



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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Garrett Taylor, Chair
- Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair
- Hasan Hilliard
- Audrey G. Nealy
- Nikki Caswell
- Gordon Darragh
- Mike Saad
- Elizabeth Seda
- McLean Godley, City Council Liaison

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Kathleen Shank
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison
- Dean Foy
- Dennis Vestal

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

Howard Vainright, Jim Person, and Wade Scales

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:33 PM and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: Elizabeth Seda

Second: Nikki Caswell

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the June 14, 2017 minutes as presented.

Motion: Nikki Caswell

Second: Elizabeth Seda

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

A. The last months of summer and the first few months of fall will be a time of transition for the City of Greenville, which creates uncertainty for staff, not knowing which direction the City is headed and what impacts that will have on our work at Recreation and Parks. By the end of the year, the City will have a new Mayor, new City Manager, new Assistant City Manager, new Community Development Director, new City Attorney, and at least three new members of City Council, maybe even four. At this time, Councilmember Kandie Smith is now Mayor Smith, as a result of a City Council appointment, and she will serve in that capacity until a newly elected Mayor assumes the office in December. City Council will also soon appoint someone to fill Mayor Smith's 1st District seat until she takes it again at that time.

- B. Always amazed at the diversity of projects and other initiatives staff is involved with, beyond just day-to-day maintenance and work required just to keep the parks, greenways and facilities open and operating. In the midst of all the transition within the City, staff try to keep their heads above water with an extremely busy, but successful, summer season; which includes camps and programs in every corner of the operation, two Tournaments of State Champions coming at Stalling Stadiums in Elm Street Park, the operations of the City Pool, Splashpoint Sprayground and the Aquatics and Fitness Center, on-going efforts toward hosting individual Performance Appraisal meetings for all of our employees, the development and distribution of our fall and winter program brochure.
- C. The assessment of Special Projects, Marketing & Events Coordinator applicants and ultimately filling that position. Over 80 applications have been received and continue to try and narrow those applicants down to 8-9 qualified applicants.
- D. Sunday in the Park concerts at 7:00 PM on Sunday's at the Town Common – six down with six to go.
- E. Capital planning for the Gateway Plaza and Restroom Building at the Town Common continue. Improvements at recently acquired parkland at Westpointe neighborhood continue, proposed capital improvements at Eastside Park. You'll hear more from Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison on those projects tonight. We've also had the development of a new pickleball court at Peppermint Park and roof repairs and replacements at various buildings thru the Facility Improvement Program.
- F. The recent Town Common festivities associated with the 4th of July, which were impacted by heavy rain about four hours into the event, however the fireworks display still took place at 9:00 PM. Thanked the Greenville Jaycees for their hard work in bringing the event to Greenville each year and Hastings Ford for again sponsoring the fireworks.
- G. The management contract for Bradford Creek Public Golf Course is still being considered and continues to be a difficult, stressful, complicated, and time-consuming initiative that our Parks Superintendent will brief you on shortly. As a result of the uncertain impacts on staff, the department is losing our Greens Supervisor Allen Schley on Friday, to a Turf Management position at ECU, and staff is working to develop an interim plan to keep the course effectively operating until a decision regarding the contract can be made. Allen has done a great job at Bradford Creek and will be missed.
- H. Another recent issue has been the consideration of the request for access for smaller trailer boats at the Town Common, which will be addressed later in the agenda.
- I. Recreation Superintendent Don Octigan is not in attendance tonight and Recreation Manager Kathleen Shank will be filling in for him tonight.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Kathleen Shank, Recreation Manager for Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Recreation Update
 - a. Shared images regarding summer camps, use of paramobiles, and the 38th CM Eppes Alumni Reunion.
 - b. Upcoming Events include:
 - i. 7/13-17 Tournament of State Champions Greenie League Contest Tournament
 - ii. 7/19 Community Open House Night at South Greenville Recreation Center 5:30–7:30pm
 - ii. 7/21-27 8-10 year old Tournament of State Champions (Opening Ceremony on Friday, 7/21 at 6:30pm at Stallings Stadium)
 - iii. 7/28-8/3 9-11 year old Tournament of State Champions (Opening Ceremony on Friday, 7/28 at 6:30pm at Stallings Stadium)
- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - 1. Shared pictures of new pickleball court at Peppermint Park.
 - 2. New signs have been placed at the Town Common parking area regarding drive slowly because of children playing.
 - 3. A diver checked the boat ramp at the Town Common. The diver determined the boat ramp is in good condition, solid, and meets the river floor.
 - 4. Today at Bradford Creek the temperature was 93° and the heat index was 103° which is tough on bent grass greens. Alan Schley's (14 year employee) last day is on Friday. He has helped

with everything to make this transition as easy as possible. Parks staff has been trained to spray the greens, but are nervous about it.

5. Continue to go through the golf management contract and had an effective meeting today with the City Manager.
6. River Park North is busy with summer camps and they are doing a great job.
7. Facility Improvement Plan Update
 - a. A lot of projects are out for bid and some bids have already been returned.

C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner

1. Capital Project Updates
 - a. Town Common
 - i. Gateway Plaza and Restrooms
Rhodeside & Harwell (R&H) were the chosen firm for the gateway plaza and continue to work with the firm Perkins and Will. A Public Open House is scheduled for Friday, 8/11 from 6:00-8:00 PM at City Hall, 3rd Floor Gallery to review and discuss schematics for the plaza and tower. Staff received three proposals for the restroom building. A four panel team reviewed the proposals and hope to award the bid on 7/24 to a local architect.
 - ii. Floating Canoe and Kayak Launch
The design is coming together and currently working on no-rise certifications. Terracon will be doing borings.
 - b. Westpointe Village
 - i. On 7/26 a second Public Input Meeting will be held at Vidant Wellness Center in Classroom A from 6:00-8:00 PM. This meeting will reveal survey results and concepts. A playground for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds with shade structures and a picnic shelter have been selected.
 - c. Tar River Legacy Plan
 - i. Action Sports Park – Phase I – RFQ for Design and Specifications have been posted and a pre-submittal meeting is scheduled for 7/21 and proposals are accepted on 7/27. The design team will vet both sites to determine which location would be the best site. There is no money for construction at this time. Staff is considering a fence around the property with a gate and lock to prevent dumping of construction material.
 - d. Eastside Park
 - i. Plan to move forward with a site civil design with estimates for trail, playground, and dog park.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Common Boat Ramp Discussion

At the last Commission meeting, we heard from Mr. John Person and others regarding their request for the boat ramp at the Town Common be reopened for use by smaller trailered boats. The ramp was closed earlier in the year for a variety of reasons associated with Town Common parking pressures, the shallow depth of the river around Town Common, potential conflicts between larger boats and the new, accessible fishing pier, the fact that a boat ramp was not among the amenities included in the latest Town Common Master Plan, and concerns about the deterioration of the boat ramp.

Staff met with four citizens to further discuss the issue and what might could be done. As previously mentioned by Parks Superintendent Dean Foy, a diver inspected the existing ramp and its condition. The ramp is not just a flat sheet of concrete inclined into the water, but a ramp that has support from the top surface of the incline down to the floor of the river. This is encouraging and calms concerns about possible failure while being utilized.

Staff understands the mixed message sent when on one hand it's said the City wants to make the river more accessible for recreational use and on the other hand an access ramp is closed. Staff made a case with City Council for closure based on the previously mentioned reasons, however felt there may

be steps that can be taken, including limiting use to smaller trailered boats, marking the end point of the boat ramp, and perhaps adding a gate to the pier that could make entering a boat from the west side of the pier feasible. Staff will move forward with these steps if the Commission approves. Staff has already added signage to the parking lot to encourage drivers of any vehicles to drive slowly and watch for children playing.

It is also important to remember that over the next 30 months or so changes will come to the parking areas at the Town Common, with the Town Creek Culvert Project, so there is no guarantee that allowing trailered boat access at the Town Common, even if just for small boats will last forever. It is hoped that if trailered boat access does have to be removed from the Town Common it can be added somewhere else upon the river in central Greenville, perhaps somewhere in River's Edge Park near the Dog Park.

Discussion ensued.

Parks Superintendent Dean Foy will have signs posted by the end of next week.

A motion was made to reopen the boat ramp under conditions discussed at this meeting.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Nikki Caswell – Congratulated Don. Asked citizens to bring concerns to the Commission.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – The fishing day was not just fishing, but took paramobiles on park trails – it was a great day.
- C. Audrey G. Nealy – Thanks to Hastings Ford and the Jaycees for the 4th of July celebration.
- D. Elizabeth Seda – Glad the boat ramp issue was resolved and thanks to everyone for their hard work.
- E. Gordon Darragh – Congratulations to Don on Superintendent position and marriage. Thanks to boaters for coming in and showing support. Thanks to staff for their hard work.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 PM.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department