



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
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"/> Mike Saad |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasan Hilliard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Seda |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell | <input type="checkbox"/> JuQuon Whitaker |

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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patricia Tyndall |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chasity McCurdy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brent Harpe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dontrell Jones |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Carapreso | | |

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

Students from ECU Recreation Management Class.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Students from ECU Recreation Management Class.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the April 11, 2018 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the March 14, 2018 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

A. Thanked Chairman Taylor for his presentation to City Council this past Monday.

B. Thought Commissioner Seda was leaving the Commission with her move to Colorado. However, she will be serving in the May and June meetings.

C. Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison is not here tonight, will provide a few notes regarding capital projects and Lamarco Morrison will provide an in-depth report at the Commission meeting on 5/9.

D. The last 7-8 years have been a time of change for the City with new infrastructure including new buildings, businesses, ECU expansions, reconfigured roadways, renovated buildings and utility projects. Over this time, GRPD has also had its share of changes including playground installations,

the Drew Steele Center opening, park improvements, greenway extensions, the new inclusive playground at the Town Common, the Town Common fishing pier, the renovation and expansion of South Greenville Recreation Center, athletic field improvements, the river overlook, tennis court replacements, lighting improvements, the sprayground addition and renovation at Dream Park, new picnic shelters, roof replacements on old picnic shelters, parking lot resurfacing, improvements at Eppes Recreation Center, the addition of air condition at several facilities, the new STEAM Lab at River Park North, the upcoming canoe and kayak launch, restroom building, shelter and gateway plaza at the Town Common, a pedal boat facility at River Park North and a new park to be opened soon in the Westpointe neighborhood.

- E. Also during this time of change, there have been less visible changes, but equally important changes in the operations of the department such as staffing (retirements, promotions, numerous new hires, and lateral transfers), multitude of new recreation programs developed, a continually growing variety of summer camps, new nature programs added, significant growth in existing services, expansion and diversifications of the Sunday in the Park concert series, corporate sponsors for various events, new special events introduced, new partnerships developed, and various new marketing initiatives established.
- F. Change can be hard and require long hours and lots of stress, however staff is busy creating recreational opportunities for others. The nature of work sometimes means over-time for exempt employees. Direct Report staff such as the Recreation Superintendent, Parks Planner, Marketing and Events Coordinator and Parks Superintendent are all exempt from over-time, have a tremendous amount on their plates, and sometimes don't have time to breath. The team sometimes has to rely on each other for a support and inspiration, encouragement, and reassurance.
- G. Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison has taken the lead in the development of the new Westpointe Park, and all of the upcoming capital projects staff has been working on at the Town Common, including a restroom building – the first in the history of the Town Common. City Council approved the project Monday night. Lamarco also continues to host monthly meetings of Sycamore Hill Advisory Group (SHAG), looking at all issues associated with the development of the Sycamore Hill Gateway project – a beautiful entranceway into the Town Common that will be at the Southeast corner of the park. The gateway will serve to interpret the history of the special piece of land that was at one time the home of the neighborhood many referred to as Downtown. Patricia Tyndall and the Director attend these monthly meetings, as do various residents or descendants of residents of the Downtown Neighborhood. Also participating is Heather White, Director of Library Project Development at ECU's Joyner Library, who has been a tremendous asset to the project in regards to accuracy within the interpretive displays and narrative that will be a part of the gateway project.
- H. A fundraising initiative is beginning to add to the financial resources the City has identified for the gateway plaza, in order to ensure the end product is as good, memorable, and impactful as it can be.
- I. Director Fenton shared a vision with City Council regarding the Town Common and what it will become to the City residents to include a place where residents take their out-of-town visitors, where our citizens come to meet friends, to picnic, to create a painting, to enjoy a concert or special event, or host a kid's birthday party or celebrate a holiday, to participate in a fitness class with 100 other people, access the greenway or the river, to fish, to learn about the area's history or to get married. It'll be a place where local conventions host outdoor events, and a place where Economic Development staff will take business prospects considering Greenville is a place to start up a new business or relocate an existing one.
- J. Earlier this year the department received an offer of a gift of land adjacent to Evans Park and Monday staff briefed City Council on the value of that land for a future corridor for the Green Mill Run Greenway and ultimately for a second entrance to Evans Park. City Council seemed supportive and staff is arranging for an environmental assessment of the property; assuming acceptable results staff will take the donation item to City Council for acceptance in May. Staff thanks Mr. Ray Evans for his offer.
- K. The Exceptional Community Baseball League (ECBL) had a late start due to uncooperative weather. The original start day was on 3/24 however it was too cold for baseball. This past Saturday was too wet. Hopefully next Saturday, 4/14 will be a better day weather wise for ECBL and PirateFest at the Town Common.
- L. Internationally recognized venomous snake expert Dr. Sean Bush, an ECU Professor in the Brody School of Medicine, will speak on Snake Bite Prevention and Treatment at River Park North on

Thursday, 4/19 at 7:30 p.m. His presentation is free to the public and will last approximately 45 minutes occurring in conjunction with Family Earth Sciences Night which begins at 6:00 p.m.

- M. The City of Greenville has been studying program fees (the price that is charged vs. the cost of providing services). Recreation Superintendent Don Octigan has been the point of contact for this study and has applied a great deal of time and work into this project. Director Fenton thanked Mr. Octigan on this effort, who will share more during his report. Staff is hopeful that through the budget process any increased revenues that result can be reflected as an increase with the department's part-time salary expenditure budget, to address some of the increasing staff needs resulting from the establishment of such recreational services.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent

1. Recreation Update

a. Recreation and Parks Fee Increase Proposal

After months of working with the Fee Study, staff feels comfortable with the numbers and they should not affect participation numbers. Mr. Octigan reviewed some of the increases. If approved, will become effective on 7/1/2018 and camps will become effective next year during camp enrollment.

b. Greenville Little Leagues Opening Ceremonies held on 4/6. Last year's tournament teams were recognized. This is Greenville Little Leagues 68th season.

c. Athletics Update

- i. Future Stars Youth Soccer; 210 volunteers and Kona Ice donated 25 soccer balls.
- ii. Adult Sports – Winter Basketball conclude on 3/8 with 15 teams.
- iii. Adult Softball began on 4/2 with 40 teams registered (up from 34 teams last year).
- iv. GAFC – Fit Performance Life continues and new classes are being offered; Wellness continued Lunch and Learn Series for Stress Management Series at River Park North to include topics such as Your Diet and You, Exercising for Stress, Meditation, and Virtual Reality and Nature Walking (averaged 40 participants).
- v. SGRC – Ladies Night Basketball on Monday nights (very successful for the first night with 18-25 ladies)

d. Summer Camp Job Recruitment continues. Positions opened on 1/12 and interested candidates can apply at www.greenvillenc.gov. Applications are accepted until Sunday.

e. Exercise in the Park – Tuesday's and Thursday's at 6 p.m. with Yoga and Zumba; 96 participants at Zumba in the Park last week.

f. Upcoming Events include:

- i. 4/13-14 PirateFest (at Town Common on Friday and Saturday)
- ii. 4/20 Pitt County Special Olympics Spring Games at JH Rose High School at 9:30 a.m.
- iii. 4/22 Community Youth Arts Festival at Town Common
- iv. 4/27-28 Relay for Life Pitt County at Boyd Lee Park
- v. 5/5 Greenie League Baseball Regular Season begins
- vi. 5/15 Summer Camp Staff Training begins – Session 1 of 6

2. Specialized Recreation Presentation, Chasity McCurdy, Recreation Supervisor and Brent Harpe, Recreation Assistant

Ms. McCurdy shared a PPT presentation of Spring Games on Friday, 4/20 at 9:30 a.m. at JH Rose High School (400 athletes and 600 volunteers), Special Olympics Swimming (swimming with ECU Pirates), Valentine's Day Party, Creative Oasis, Achieving Benefits of Leisure Experiences (ABLE) Social Group, Exceptional Community Baseball League (ECBL) with 42 youth and 80 adults, Summer Inclusion Program (10 counselors), and Cultural Arts Day with Support Team for Active Recreation (STAR). Commissioner Nealy encouraged Commissioners to attend Special Olympics on 4/20.

- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - 1. Mr. Foy shared pictures of the deteriorating building at the Community Pool and at River Birch Tennis Center; before and after pictures of the clubhouse at Bradford Creek after exterior painting and wood replacement (\$8,500 to replace wood rot); new playground at the Intergenerational Center; and playground installation process at Peppermint Park.
- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
Director Fenton reported during his comments.
- D. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator sandbox
 - 1. Special Events
 - a. 4/13-14 PirateFest at the Town Common
 - b. 4/22 Community Youth Arts Festival at the Town Common, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 - c. 5/26 Heroes in our Lives American Flag Display, hosted by the Noon Rotary Club (\$35 from Rotary or affiliates), ends on 7/7.
 - d. Exercise in the Park at the Town Common
 - e. 38 events scheduled for the Town Common through November 2018.
 - 2. GAFC Marketing
 - a. Shared faces of the marketing campaign. Social media plan is getting ready to kick-off.
 - 3. Grant Update
 - a. Sycamore Hill – GRPD was one (1) of 830 requests (from 42 states) for more than \$91 million in funds. The GRPD submission did not make it the second round. Will continue to look for grants.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Renewal of Magnolia Arts Center Lease Agreement
Director Fenton shared the request from the Magnolia Arts Center to renew their lease agreement for another five (5) years. A motion was made to renew the Magnolia Arts Center Lease Agreement for the next five (5) years.
Motion: Audrey G. Nealy
Second: Jaimie Yahnker
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- B. Appointment of Nomination Committee for Rec/Parks Commission
Commissioners Audrey G. Nealy, Gordon Darragh, and Nikki Caswell volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee.
- C. Briefing on Eppes Recreation Center Plans
Director Fenton shared that staff is trying to design a new entrance for Eppes Recreation Center since the entrance is confusing. Staff is hesitant to start because of the need for more staff and funding. Funding for the new entrance is available. Staff is trying to identify additional funds for staff.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mike Saad – Thanks to Mr. Fenton and all of the staff for what you are doing.
- B. Nikki Caswell – A lot is happening in the next couple of weeks.
- C. Jaimie Yahnker – Thanks to Brent Harpe for his support on STAR (Board Member) and the next event is Beach Weekend from 5/4-6 with 17 individuals scheduled to participate.
- D. Audrey Nealy – Encouraged all Commissioners to support Special Olympics and volunteer with Chasity McCurdy and thanks to the Recreation and Parks team.
- E. Gordon Darragh – Thanks to staff for an amazing job.
- F. Hassan Hilliard – No comment.
- G. Elizabeth Seda – Thanks to staff and would be happy to help with any marketing.
- H. Garrett Taylor – Enjoyed the City Council presentation; think it is starting to register with City Council on the economic impact of our parks.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Motion: Gordon Darragh

Second: Nikki Caswell

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department