



City of Greenville  
Recreation and Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 14, 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
- Don Octigan
- Laura J. Davenport
- Darris Sawyer

**OTHER:**

- Council Member Marion Blackburn
- Assistant City Manager Mike Cowin

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Brief introductions of Levi Varner, William Broughton and Dr. Vince Bellis who will present later in the evening.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to remove New Business – Naming of the Fishing Pier at Town Common from the agenda and approve the October 14, 2015 agenda as amended.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Commissioner White arrived at 5:33 PM.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Bill and Carol Collins were recognized with a plaque for their countless volunteer hours supporting the efforts of GRPD. Mr. and Mrs. Collins care about the City’s parks and greenways system and prove it by a continuous contribution in helping keep the park system clean. The City appreciates their dedication, as well as every single person who shares their time, energy and talents with GRPD.

Commissioner Clark arrived at 5:41 PM.

## **VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Bond Education Presentation – Mike Cowin, Assistant City Manager  
Assistant City Manager Mike Cowin shared a video regarding the Street & Pedestrian Transportation Bond Improvements. November 3, 2015 is Election Day and the Street & Pedestrian Transportation Improvements Bond for \$15,850,000 will be on the ballot. This bond represents five capital projects for: Street Improvements for \$10,000,000; West 5<sup>th</sup> Street Streetscape for \$1,950,000; 10<sup>th</sup> Street Connector Enhancements for \$1,750,000; Sidewalks for \$1,400,000; and the East Side Greenway for \$750,000. The potential bond impact on property tax rate is \$0.0225 per \$100 valuation.
- B. FROGGS Greenway Update, Will Broughton, Chair and Dr. Vince Bellis  
Mr. Broughton presented a PowerPoint to share the impacts of FROGGS (Friends of Greenville Greenways) within the City. FROGGS is a 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer organization with 12 board members. Their mission is to foster awareness regarding the importance of greenways, advocate for greenway use by community members, advocate for greenway development and construction within the City of Greenville and Pitt County, and solicit funds for greenway beautification. FROGGS is supported by annual donations from members as well as donations for specific capital projects, and tries to “spread the word” to participants at events like Freeboot Friday, Umbrella Market, and Piratefest, FROGGS also hosts Educational Nature Walks, and the Annual FriendRaiser. They’ve contributed benches, educational markers, drinking fountain, and shade garden along the greenway, all with a value of \$18,766. FROGGS future plans include additional educational markers, purchasing additional greenway amenities, continued upgrades of the shade garden, and revamping kiosks. Dr. Vince Bellis briefed members on the progression of the shade garden project and shared examples of the interpretive signage FROGGS had developed for the greenway.
- C. Greenville Advocates for Public Skateparks (GAPS), Levi Varner  
Levi Varner of GAPS shared information regarding the conversion of the in-line hockey rink at Jaycee Park into a skatepark. This project will be completed in three phases (if needed). The first phase includes a 20’ grinding rail which will be installed by the end of the month. Another project includes resealing the skatepark. There are sponsorship opportunities and t-shirts for sale to help raise money for future projects. Money raised to date is \$1,000.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

## **VIII. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT**

- A. Reminder that a Commission photo will be taken after the meeting.
- B. The 11/11/15 Commission meeting has been rescheduled for 11/18/15 due to Veteran’s Day.
- C. Director provided a facility tour for 25 area professionals for the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute. The group visited parks, indoor facilities and took a walk on the greenway.
- D. Unfortunately there is some park vandalism to report which seems to have increased lately. The Park Superintendent will provide details regarding recent incidents in his report.
- E. Tomorrow night is the District 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board Community Meeting at Cypress Glen at 6:00 PM. The director along with other department heads will give a presentation and answer questions regarding greenways, Tar River Legacy Plan, capital projects, and programs.
- F. Recently learned the land the City leases for overflow parking at Bradford Creek Soccer Complex will be sold at auction on 10/29. This overflow parking helps to accommodate parking for 1,100 participants and is leased for \$3,000/year. Trying to address how to purchase it now; money is in the Land Banking budget. Staff is looking for other usage ideas for this land besides parking for 14 days during soccer season.
- G. As time allows, staff is installing signs in our parks promoting citizens to turn off their car engines rather than idling (whenever possible). Signs from the State read “Turn your engine off, Kids Breathe here.”
- H. At the request of Trillium Health Resources (who awarded the City a \$750,000 playground grant), Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison and the Director recently traveled to Harrisonburg, VA

to see the city's accessible *Dream Come True Playground*. It gave staff numerous ideas of what might be incorporated into the playground at Town Common. Mr. Morrison is working on the RFQ and has met with potential contractors for this playground. There will be certain items required and staff are considering a river theme. Target date for completion is 6/30/16.

- I. Staff is trying to identify \$6-8,000 within the budget to create a new main entrance and reception area at Eppes Recreation Center to help with newcomers and visitors entering the building, as well as for building security. Will work with PAL to try to achieve a solution.
- J. Staff has been working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding submitting an application to the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (NCRPA) to host the 2018 NCRPA Conference. The event generally attracts 400+ attendees. GRPD hosted the event in 2012. Several members of staff will leave Sunday to attend the NCRPA/SCRPA Joint Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC.

## IX. STAFF REPORT

### A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent

#### 1. Recreation Update

Ms. Kriewall shared photos of recent events including the Exceptional Community Football League (ECFL), Specialized Recreation Creative Oasis with local artist Lisa Jordan, Splash & Dash Triathlon, Couch to 5k, Adult Softball, Future Stars Soccer, Gymnastics, GAFC renovations (removed planters for new waiting area), and the Holiday Art Sale scheduled for 11/7 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Jaycee Park Auditorium.

- 2. Recreation Supervisor Julianne Scott has accepted a position in Fuquay-Varina and her last day with GRPD is 11/7. Darris Sawyer was hired as the Recreation Supervisor at Eppes Recreation Center (was in attendance but had to leave prior to being introduced), Sophie Duncan was promoted to Recreation Supervisor for Adult Athletics and Chasity McCurdy is the new Recreation Assistant for Specialized Recreation.
- 3. South Greenville Recreation Center will be closing on 10/31/15 for construction. Staff will remove furniture, then asbestos abatement and then construction will begin. Recreation Supervisor Bershuan Thompson at South Greenville will work with other areas until completion of the new center in approximately 10 months.

### B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

#### 1. Parks Update

- a. Joey Minner, new Full Time Park Ranger has begun work.
- b. There have been several incidents of vandalism in City parks. Mr. Foy provided photographs of vandalism to the poured in place surface at Kristin Drive Playground (cost of \$800), ripped sunshades at the baseball field at South Greenville Recreation Center (cost of \$200), bullet holes in building and truck windows at the Facilities Management Center on Hooker Road (cost of \$1,600), and bullet holes in windows at Eppes Recreation Center (also a cost of \$1,600).
- c. Shared photos of Dirt Day at River Park North.
- d. Bradford Creek Financial Report – September goal fell short due to weather effected days. Staff is making plans for the winter months to help with revenue; possibly a flat rate for 7 days/week.
- e. Adaptive Golf Clinic at Bradford Creek on 10/24 from 12:30 – 4:00 PM. Brad Clayton, a golf professional with one arm will provide the clinic. Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker, also with STAR (Support Team for Active Recreation) commented he is working with ECU Professor Dr. David Loy to hopefully arrange some adaptive golf carts for the event. Councilmember Kandie Smith was the motivation for Commissioner Yahnker in planning this golf clinic.
- f. Received bids to replace the HVAC units at Eppes Recreation Center which is in the Facility Improvement Program funding.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**XI. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**XII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Garrett Taylor – Complimentary of greenway and would love to see more greenways.
- B. Nikki Caswell – Thanked FROGGS and GAPS for presentations and congratulated Bill and Carol Collins.
- C. Don Williams – FROGGS is doing a lot of good for the community.
- D. Darin White – ECU has homecoming coming up, it's campaign time – go to forums.
- E. Jaimie Yahnker – STAR picnic on 10/18 at River Park North, everyone welcome.
- F. Audrey Nealy – Agree with Mr. Williams on FROGGS.
- G. Robert Jones – Thanked Commission for their time.
- H. Tyler Clark – Thanked speakers and the Commission for their work.

**XIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Don Williams

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department