



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, March 13, 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
- Sarojia Durant-Moore

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Councilmember Monica Daniels
- Sara Caropreso
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison
- Chasity McCurdy
- Bershuan Thompson
- Dean Foy
- Patricia Tyndall
- Brent Harpe

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:34 PM and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

An ECU RLS student was present.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Removal of Public Hearing and Lamarco Morrison, Park Planner from the agenda. A motion was made to approve the March 13, 2019 agenda as amended.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Byron Aynes

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the February 13, 2019 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Mike Saad

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Several absences on Commission due to travel and illnesses. Appreciate everyone attending to make the quorum.
- B. Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison is not in attendance; this time next month we will not have a parks planner on staff; Mr. Morrison is taking the Director of Parks and Recreation position in Hope Mills, near Fayetteville. Some of his impactful projects include the Drew Steele Center, South Greenville Recreation Center, and Dream Park. Staff will begin the search quickly after the review of the job description to see if there are any anticipated changes. Parks Coordinator Mike Watson, who manages

the Facilities Improvement Program (FIP), will assist with Capital Projects until the position is filled. Mr. Morrison will be on staff until the end of the month.

- C. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza (SHGP) only had one bidder the first time, the second bid had no bidders; have had discussions with vendors to learn why. Staff will be meeting with the SHAG group soon to discuss plans for project.
- D. Later the Commission will be asked to approve the application for a NC PARTF Grant for funding to be used in support of an "Adventure Park" on the north side of the Tar River. Such a park would provide a variety of recreation activities such as camping, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, watercraft instruction, river activities, BMX and skateboarding, fishing, zip lining, and maybe a canopy walk. The Tar River Legacy Plan (TRLP) recommended acquisition of riverside lake lands and creating such a park. Staff would appreciate your endorsement of this action tonight and your recommendation will be taken to City Council on 3/25/2019.
- E. Director had the opportunity to travel to the Whitewater Center in Charlotte with the City Manager, Assistant City Managers, and the Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau to talk with leadership about their ideas for the adventure park concept.
- F. As the city's park system and programs grow staff is hopeful that additional operation support will make effective maintenance and management possible. Lots of interest is going in new directions without letting the old programs die. Staff wants to maintain the same level of services and programs.
- G. Staff is considering some structural changes in the organizational chart and job descriptions might further assist in meeting the demands of the growing recreation and parks system. Staff is working to raise maintenance standards, marketing standards, and the quality of the recreation experiences provided, ADA accessibility, environmental practices, and the health impacts of our services. While all age groups are a concern to provide quality and impactful services, the teenage years deserves extra attention. Historically, this group has been the most challenging to attract and provide services.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Teen Programming
 - a. February Programming - Valentine's Dance on 2/9 at South Greenville Recreation Center (SGRC); 125 in attendance, ages 12-15.
 - b. Get Fit, Get Strong – Teen Fitness & Weight Lifting at SGRC, meeting two times weekly from 3/5 – 4/18. First program initiated specifically for teens.
 - c. I Need A Job! Workshop & Job Fair at SGRC on 4/9-11 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Items discussed are how to look for jobs, resume (accuracy), and conducting mock interviews. Still in the planning stages, program is free. Gives teens and young adults what they look for when hiring staff.
 - 2. Aquatics & Fitness Center
 - a. Swim Lessons conducted for Boys and Girls Club of Pitt County.
 - b. CPR/First Aid certification classes took place.
 - c. Lifeguard recruitment and training continues.
 - d. 216 new memberships in January
 - e. Open House 4/4-6.
 - 3. Upcoming Programs – 2019 Spring Greenie League Baseball
 - 4. Summer Employment Opportunities – Summer camp counselor positions. Summer camp counselor pay rates were increased.
 - 5. Important Dates
 - a. 3/12 Adult Softball Registration due to the Athletics Office.
 - b. 3/23 Exceptional Community Baseball League (ECBL) Opening Ceremonies at Elm Street Park, Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.
 - c. 4/5 Pitt County Special Olympics Spring Games at JH Rose High School.
 - d. 4/5 Greenville Little Leagues Opening Ceremonies.
 - e. 4/12-13 PirateFest at the Town Common and Uptown Greenville.
 - 6. Specialized Recreation Dance – staff works hard for this dance with close to 420 participants, which is a challenge for the current location at Drew Steele Center.
 - 7. Staff Report – Specialized Recreation, Recreation Supervisor Chasity McCurdy and Recreation Assistant Brent Harpe

- a. Special Olympics Cheerleading – Squad of 15 team members, preparing to go to competition this weekend in Dare County. Last year brought home the silver, year before brought home the bronze, hope to bring home the gold.
- b. Special Olympics Basketball – Traveled to Charlotte in November, competed at half-time of ECU Game. Also have a 5 on 5 team.
- c. Pitt County Spring Games – Currently preparing for Spring Games at JH Rose High School on 4/5 at 9:45 AM. Approximately 400 athletes registered and 500 volunteers. Please come to support the athletes. Some athletes will advance to State Games in Raleigh in June.
- d. Valentine’s Dance – About 470 participants at the Drew Steele Center, Seahorse Restaurant catered a great dinner. Specialized Recreation has three dances each year including Halloween, Valentines, and Holiday Dance.
- e. Creative Oasis – Creative Expressions class lead by Lisa Jordan, who has a passion for this program. Just expanded to three sessions a year.
- f. ECBL – Begins next Saturday, 3/23, still taking registration until next Friday, 85 adults and 40 youth. Takes place at the Sara Vaughn Field of Dreams.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

- 1. Community Pool
 - a. Contractor has begun the demolition process and has been pumping water for two days.
 - b. Will remove portions of the dive tank.
 - c. Close to two weeks behind due to weather and water table.
 - d. Plan is to have it operational in May to prepare for opening day on 6/8.
 - e. Once water is drained, will make sure the pumps are compliant with NC regulations.
- 2. Canoe/Kayak Launch
 - a. Shared picture of kayak launch with a log on top of the launch. Unable to remove due to high water. Hope to be able to reach the log by Friday, as water recedes, to remove it.

D. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator

- 1. Movie in the Park on Friday, 3/29 beginning at 7:30 PM, vendors in the park at 6:30 PM. Mary Poppins is in the lead.
- 2. PirateFest beginning Friday, 4/12 and continuing on Saturday, 4/13 at the Town Common and Uptown Greenville. Will have two concerts (Friday and Saturday night).
- 3. 2nd Annual Field of Honor returning on 5/17 and closing on 7/13 (8 weeks).
- 4. Social Media Updates (in the last 28 days)
 - a. 51 page likes/followers.
 - b. 4,260 post engagements, interaction with the post (liked, commented, shared, etc.).
 - c. 615 page views, visiting the page to see what is posted.
 - d. 29,302 post reach.
 - e. 5,711 total followers.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PARTF Application

A motion was made to approve the application for a NC PARTF Grant for funding to be used in support of an “Adventure Park.”

Motion: Byron Aynes

Second: Mike Saad

Motion approved unanimously.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mike Saad – Thanks to staff for all you do.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – Thanked the Commissioners and staff for the support during a personal issue. Staff thanked him for the new pier at River Park North.
- C. Hassan Hilliard – Staff does a phenomenal job on a day to day basis.
- D. Byron Aynes – Thanks for your reports.
- E. Gordon Darragh – Thanks for staff.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Byron Aynes

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department