



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Nikki Caswell, Chair
- Gordon Darragh, Vice-Chair
- Hasan Hilliard
- Garrett Taylor
- Byron Aynes
- Jaimie Yahnker
- Mike Saad
- Ebonee Downey
- Sarojia Durant-Moore

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Dennis Vestal
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison
- Brett Roddy
- Dean Foy
- Patricia Tyndall

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

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

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the January 9, 2019 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Sarojia Durant-Moore

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Sarojia Durant-Moore

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Two Commission members are traveling this month and we welcome new Commission members Byron Aynes and Sarojia Durant-Moore. Next month we expect to have a new City Council Liaison, as City Councilmember Kandie Smith is now representing District 8 in the NC House of Representatives. The Mayor may choose to appoint the new member to serve as a liaison, or he may appoint some other member to assume that role.
- B. 2019 City Calendar at each seat which is assembled by staff from the City’s Public Information Office. These calendars are available for free at our indoor facilities, City Hall, and other locations across the City. Each picture is from an event at the Town Common. Town Common is becoming an evolving

venue and anticipate it will become a more prominent focal point within the City of Greenville and Pitt County.

- C. Recreation and Parks Commission Tour over the past summers, “The Good, Bad, and Ugly Tour.” During the tour Commission members get a realistic view of the conditions of parks and facilities, in order to assure Commissioners grasp some of the issues staff may face in managing, maintaining, and programming their facility. This year’s tour is on Wednesday, 6/26 at 5:30 P.M. beginning at Jaycee Park. For new Commissioners mini tours will be scheduled prior to the summer tour.
- D. Tar River Legacy Plan – Recommend acquiring lake lands along the Tar River. The City has contracted with Stewart Engineering to complete a conceptual park master plan for the development of an action park on such lands. The plan will be utilized in seeking outside support for the project and applying for matching dollars from the state’s Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) to support the first phase of the project. Future phases of the development of the park, like Phase I, will also be contingent upon fundraising and grant acquisition, in combination with City funding. Preparations for the PARTF application have begun, and the deadline for submission is 5/1. Announcements for funding will be received in August. The PARTF funding has been received and supported for several projects in the past, including the Aquatics and Fitness Center (\$500,000), Guy Smith Park (\$250,00), the Nature Center at River Park North (\$250,000), Boyd Lee Park (\$250,000), and the last PARTF project received was \$500,000 for the renovation of Elm Street Gym to the Drew Steele Center in 2012. A public meeting has been hosted to share park concepts and receive stakeholder input regarding possible project components in Phase I, which will have a high emphasis on state of the art BMX and Skateboarding complex. During the 2019 City Council Budget Retreat later this month, staff expects discussion on the concept and thereafter determine more specific details of the proposed acquisition and plans for development.
- E. Staff continues to work on an important City Council goal that relates to “Continued Implementation of the Town Common Master Plan,” which includes a directive to “Issue a Request for Proposals, an RFP, for development and operation of a restaurant and/or event space at the Town Common.” This project would be on Town Common land that has no development restrictions, and that is primarily the 1.5 acres where the radio tower stood for many years. Staff has been working with The East Group in developing the RFP which would solicit proposals to establish the development and operation of a restaurant/event space at the site. It will be required that any proposed amenity be compatible with the existing park and available for use by and benefit of park visitors. Residential, hotel, office, and similar uses will not be considered within the confines of the park. Staff anticipates the RFP being shared at the City Council Retreat.
- F. United Way is hosting a “Day of Service” on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on 1/21. There will be a number of community projects going on across the City, and one of them will be at River Park North including trail clean up beginning at 9:00 A.M. Other projects in the City are scheduled from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. at 13 different sites.

Garrett Taylor arrived at 5:46 p.m.

- G. Westpointe Park – Severe vandalism at the park; the first occurrence even before the facility was complete with the destruction in the restroom facility with sinks and toilets shattered and pipes destroyed. A second occurrence had a fire extinguisher set off in the restroom and a third occurrence was spray painted graffiti on the walls. At this time, the restroom building has been winterized and it will remain closed until the staff can meet with neighborhood representatives to come up with a plan for minimizing the likelihood that more vandalism will continue.
- H. Stormwater Project taking place at Jaycee Park will address drainage issues in an 8-acre area around the park and will renovate an overgrown and poorly functioning Stormwater detention pond, turning it into a hardwood forested Stormwater wetland and reducing area flooding. Invasive species of plants and trees will be removed and native trees such as tupelos and cedars will be planted. This project is in cooperation with the Public Works Department and Sound Rivers. It is 100% funded with a grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant and one from the Division of Environmental Quality. Work is scheduled to be complete in February and staff is hopeful an Environmental Advisory Commission grant can be secured that will allow for some interpretive signage for the area to help visitors understand the project’s impact on environmental quality in Greenville.
- I. Director will be attending the Annual NCRPA Directors Conference in early February in Durham.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
1. 2018 Recreation Division Review
 - a. Staff planned, organized and implemented over 600 individual programs ranging from the arts, athletics, computer science, nature and wellness/fitness.
 - b. Approximately 16,000 individual registrations were taken in 2018 for programs offered by GRPD staff.
 - c. Athletic staff organized programs for over 6,000 youth and adults.
 - d. Staff assisted with safety inspections of playgrounds, recreation facilities and parks, which resulted in over 1,200 inspections being completed. Parks staff also help with inspections. Some inspections result in work orders, which Parks staff maintain.
 2. Professional Development Training was held for the Recreation Division.
 3. Fall Programming has concluded.
 4. Spring Programming - Summer Registration begins 2/4. Camps were 91% full last year.
 5. Summer Employment Opportunities – summer camp counselor positions. Summer camp counselor pay rates were increased.
 6. Important Dates
 - a. 1/2 Adult Basketball games began.
 - b. 1/7 Special Olympics programs began.
 - c. 1/12 Youth basketball games begin in several facilities.
 - d. 1/21 Recreation facilities closed due to City Holiday.
 - e. 1/30 Department All Staff Meeting.
 - f. 2/4 Registration opens for Summer Camp, spring/summer programs and Greenie League Baseball.
 - g. 2/11 Future Stars Soccer registration ends.
 - h. 2/23 Cultural Arts Day at Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts beginning at 10:00 A.M.
 7. Staff Report – Dennis Vestal, Recreation Manager at GAFC
 - a. Barbara Avery is retiring after 20 years of full-time service. Brett Roddy began on Monday to train with Barbara.
 - b. Approximately 1,900 members with over 3,000 participants (due to family memberships).
 - c. GAFC Amenities include indoor heated pool, 8,000 sq. foot basketball court, free weights and machine weights, cardio equipment, group fitness classes, aquatic classes, swim lessons, general programs, badminton and pickleball, locker rooms, supervised area for kids, and special events.
 - d. Group Fitness - 42 weekly classes including Yoga & Kids Yoga, Pilates, Stretch & Flex, Aerobics, Soft Body Roller, line dancing, circuit training, Zumba and Zumba step, High intensity Interval Training (HIIT), Core, Glute Camp, Children's Hip Hop Dance, and Tap Dancing.
 - e. Aquatic Exercise – 26 weekly classes including shallow aqua, deep aqua, aqua arthritis, aqua tone, and aqua blast.
 - f. Family events include Swim with Santa, Boo Bash Splash, and Kids Night Out.
 - g. Other programming: Senior Wellness Fair, Badminton, Pickleball, Camp Adventure, Life Guard Training, Toddler Dance Class, Staff CPR Training, Zumba in the Park, Yoga in the Park, Splash Pad, and Birthday Parties.
 - h. Community Pool – Pool is drained when it closes, rain builds up and is there when it is opened. Health Department has to inspect prior to opening. Home of the Yellow Fins Swim Team and Doggie Pool Party. Camps also attend at least two times a week.
 - i. City & GUC Wellness includes the Wellness Walk two times a year, Lunch and Learns, Fitness, Performance Life (FPL), fruit campaigns, nutrition kiosks, 10-n-10 Club, Blood Pressure Checks, Blood Drives, and Wellness Newsletter.
- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
1. Martin Luther King Day of Service at River Park North, Monday, 1/21 from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M.
 2. Provided before and after pictures of completed FY19 FIP projects to include:
 - a. Completed 19 out of 25 projects, roughly \$631,000.

- b. Andrew Best Freedom Park Shelter, Bradford Creek Soccer Complex shelter, Community Pool, pump house and electrical upgrade, Community Pool shelter, Elm Street Park (3 shelters), Marvin's Mini Mart, Common ground Playground resurfacing, Guy Smith Stadium (repainted on exterior, ceiling, and bleachers), Boyd Lee Park gymnasium floor, new playground at Boyd Lee Park, shelter roof at Boyd Lee Park, new fencing at Peppermint Park, River Birch Tennis Center repainted, large and small shelters at RPN, ADA routes of travel with sidewalks at BLP, Perkins Complex, and Thomas Foreman Park new roof to concession stand and bring it up to electrical code. Mike Watson manages the FIP program.
- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
- 1. Town Common Development
 - a. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza
 - i. 1/16 should receive three bids after rebidding for the second time.
 - ii. Shared and navigated website page – www.sycamorehillplaza.com. Still working a few kinks out. Community is able to make donations from this website. Hope to have it ready by Friday. Least amount to donate for name on donor wall is \$250. Will provide designs, timelines, updates, progressive pictures. Challenged two fraternity chapters to donate to the donor wall.
 - b. Parking Lot Improvements – continue work with the East Group.
 - i. Driveway Realignment with design for a boat dock. Have two concepts but cannot share at this time. Will be shared at the City Council Planning retreat.
 - ii. Parking Lot Improvements will separate into two lots.
 - iii. First Street Parking Alignment
 - c. Public/Private Partnership
 - i. Building Pad Design for Partnership – City will provide the area, grading, and flat pad. Utilities are already at the site.
 - ii. Cost Estimating – some funding available for parking lot alignment.
 - iii. Bulkhead Evaluation
 - iv. RFP/RFQ for Private/Public Partnership – East Group will provide RFP.
 - 2. Action Sports Park – Phase I BMX & Skatepark
 - a. Working with Stuart Engineering, a site has been recommended. Going into negotiations to purchase the land. Plans will be provided at the City Council Planning Retreat.
 - b. Phase I will be the BMX and Skatepark. Final delivery will be a master plan. The Extreme Park at Jaycee Park will remain open for beginners.
 - c. New active website is www.greenvilleactionpark.com.
- D. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator
- 1. Free Fitness Week, 1/2-8 - \$10 for January – no contract. Promoted with social media and banners (7 banners on park property). Worked with Google for Google Ads (3 weeks of advertising) – Google reports showed 6,500 impressions, 207 individuals clicked the ad to see more, 68 calls created from the ad which all resulted in tours of the facility to begin on 6/2. This campaign allowed GAFC to tell the story of the facility. FaceBook campaign - 9,000 views of different posts, 623 people took action (clicking a photo or tagging a friend). This campaign created 115 new members.
 - 2. Movie in the Park returns in 2019 with dates scheduled for 3/29, 5/17, and 6/21. Also looking at ideas of movies in a facility/gym.
 - 3. Spring & Summer Recreation & Parks Program Guide – Staff is reviewing last draft and new program will be provided next month.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Jaimie Yahnker – 1/19 STAR is having a bowling event at AMF Lanes.
- B. Garrett Taylor – Happy New Year, happy to be back. Welcome to new Commissioner.

- C. Hassan Hilliard – Happy New Year, enjoyed FIP pictures.
- D. Saroija Durant-Moore – Thanks for the updates, Greenville is looking like a bigger better place.
- E. Byron Aynes – Joined the GAFC which is unique/comfortable.
- F. Gordon Darragh – Happy New Year – great year last year, look forward to 2019.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Motion: Garrett Taylor

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department