



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2017 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasan Hilliard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White | <input type="checkbox"/> McLean Godley, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Saad |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Segal |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison | |

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. James Decker and Mr. Gordon Fulp present to speak on the golf course.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the April 12, 2017 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Audrey G. Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the March 8, 2017 minutes as presented.

Motion: Audrey G. Nealy

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Dr. James Decker shared there are 29 municipal golf courses in NC and 28 of them are subsidized by their respective cities from \$15,000 to \$300,000 annually. Dr. Decker has been aware of the Bradford Creek Junior Golf team for over 17 years, as well as spring and fall programs.
- B. Mr. Gordon Fulp, golf pro for 50 years, knows Mike Cato very well. Mr. Fulp shared that management companies are not well equipped. He also suggested that Bradford Creek should use double tee times (simultaneously start some foursomes on the front 9 holes and some on the back 9). Mr. Fulp offered his help in any way possible to assist the golf course in saving money. He stated the golf course needs to lower their prices because they are losing players.

Darin White arrived at 5:48 PM.

VII. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Asked that Commission members let staff know in advance if they are unable to make a meeting and avoid last minute notifications.
- B. The Robert Lee Cherry Fishing Pier Dedication is on Saturday, 4/22 at 12:00PM at Town Common. Following this event will be the FROGGS Friend-Raiser at the River's Edge Park close to the Off-Leash Dog Park from 12:30–2:30 PM. River Park North is also hosting the AMEXCAN's

- (Association of Mexicans in NC) Children's Festival on 4/22 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Also on 4/22 is the Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children's KidsFest at the Convention Center. Pitt County Senior Games is being hosted from 4/18 to 4/29 with various athletic programs in various locations.
- C. PirateFest was held last weekend. Uptown Greenville does a great job with PirateFest and it was the best event yet. This event introduced the Town Common playground to many citizens. Uptown Greenville has a lot of volunteers and numerous Recreation and Parks staff support the event as well.
- D. Thirty-eight applications met at least minimum qualifications for the Recreation Superintendent position. These applications have now been narrowed down to ten, Will offer interviews to 7-8 of those.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Don Octigan, Interim Recreation Superintendent
1. Recreation Update
 - a. Staff Development
 - i. Five staff graduated from the City's Supervisor Training and Refresher (STAR) Course, including John Barrow, Recreation Assistant; Sara Caropreso, Recreation Supervisor; Darris Sawyer, Recreation Supervisor; Brad Williams, Park Assistant; and Mike Watson, Parks Coordinator.
 - ii. GRPD staff will teach two educational sessions at the 2017 NCRPA Conference in Greensboro.
 - b. Pickleball Update

Temporary outdoor courts have been added at Eppes Recreation Center. More temporary outdoor courts will be added to Evans Park (front tennis courts) and it will be determined if permanent courts are desirable. Also considering Drew Steele Center for indoor pickleball and whether we might be able to accommodate play times for the Greenville's Pickleball group.
 - c. Special Olympics Spring Games were held on 4/7 at JH Rose High School. There were 407 athletes and 600 volunteers present. Recreation Supervisor Chasity McCurdy was the Local Coordinator and lead the planning efforts with others helping as well. It was a group effort by the whole department.
 - d. A Leadership Institute group of 14 professionals is planning a Community Garden at South Greenville Recreation Center. This garden will include three raised beds, bench area, and a gardening curriculum will be added to South Greenville Elementary School. Plans are to complete the garden on 4/22 with an opening in May.
 - e. March/April programs included Quickstart Tennis, Quilting Day, Youth Arts Festival, Winter Basketball League, and Sports Connection Batting Clinic.
 - f. Upcoming Events include:
 - i. 4/15 Jackie Robinson Baseball League Registration begins
 - ii. 4/17 Spring Break Camp at GAFC
 - iii. 4/22 Specialized Recreation Prom at Drew Steele Center
 - iv. 4/22 Celebration of Senior Games at Alice Keene Park, competition begins 4/17
 - v. 4/28 Relay for Life at Boyd Lee Park
 - vi. 5/6 Greenie League Baseball games begin
- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
1. Like to promote public awareness on the greenway system; with strong storms, there will be damage from high winds. Mr. Foy shared a picture of a hole in the greenway where a limb fell.
 2. Mr. Foy shared a photo of vandalism at Kristin Drive Playground. On 4/18-19 Parks staff will be removing poured-in-place surfacing and replacing it with engineered wood fiber. Christopher Taylor is planning a neighborhood cleanup on 4/21-22. Mr. Foy thanked Mr. Taylor for his thoughtfulness in helping the Kristin Drive Community.
 3. Bradford Creek Public Golf Course Update
 - a. Renee Skeen has moved to Community Development, which was a promotion.
 - b. Brian Tew, Assistant Greens Superintendent's last day is 4/15. He'll be working with ECU.
 - c. The golf course budget has been dominated by salaries/benefits; there will be \$140,000 savings per year with these two positions remaining vacant. That leaves approximately \$60,000 in financial subsidy for the golf course.

- d. Staff has worked together in a team approach to cover any duties previously addressed by these employees. Everybody's doing their part to make things work. Mr. Fenton mentioned this is not the first time there has been a staff reduction at the course
- 4. Facility Improvement Plan Update
 - a. HVAC at Boyd Lee Park is on schedule and will be completed by the end of May.
- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
 - 1. Capital Project Updates
 - a. Town Common – Gateway Plaza and Restroom

Two firms submitted SOQ's in response to the RFQ, (Oakley Collier Architects and Rhodeside and Harwell). Rhodeside and Harwell is the preferred firm. The selection committee included reps from Purchasing, Planning, Economic Development, and Parks. Received \$40,000 in grant funds from Community Development for a picnic shelter which will accommodate 6-8 tables. Moving forward with radio tower demolition. Staff continues to work on obtaining a no-rise certification for kayak/canoe launch with construction anticipated in early fall/winter. The restroom facility will be 975 SF with a men's restroom (2 urinals, 2 toilets [1 ADA]) and storage closet; a women's restroom (5 toilets [1 ADA]) and storage closet; family restroom; storage and mechanical room; ADA sidewalks; and utilities, lighting, site furnishings, security cameras, and site amenities.
 - b. Westpointe Village Park

Well attended Public Meeting on 3/22 at Vidant Medical Center. Discussed possible elements for the 6 acre park. Still waiting on approved plat. The main entrance of the neighborhood park will be off of Old Stantonsburg Road with 22 parking spaces. Within a one mile radius of the park there are 10,981 citizens with several neighborhoods in proximity to the park.
 - c. Tar River Legacy Plan

Extreme Park Development – Phase I – A well-attended Public Input meeting was held a week ago. The Greenville Advocates for Public Skateparks (GAPS) is working hard and taking the lead in fundraising. Terracon is doing more testing on five different spots on landfill property. Staff anticipates a 10 acre project.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Nomination Committee for Recreation and Parks Commission

Commissioners Jaimie Yahnker, Audrey G. Nealy, and Gordon Darragh volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Alcohol Policy Briefing, Gary Fenton

City Council changed sunset of the new policy to the end of year (12:00AM on 12/31/2017) before approving it. Instructed staff to work with Uptown Greenville in creating a much larger consumption area than originally proposed. After 12/31/2017 Uptown Greenville will meet with City staff assess the policy and make any needed modifications before staff brings it back to Council in January/February of 2018. Insurance requirements could fluctuate depending on the scope of each event. Only a few alcohol-related problems occurred at Piratefest such as two people drinking alcohol on the playground where there was no security stationed at the playground entrance. In addition, there is a need to assure no outside alcohol is brought into Town Common, and two volunteers were drinking while working.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Jaimie Yahnker –STAR Beach Trip on 5/19-21.
- B. Hasan Hilliard – Thanks to guest speakers, staff always doing an outstanding job. Would like to note he has a problem with the alcohol policy because of the effect on children.
- C. Gordon Darragh – Thanked speakers and staff; will distribute STAR invites to promote the event.
- D. Audrey Nealy – Heard about a Recreation and Parks Scavenger Hunt in another community and thought it would be a good idea for staff when there are conventions in town. Still ways to get involved in parking by volunteering and support fundraisers for projects.
- E. Darin White – Thanked Mr. Fulp and Dr. Decker for speaking on golf course and thanked Dean Foy for how he has handled a tough situation.

- F. Nikki Caswell – Attended PirateFest and was a wonderful event and heard nothing but good things.
- G. Garrett Taylor – Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and placing trust in him. Staff has a tough job but doing it with grace and dignity.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Motion: Darin White

Second: Audrey G. Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department