



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

July 15, 2019

Program

Lion Steve Murphree introduced our program speaker, tonight, Mr. Nathan Anderson, Executive Director of Cullman City Parks & Recreation Department.



(L to R) Lion 1st Vice-President Javon Daniel, Mr. Nathan Anderson, and Lion Steve Murphree.

Jason began with a declaration of his departments mission statement, which is that it "is dedicated to improving quality of life through exceptional parks, facilities, events, and recreational opportunities for all." With that said, no one could argue with the department's great success and accomplishments. Last year at the Alabama Recreation and Parks Conference in Tuscaloosa it was awarded the Agency of the Year Award, as well as the Alabama Recreation and Parks Association's Outstanding New Parks Professional prize. Over the past few years our City Parks & Rec has been seeking National accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Once this accreditation has been achieved, our Park & Rec will be in line to qualify for more

Federal grants and will receive National publicity. The Department has already successfully passed an on-site inspection and hopes to make a final presentation to the CAPRA board in September to become the first in our State to become accredited; there are only a handful of Park & Recs in the southeast which can make this claim. The National Gold Medal Award honors communities throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices; Cullman's Park & Rec received this award for the past 3 years and was in the top 4, Nation-wide.

Beginning with Stiefelmeyer Park last year, Nathan says that his department has been on a run in upgrading our parks across the City, receiving praise and appreciation from the neighborhoods those parks serve. The old City Park is undergoing a major transformation and will be renamed "The Art Park." This park will be a showcase for all sorts of art and will feature an amphitheater that can seat 200 for entertainment, weddings and such; there will be decks and walkways, outdoor music, a waterfall, a playground with a large grassy area, artistic lighting, new bathroom facilities with murals painted on the outside and with doors that lock at closing time.

One of the biggest projects going forward is the indoor sports complex that will be located between the Field of Dreams and Heritage Park. This will be a 100,000 sq.



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ft. facility with 6 basketball courts and 15 volleyball courts and more. It will be one of the top 30 of such facilities in the Country. One big project recently completed is the 21-mile walking and bike trail which surrounds the new Duck River Dam & lake; there are 3 latrines, high-quality bridges across creeks, and a boat launch into the lake. Picnic and other features are planned.



View from hiking/biking bridge, looking up creek. This trail has received a Nation Award and was judged to be one of the top 11 trails, Nationally. The scenery along the trail is gorgeous. Mr. Anderson has much to be proud of for his Department's progress and achievements in recent years.

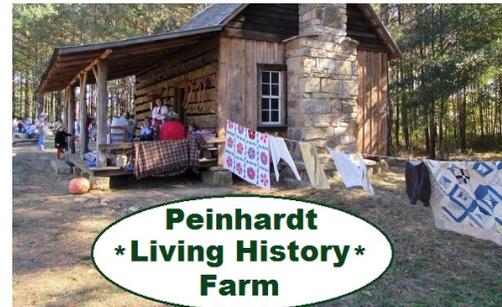
Other Business

Lion Ed Henke has been cleared of liver cancer but has issues with his throat and will continue with radiation treatment. Lion Steve Singleton has been hospitalized for treatment of a stomach ulcer, and as last reported, is doing well. Both Lions Steve Cartee and Javon Daniel have recently been treated for successfully for melanoma. Infrequent attendee, Lion Doug Doggett was introduced as a visitor, tonight, by Lion Richard Gurley.

Lion Secretary Don Smith had requested that a list of those with perfect attendance be read; this list was read by the Lion 1st Vice President. No objections were noted.

Since a semi- or permanent meeting place for our Club has not been voted on by our Board of Directors or otherwise, announced, and until further notice, we will continue to meet at 5:30PM at Christ Hall of St. John's Church (catered by Freddie Day {who has been unsurpassed for consistently great meals in your editor's opinion since your editor became a Club member in 1985}).

Upcoming Programs and Events



July 22: Program will be the Peinhardt Living History Farm. Speaker is TBD.

July 29: Dr. Vicki Karolewics, President of Wallace State Community College.

.Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 (C).