



City of Greenville  
Recreation and Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 18, 2015 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall – City Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Garrett Taylor, Chair
- Audrey G. Nealy
- Tyler Clark
- Robert Jones
- Jaimie Yahnker
- Deb Jordan, Chair-Elect
- Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison
- Darin White
- Donald Williams
- Nikki Caswell

**STAFF:**

- Gary Fenton
- Shana Kriewall
- Dean Foy
- Lamarco Morrison
- Laura J. Davenport

**OTHER:**

- Council Member Marion Blackburn

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

The meeting opened at 5:30 PM and the following items were addressed:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to add a Public Comment period to the agenda and approve the November 18, 2015 agenda as amended.

Motion: Audrey G. Nealy

Second: Donald Williams

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the October 14, 2015 minutes as presented.

Motion: Audrey G. Nealy

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Jim Decker, Bradford Creek Public Golf Course Advisory Committee member and ECU professor representing Dr. David Loy of ECU, states that Bradford Creek is opening its doors to all. Dr. Loy has been successful in working with Bradford Creek to make it an accessible place for disabled. Dr. Decker's son will graduate from NCSU next month and Bradford Creek Jr. Golf has influenced him in his career.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING – NAMING OF THE FUTURE FISHING PIER AT THE TOWN COMMON**

Long-time resident and veteran Robert Lee Cherry passed away earlier this year. GRPD received a proposal to name the new fishing pier coming to the Town Common in his honor. His nomination was based on his love for the park and the many community services he was involved in. The proposal for naming the pier after Mr. Cherry was accompanied by a petition containing approximately 600 signatures, many of them from veterans, in support of the proposal. Staff recommends that the

Commission recommend City Council's approval of this naming of the upcoming fishing pier the Robert Lee Cherry Fishing Pier at Town Common. There were no citizens of the community in attendance to make statements during the public hearing, and a motion was made to recommend City Council approve the naming of the upcoming fishing pier the Robert Lee Cherry Fishing Pier at Town Common.

Motion: Audrey G. Nealy

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Chairman Garrett Taylor arrived at 5:38 PM.

## VII. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. This is the final Recreation and Parks Commission meeting of 2015. We will submit a December Monthly Report but it will not include an agenda. Commissioners are encouraged to attend *Greenville Gives* Holiday Celebration at Five Points Plaza on 12/4 from 5:30–7:00PM.
- B. There are two (2) areas of the City we consider “park poor” - which is the far west and far southwest segments, where quite a bit of residential and commercial development has been going on over the past ten (10) years with no parkland accompanying that development. We have been asked to identify land in these two areas that the city might acquire and eventually develop for 4-5 acre parks at the two (2) areas. Staff is working to identify these properties.
- C. Land we recently utilized for overflow parking adjacent to the Bradford Creek Soccer Complex was sold at auction, but we do not know who the buyer is. Hopeful that we can continue to lease the property, or eventually acquire it, for overflow parking during spring and fall soccer games on site. Not being able to use the land will require that we make severe changes in game scheduling for the spring season. We will update as we receive more information.
- D. Next month, Lamarco Morrison and the Director will accompany Matt Butler of Sound Rivers to the Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) Board Meeting to propose that the GUC Board approve a lease allowing the utilization of a small piece of GUC property (which is City owned), for one (1) of the three (3) camping platforms we're working to develop along the Tar River. Development of these camping platforms was recommended in the Tar River Legacy Plan. We foresee taking the lease to City Council in January 2016.
- E. Article in *The Daily Reflector* this past Sunday regarding the impact of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Connector on Beatrice Maye Garden Park, currently located on a triangular piece of land bordered by Tyson Street, Davenport Street, and Farmville Boulevard. While we knew there would be an impact to the park, we were unsure when, and the NCDOT suddenly removed some declining trees (which would have ultimately been removed). We have heard from numerous people concerned about this. A Notes to Council report was provided to City Council on this issue, but thought it was appropriate to update the Commission as well. Hopeful as the street is widened and water pipes are laid, there will be a way to provide irrigation to the park. (A map was provided to show the location of Beatrice Maye Garden Park).

Councilmember Kandie Smith arrived at 5:50 PM.

## VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
  - 1. Recreation Update
    - Shared a flyer regarding *Greenville Gives*, on 12/4 from 5:30-7:00PM at Five Points Plaza (family oriented, arts & crafts for sale, Mayor reading, Jolly Trolley, Santa Claus and more); also shared photos of Debra Vick, Support Specialist III, who recently married and is now “Debra Nobles;” new Eppes Recreation Supervisor Darris Sawyer; flyer for Specialized Recreation Holiday Party on 12/9 from 6-8:00PM at the Drew Steele Center; adult flag football, Intrasquad swimming team, and article regarding Parks Superintendent Dean Foy recognized for his support of his staff's involvement in the National Guard.

2. Currently transitioning from fall to winter programs. Fall programs are ending: Future Stars soccer, adult softball, flag football, and punt, pass & kick. South Greenville Recreation Center officially closed and staff is working in other facilities.
  3. Meet and Greet at Eppes Recreation Center for community and programming ideas was held on 11/16 from 6:00-8:00PM. A Computer Lab Instructor has been hired for the STEAM Lab and currently working with IT to get software setup on the computers.
  4. Continue to work on the budget.
  5. Councilmember Kandie Smith expressed the following concerns:
    - a. Asked for an update of the wall mural at Eppes Recreation Center. Staff will investigate this matter.
    - b. Treadmill is out of order at Eppes Recreation Center; looks like an electrical short. Staff will inspect treadmill with a corrective plan of action.
    - c. Inquired regarding the hiring of music teacher at Eppes Recreation Center. Volunteer Austin Land has been hired for the orchestra program. Continue to look for new staff for the other music positions.
    - d. Please let City Council know if you need anything.
- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
1. Bradford Creek Public Golf Course/River Park North Updates
    - a. Bradford Creek Public Golf Course numbers are not good. Will further discuss strategies under New Business.
    - b. Bradford Creek had a presence at a Bridal Show held at Rock Springs on 11/8 and received good contact information.
    - c. On 11/8 River Park North hosted a 5k Ramble Run.
    - d. Through different grants, Christopher Horrigan created a Born Learning Trailer that can be used at different facilities.
  2. Facility Improvement Plan Updates
    - a. Contracted services for pressure washing the building at Boyd Lee Park. The facility looks like a new building (pictures provided).
    - b. GAFC was closed on a Saturday and Sunday for small renovations. Parks staff removed flooring and planters close to the workout area. New flooring along with shelving and tables/chairs were added to create a lobby (pictures provided).
- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
1. Capital Project Updates
    - a. Town Common Phase I Design Development  
A PowerPoint was provided for the Town Common Phase I Design Development which will include 1<sup>st</sup> Street Streetscape, Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church plaza/commemorative tower, boat ramp renovation, playground collaboration, parking lot improvements, pathways, and 5,000 sf structure. Phase I Design Ideas include realign access driveway, relocate parking lot, establish a consistent design for pathways/create a central east-west connection, treat plaza and commemorative tower as a major park gateway, 1<sup>st</sup> Street promenade which overlooks the park, future signature pedestrian bridge, and realign building (with overlooks).
    - b. South Greenville Recreation Center  
The asbestos abatement contract was awarded to Enviro Assessments East, Inc. Asbestos abatement to begin on 12/1 and hopefully demolition can begin on 1/1/2016. The centers expected completion date is October 2016.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Bradford Creek Public Golf Course – Winter Rates, Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent  
Mr. Foy presented new winter rates to the Commission. Hopes to facilitate more golf course use during the winter months. Will review the statistics at the end of the winter to see if modified fees impact play levels.
- B. Fee Waiver Changes, Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent  
Discussion ensued on the popular fee waivers used for programs and summer camps. Ms. Kriewall would like to add limits to the fee waiver program to prevent abuse. Suggestions during discussion included placing a limit on how many times a person can use the fee waiver, increase the minimum fee to possibly \$10-15 or a percentage of the class fee, limit number of available openings for fee waiver users (however unsure if the registration system can manage this process, but will check), or limit per individual (i.e. \$100). Commission asked Mrs. Kriewall to bring back three (3) options with examples to the January 2016 Commission meeting.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Garrett Taylor – Thanked City Councilmember Kandie Smith for her support of the Commission and congratulations on her re-election. Served on the East Carolina Behavioral Health board when Trillium grants were issued, which was a result of savings of the state. Grateful for Trillium Health Resources and what they are doing.
- B. Nikki Caswell – No comment.
- C. Don Williams – No comment.
- E. Jaimie Yahnker – Kahla Hall (Director of Community Benefits Program at Vidant Medical Center Foundation) was at the Golf Clinic and took note of Gary Fenton and Shana Kriewall in attendance.
- F. Audrey Nealy – No comment.
- G. Robert Jones – No comment.
- J. City Councilmember Kandie Smith – Thanks to the Commission for their time and service as Commissioners. Not sure if will be reappointed to the Commission for another two years, however the Commission should continue to be a voice for the community.

## **XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Motion: Donald Williams

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department