



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 9, 2016 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall – City Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McLean Godley, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyler Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input 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"/> Mike Watson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Caropreso | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Avery |

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INTRODUCTIONS**
Parks Coordinator Mike Watson and Recreation Supervisor Sara Caropreso for the Center for Arts and Crafts will speak later this evening.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion: Robert Jones
Second: Nikki Caswell
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A motion was made to approve the February 10, 2016 minutes as presented.
Motion: Audrey G. Nealy
Second: Robert Jones
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None.
- VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**
 - A. Parks Superintendent Dean Foy is not present tonight due to his mother having a medical procedure performed in the morning.
 - B. Out of town last month attending the Parks and Recreation Directors Annual Conference in Durham. Thanked Dean Foy for covering the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting. Sorry to miss Commissioner Darragh's first meeting. Became acquainted with Commissioner Darragh during Exceptional Community Baseball League (ECBL). The ECBL Opening Ceremonies will take place on 4/2 at 10:30 AM at the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.

Commissioner Tyler Clark arrived at 5:35 PM.

- C. The Parks Coordinator position, previously held by Dean Foy, has been filled by Mike Watson, whom you will meet later. Dean became the Acting Parks Superintendent when Mark Gillespie retired in February of last year, and his previous position, Parks Coordinator, has been vacant ever since. This has impacted our ability to address the Facility Improvement Plan. Filling the position is cause for celebration.
- D. Lamarco Morrison will also speak on our capital budget initiatives later tonight.
- E. Recently hosted a "Cornerstone Celebration" to kick off the capital work at the South Greenville Recreation Center renovations project. This is the first time in department history that Pitt County Schools has partnered in the building and operations of a capital project. Mr. Matt Johnson, Executive Director of Operations, was on hand to address the crowd and express support for this first time partnership.

Commissioner Darin White arrived 5:40 PM.

- F. The Dream Park includes an old historic drill tower, built in the early 40's as a training facility for fire fighters. Director has met with Community Development staff to discuss steps that might help preserve this facility, including a designation as a historic landmark. Provided an example from Durham of an old drill tower and how it was preserved.
- G. The Trillium Playground project at Town Common is providing a few challenges but still moving forward, and we requested and were given an extra month to complete the project. Landscape Structures, the contractor on the project, has taken special interest in it. The project will include a Liberty Swing and a three bay zip line (with one of the bays used by those with disabilities). This will be an opening Commissioners will not want to miss.
- H. Currently in the process of getting two (2) pieces of land appraised in hopes of acquiring them for parks in the far north and far west portions of Greenville.
- I. Plans for the Beatrice Maye Garden Park enhancement project continue with a group from the Chamber's 2016 Leadership Institute, and involve the addition of a beautiful wooden pergola, bench seating, and literacy boxes (little libraries), to promote park usage and encourage reading among local residents. The group will be meeting this Saturday at 8:00 AM to begin work on the pergola. The plans have been shared with Beatrice Maye's daughter, who is excited and grateful for this effort. The department greatly appreciates their work as well.
- J. Staff applied for and received a grant from the Christopher Reeves Foundation for an accessible golf cart. Once the Specialized Recreation Supervisor position is filled, we hope staff will work to assure that the accessible golf cart is utilized to the fullest.
- K. Again, saddened to hear the news about Dave Mirra. Dave has meant so much to our community and our department and we've lost a special friend. He made a difference and leaves a legacy.
- L. Shared a flyer for the 6th Annual Neighborhood Symposium on Saturday, 4/30 from 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM at City Hall. Encouraged all residents interested in building up their neighborhoods and community to be involved in this important event.

VII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Recreation Update
 - Provided pictures/information for pottery classes, state Aquatics Conference, Quiz Bowl, completion of Youth and Adult Basketball, weather impacts on tennis, Eppes Basketball (youth), STAR Cultural Arts Day, administrative staff, and Hershey's Track and Field.
 - 2. Exceptional Community Baseball League (ECBL) Opening Ceremonies are Saturday, 4/2, 10:30 AM at the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams at Elm Street Park.

3. Jackie Robinson Baseball League pre-season tournament this weekend.
4. Don Octigan - SWAC (Statewide Athletic Conference) Basketball Tournament this weekend for 10 and under and 12 and under youth. Greenville has two (2) teams playing and Don Octigan and has helped organize this tournament.
5. Don Octigan introduced new Recreation Superintendent Sara Caropreso for the Center for Arts & Crafts. Sara shared information about her past work and her plans for the center.
6. Barbara Avery, Wellness Coordinator, Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center (GAFC) Barbara Avery shared a PowerPoint presentation of her role at GAFC for Wellness/Recreation Supervisor. The goal is to bring wellness to the community and COG/GUC employees. GAFC offers programs such as land and water fitness classes, personal training, small group training, equipment training, fitness assessments, pickleball, badminton, and swim lessons. Barbara has worked with the City for 23 years and coordinates the internship program, oversees GAFC's Kids Play Area, and assists with day to day operations of the facility.

Don Williams arrived at 6:08 PM.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent (given my Gary Fenton, Director)

1. Parks Updates

- a. Introduced Mike Watson, Parks Coordinator, who joined GRPD after ten (10) years in the City's Community Development department and two (2) years in Public Works as the Building Facilities Coordinator. Mike Watson spoke to the Commission sharing his experience and his plans to finish the FY 15-16 with roof projects at the GAFC, Eppes Recreation Center, and H. Boyd Lee Park.
- b. Bradford Creek Public Golf Course (BCPGC) has a had a tough winter, but in recent weeks have had great golf days with significant revenues.
- c. First Tee Program – In recent years First Tee expressed interest in having a presence in Pitt County and the BCPGC becoming a First Tee Course. In December 2014 met with various First Tee representatives to discuss the ins and outs of the process. Pitt County Schools were also represented at the meeting. Becoming a First Tee Chapter is not an easy process.

Tuesday night 3/1, the Parks Superintendent, Golf Operations Manager and Director attended a First Tee meeting at the Greenville Country Club regarding the status of bringing the First Tee program to Pitt County. Ellen Gregory, Executive Director of The Carol S. Petrea Youth Golf Foundation, an organization that operates four (4) full time Program Affiliates (Brunswick County, Cape Fear Region, The Grand Stand, and Eastern NC) and the Carolinas Leadership Academy across 13 North and South Carolina counties.

Establishing Pitt County's National School Program will be the first step in bringing the program to Pitt County. This will be Phase I in 2016-2017. Phase II (2017-2018) would follow with the establishment of the "School Day Program," wherein 5th grade students would actually visit green grass facilities such as BCPGC, Greenville Country Club, and perhaps other courses during the school day for golf sessions. Focused on the nine (9) core values: respect, courtesy, responsibility, honesty, sportsmanship, confidence, judgment, perseverance, and integrity. Phase III (2018-2019) would be an after school and Saturday program that provides participants with the opportunity to become certified in various levels of the First Tee Life Skills experience.

About \$100,000 must be raised during the first year, and a little more in years II and III. The group will be meeting regularly to guide the growth and development of First Tee in this region and identify and implement funding initiatives. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner

1. Capital Project Updates

a. Lamarco Morrison reviewed via PowerPoint the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) request for FY 17-21. Town Common Renovations is the number one (1) goal for City Council. Other City goals include river access and the Tar River Legacy Plan. Total CIP Request for FY 17-21 is \$8,828,000. CIP request summary includes:

- Requested \$8,828,000 over period of five (5) years
- An average of \$1,765,600 per year
- An average of 1.6 projects per year
- Possible funding sources include General Fund, PARTF Grant, Park Bond, Public/Private partnerships, and donations.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

None.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Don Williams – Apologized for being late and encouraged others to vote for bonds.
- B. Audrey Nealy – Prayers and well wishes to Dean Foy and his mother; welcomed Mike Watson.
- C. Robert Jones – Come to the Jackie Robinson Baseball League Preseason Tournament on Saturday, 10:00am at Thomas Foreman Park.
- D. Darin White – Likes the way he sees the City and park system growing, good luck to Farmville Central High School and North Pitt High School basketball teams this weekend.
- E. Tyler Clark – Thanked speakers; park plans sound beneficial to community.
- F. Nikki Caswell – It's warm and dry outside, utilize the greenway!
- G. Garrett Taylor – Enjoy the weather while you can.
- H. Gordon Darragh – Extended invitation for the ECBL Opening Ceremonies on 4/2 at 10:00 AM at the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams at Elm Street Park.

Mr. Fenton mentioned that he had spent some time at Greenfield Terrace with neighborhood residents who shared their concerns of inappropriate activity in the park (recent shooting in neighborhood), and they are trying to keep the peace. As a result, options will be put together and presented to the neighborhood; possibly including moving the security gate. Security cameras (at a high cost of \$20,000, due to the fact that there is no current city infrastructure near the park) are also being requested.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Motion: Don Williams

Second: Darin White

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Davenport

Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department