. Bishop can't continue to boost this program if that is going to happen; that we need to get it back to a manageable program either way.

c. Consideration of Recommendation to Town Council


Chairman Winstead asked if there was any more discussion or were they ready to consider the recommendation for Town Council. Council Member Burns asked Ms. Richardson how she felt about everything; Ms. Richardson stated she felt she needed a little more time to digest all the information they had been given tonight. Chairman Winstead called for a motion to table the decision on the Partnership with Nash County until the regular scheduled meeting on December 9, 2019. Ms. Hobbs made the motion, seconded by Mr. Jefferies. There being no discussion, Chairman Winstead called for a vote. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. Adjourn

Chairman Winstead adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.


Chair

Attest:


Tesa Silver, Deputy Town Clerk