



City of Greenville  
Recreation and Parks Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 10, 2019 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF:**

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Councilmember Monica Daniels
- Laura J. Davenport
- Patricia Tyndall
- Dean Foy

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:**

City Interns

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

City interns

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the July 10, 2019 agenda as presented.

Motion: Byron Aynes

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the June 12, 2019 minutes as presented.

Motion: Sarojia Durant-Moore

Second: Hassan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

- A. The final concert of the 2019 Concert on the Common presenting On the Border (an Eagles Tribute Band) is tonight. On Sunday, The Monitors will provide entertainment for Sunday in the Park at the Town Common beginning at 7:00 PM.
- B. Staff is in the process of finalizing the Fall/Winter Program Brochure for distribution next month.
- C. Thanks to those who attended the annual parks and facility tour last week. It helps when Commissioners can visualize the specific venues and understand existing conditions that may need to be addressed.
- D. Thanks to Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Patricia Tyndall and various Recreation Division and Parks Division staff for their work on behalf of a successful July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Noon Rotary

supported this event thru managing the vendor registration and payments. The Greenville Police Department also supported this event with essential staff. It takes a team to work together for this level of an event, which was led by Patricia and is was a very successful event. Again, Hastings Ford provided financial support for the fireworks display.

- E. Always associated with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is the C.M. Eppes Alumni Association Reunion. Annually the alumni organization provides numerous scholarships (10 this year) to various deserving high school students from around the area. At the Eppes Alumni Breakfast, these scholarships were presented to the students and their families.
- F. Last Sunday was the final day for the Parks Planner position applications. The Parks Superintendent and Director are reviewing applications received thus far and hope to offer a panel interview to a limited number of candidates within two weeks. Numerous applicants did not meet minimum requirements for the position, however there does appear to be some viable candidates. Staff are anxious to have the position filled as capital projects continue daily.
- G. The Sycamore Hill Gateway Project (SHGP) Groundbreaking Ceremony on 6/24 had a great turnout with many of the crowd coming from Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The SHGP is designed to relate the history of the Town Common before it became a public park. It's anticipated the construction project will take 10 months to complete, so unless there are any unforeseen issues, a ribbon cutting is possible in May or June 2020.
- H. The SHGP Project was followed by the Westpointe Park Ribbon Cutting on 6/25. It is the City's newest park at Westpointe on the western edge of Greenville. This parks was in the planning and then construction phase for several years.
- I. Staff is also working with the non-profit Sound Rivers and the NC Department of Environmental Quality regarding the development and installation of kayak and canoe launch at Port Terminal. This launch will be similar to the one at the Town Common. While Sound Rivers is managing the project; grant funds will be processed through the City's budget, as on expense offset by an equivalent revenue.

Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker arrived at 5:44 PM.

- J. Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park will host two age groups of the Tournament of State Champions, which will bring the Little League state champs in those age groups from AL, FL, GA, SC, TN, VA, WV, and NC. Opening Ceremonies for the 8-10 year old division tournament will begin at 6:30 PM on Friday, 7/19. The 9-11 year old opening ceremonies follow in Friday, 7/26. These tournaments bring a lot of economic impact into the community.

## VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
  - 1. Staff are almost halfway through the summer camp programming season. So far 93% of roster spots are filled for various day camps. Camps average 40 kids per week through one of seven day camps offered through GRPD. Next week will begin the 6<sup>th</sup> week of our summer camp season.
  - 2. Summer Swim programs include GAFC's Swim4Life program, lifeguard training (currently 18 on staff), and public swim at the Community Pool.
  - 3. Jackie Robinson Baseball League of Greenville, Boys & Girls Club of Pitt County and the City of Greenville Recreation & Parks Department have partnered to implement a program associated with the MLB Play Ball Initiative. The goal of MLB Play Ball is to introduce the game of baseball to youth across America and to encourage participants to improve their overall fitness and health through good nutrition and staying active. This program will create an opportunity for youth in Pitt County to learn a new sport and participate in a fun and engaging activity. Greenville's Play Ball event kicked off 6/9 with the Jackie Robinson Baseball League opening day and a proclamation from Mayor PJ Connelly. Five team Quickball Tournament at Thomas Foreman Park on Friday, 7/12 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (first pitch is at 9:50 AM).
  - 4. Upcoming Fall programming has begun to include: Various youth and adult art programming, Exceptional Community Flag League, Adult Flag Football, Softball and Wiffleball, Youth Soccer and baseball, and new fitness programs at GAFC.
  - 5. Upcoming Baseball Tournaments at Elm Street Park
    - a. 7/12-16 Tournament of State Champions (TOSC) Greenie League Classic

- b. 7/19-24 Tournament, ages 7-8  
8-10 year old TOSC  
Opening Ceremony Friday, 7/19 at 6:30 PM at Stallings Stadium
  - c. 7/26-31 9-11 year old TOSC  
Opening Ceremony Friday, 7/26 at 6:30 PM at Stallings Stadium
6. SITP – Lots of positive feedback and great job by Ron Harris. Crowds are larger than last year.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

- 1. Capital Projects Update
  - a. Fencing went up immediately after groundbreaking at SHGP. Major optic cable line adjacent to sidewalk. SuddenLink will be on site to test the depth of cable (if deeper than 3 feet will leave it in place). Will break ground as soon as this is confirmed. Contractor is responsible for removing trees.
  - b. Town Creek Bridge (old Greene St Bridge) – over the years trees growing over the bridge. Trees have been removed and preparing to paint the bridged. Talking with Busco to add lights to bridge (purple for ECU, pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, etc.). Structural assessment has been completed and is conducive to events on the bridge.

C. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator

- 1. Upcoming Events
  - a. 9/8 Paint in the Park at the Town Common (new event in partnership with Emerge Gallery).
  - b. 10/19 Youth Arts Festival at the Town Common
  - c. Sunday In The Park – Half way through season and has been tremendous.
  - d. 7/13 Field of Honor Closing Ceremony at 9:00 AM at the Town Common
- 2. Fourth of July Event – Thanks to sponsor partners Hastings Ford and Greenville Noon Rotary. These special events are supported by Recreation and Parks staff. Shared a small video of events throughout the day.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Mike Saad – excited to hear of new kayak launch at Port Terminal, Mayor PJ Connelly made post on FaceBook about how to activate the Tar River. Over 100 comments within six months. Good to see everyone embracing the river. Thanks for what you do and we have the most beautiful parks. We appreciate you.
- B. Byron Aynes – thanks for presenting and you are doing good work.
- C. Hassan Hilliard – thanks for your hard work and glad the City is being run by professional staff.
- D. Gordon Darragh – always do a great job.
- E. Jaimie Yahnker – thanks to staff.
- F. Saroija Durant-Moore – you do an amazing job. Greenville has progressed a lot over the last 9 years.
- G. City Council Member Monica Daniels - do a wonderful job. SHGP Dedication – family was present and they were very pleased.
- H. Nikki Caswell – Thanks to everyone, will see you in September, no meeting in August.

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 PM.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Hassan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laura J. Davenport*

Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department