



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall – City Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deb Jordan, Chair-Elect |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tyler Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Kriewall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ronnie Harris |

OTHER:

- Council Member Marion Blackburn

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:34 PM and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the September 9, 2015 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the July 8, 2015 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Nikki Caswell

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Summer sped by with summer services including 25 different camp programs, most with multiple sessions (about 90% of all camp sessions were filled to capacity). Along with camps, spring and summer offerings encompassed over 175 programs, trips and events. Proud that staff offered so many opportunities for residents and visitors.
- B. Dean Foy is our new Parks Superintendent. Since March, Dean has been responsible for two positions, serving as the Interim Parks Superintendent and Parks Coordinator. He did a remarkable job of keeping things going. Understandably, the Facility Improvement Program has fallen a little behind, but anticipate catching up quickly once the Parks Coordinator position has been filled. We expect that will happen within a month.

- C. We have been working with the United Way to establish Born Learning Trails at various parks throughout the City. A Born Learn Trail is an interactive facility designed to help parents and caregivers support early learning, helping boost children's language and literacy skills through play. The most recent trail installations were at Dream Park, Elm Street Park, and River Park North, with others anticipated at Paramore and Evans Park. Thanks to grants from the United Way, Vidant Medical Center, FROGGS, and the Smith Family Foundation, River Park North staff has been able to develop a Born Learning Trailer, to take the Born Learning Trail concept on the road, to parks across the City. The department is also working with ReLeaf on a tree planting plan for Dream Park.
- D. We are grateful to Trillium Health Resources for the wonderful \$750,000 grant for a state-of-the-art accessible playground at Town Common. Trillium Health Resources is funding 11 accessible playgrounds across eastern NC. With this budget we can design and develop a playground worthy of space at the Town Common and will be working to make sure it will coordinate with and compliment any future improvements at the park. We hope to have the playground in place by early summer, and will involve a variety of staff in the process.
- E. Pleased that some position vacancies have been filled. In addition to the Parks Superintendent, Chasity McCurdy, Recreation Assistant in Specialized Recreation, has joined our team. Staff has been interviewing for the Recreation Supervisor over Adult Athletics and an offer should be coming soon. Also in the final assessment stages for a Full-Time Park Ranger, vacant as a result of long-time employee Bennie Pilgreen's retirement. The hiring process for the Parks Coordinator position has just begun.
- F. Several staff had the opportunity to kayak 6 miles of the Tar River as we scouted out sites for the new camping platforms that will be installed along the river, thanks to a partnership with Love A Sea Turtle (LAST), Sound Rivers, and the City of Greenville. There will come a day when the Tar River is a much larger focal point for life in Greenville.
- G. A Flood Monument was proposed for the Town Common back in the early or mid-2000's and this idea is still alive. Recently met with several people who directly experienced the flood, and who feel that the community's response to recovering from it deserves recognition. Their intent is not to memorialize the flood, but rather recognize strength, faith, and cooperation needed to bring the community back from such devastation.
- H. The Community Development Department will be hosting a Public Kick-Off Meeting for the development of Greenville's new Comprehensive Plan, Horizons 2026, on Monday, from 6-8pm at the Greenville Convention Center. This plan will ultimately impact many aspects of Greenville, including future parks, playgrounds, greenways, and recreation facilities in our community, and we encourage everyone to attend. More information can be found at www.horizons.greenvillenc.gov.
- I. Read excerpts from a letter from a citizen recognizing Lewis Holloman, the staff member responsible for many of the programs she's participated in, and referred to him as a "treasure for our community."

VII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Recreation Update

Pools are closed for the season, summer camps have ended and fall activities have begun, such as flag football, fall softball, gymnastics, Future Stars soccer, Special Olympics, and more. The Annual Splash and Dash Triathlon is coming up at the Aquatics & Fitness Center. The Doggie Pool Party was a great success with Commission Chair Garrett Taylor serving as a judge.
 - 2. Commissioner White commended staff for programs. The Greenway tour gave him a better appreciation of the greenway. Councilmember Kandie Smith inquired about why the Sprayground closes so early and if staff could work two weeks later. Ms. Kriewall mentioned it closes earlier because most employees are college students and are headed back to college. Ms. Kriewall also mentioned that they could certainly look into extending two weeks longer next season. Councilmember Smith also asked about the music class at Eppes Recreation Center which was cancelled due to the instructor leaving for personal reasons. Staff was not aware of an invitation to the music class to

participate with the NC Orchestra. If the music teacher is unable to continue teaching, will look for new instructors as soon as possible.

3. Recreation Supervisor Ronnie Harris, Sports Connection
Provided a PowerPoint presentation on programs such as PirateFest, Sunday In the Park (estimated 2015 total attendance is 16,000), a Baseball Pitching Arm Care Clinic, and Celebration of Youth Expression. Councilmember Smith asked how the Batting Clinics were advertised. Mr. Harris replied that emails are sent to the Jackie Robinson Baseball League, Greenville Little Leagues, and an ad placed in The Daily Reflector. She also recognized Freddie and Lillian Outterbridge for their help with the Celebration of Youth Expression event. Sunday In the Park included several local bands this year and attracted some of the younger population. This year Stuart Aronson and Robert Lee Cherry were honored at concerts.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

1. Golf Update

FootGolf is anticipated to generate an extra \$12,000 in golf course revenue.

2. Parks Update

a. Full-Time Park Ranger Position

Paperwork for this position was submitted and the recommended candidate approved. The Full-Time Park Ranger will begin in mid-October.

b. Received approval to post the Parks Coordinator position. The Facility Improvement Plan will be back on track once filled. The Boyd Lee Park front entrance reconfiguration is ready for bid.

c. Commissioner Williams asked about the progress on the new portion of the greenway. Mr. Foy did not have an update on the greenway because the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission has not had a quorum the last three meetings. However it had encountered some delays, but Mr. Foy was not sure why.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. South Greenville Recreation Center, Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
Redesign work to accommodate LEED Silver certification has to go to City Council for approval. The critical bid project date is 10/9, with bids received by 11/10. A 6x6 sign will be placed in front of the building announcing upcoming construction.
- B. Town Common Development, Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
Currently in 75% of the design phase. Will be writing the scope for the Trillium playground project and would like to have a river theme for the playground.
- C. Tar River Park Master Plan, Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
Prior community input meetings took place in March, May, and July. The meeting in July was held during the Recreation and Parks Commission regular meeting and staff was asked to create a third concept plan that was a combination of the first two. The final master plan for Tar River Park includes a sand volleyball court, river overlook, disc golf (3 holes), picnic shelter, kayak landing, adventure playground, restroom facility, and additional gravel parking. Estimated cost for all components is \$890,000. Anticipate project would be developed in phases. It would cost \$18,000 to upgrade the dog park. A motion was made to recommend City Council approve the Tar River Park Master Plan.
Motion: Don Williams
Second: Darin White
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Councilmember Smith asked staff to bring all proposed projects to the table and prioritize and bring back to the next meeting.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Garrett Taylor – Received lots of positive feedback after the City Council presentation which is contributed to staff. A special thanks to Trillium Health Resources for the grant.
- B. Nikki Caswell – Thanks to staff for all of the hard work, there is lots to be excited about.
- C. Don Williams – Thanked staff for their hard work and Councilmember Blackburn for attending the Recreation and Parks Commission meetings as a member of the audience.
- D. Darin White – No comment.
- E. Jaimie Yahnker – STAR’s next event (10.24.15) is Adapted Sports Day at Bradford Creek, with the chosen sport being Adaptive Golf. A more detailed report will be given at the next Commission meeting.
- F. Audrey Nealy – Congratulations to Dean Foy on his promotion. Thank you to staff. Also, a reminder that the Horizons Plan kick-off is on 09.14.2015 at the Greenville Convention Center.
- G. Councilmember Kandie Smith – Thanks to the Commission for their time they dedicate for their position; thanks to Gary Fenton and his staff for the hard work they are accomplishing and appreciate all they do.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department