



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2019 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th 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
- Dennis Vestal

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

Two South Central High School students observing for a Community Leadership class.

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 amend the September 11, 2019 agenda to move Parks Division prior to the Assistant Director’s report.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Parks Planner position remains vacant and is an essential position that manages most of the department’s larger capital projects. Staff had chosen an applicant, however they declined the position. The position has been reposted and will receive applications through 9/22.
- B. Parks Coordinator Mike Watson has been managing the Sycamore Hill Gateway Project at the Town Common (TC), the new kayak and canoe facility at River Park North (RPN), as well as numerous capital projects that fall within the Facility Improvement Plan (FIP). Mike is also managing the improvements to the greenway bridge at the east end of the TC.

- C. Since the last meeting, the seven (7) final concerts of the 2019 Sunday in the Park concert season. Three (3) of the 13 scheduled concerts were impacted by weather. Recreation Supervisor Ron Harris is responsible for managing a great summer of music.
- D. The second season of the Field of Honor at the TC concluded on 7/13; with the event partnership with the Noon Rotary, we anticipate the Field of Honor will remain an annual event at the TC for years to come.
- E. The Fall/Winter Recreation & Parks Program Guide is available at your seat. This brochure is available at all Recreation & Parks indoor facilities, as well as a multitude of public spots and businesses across the City.
- F. On Monday night the City Council approved the purchase of the Phil Carrol estate acreage north of the river and just east of 264 Bypass. The site encompasses 162 acres and staff will arrange for some due diligence in regard to surveying and an environmental assessment in anticipation of closing on the property within two (2) months. The steps takes place following a recommendation of the Tar River Legacy Plan to acquire riverside lake lands for future park development.
- G. Nothing is sketched in stone regarding the components that may ultimately make up the park, tentatively referred to as "Discovery Landing." Development must occur over time as City resources, corporate sponsors, grants, and public/private partnerships are identified and secure. Possible components include fishing facilities, a canopy walk, boardwalks, an observation tower, BMX/Skate park facilities, windsurfing, watercraft instruction, paddle boarding, zip lines, cabins, a bunkhouse, cable wakeboarding, and other opportunities.
- H. Hurricane Dorian impacted the City last week and many employees were intensely involved in preparations and clean up. A large mature oak tree was lost at Jaycee Park – that stood for many decades next to the parking on the Cedar Lane side of the building. Four (4) trees were lost on the greenway, but with one (1) exception, staff were able to address the damages without bringing in a contractor. Assistant Director Don Octigan took responsibility for the arrangement of food services for the City's Emergency Operations Center and the Public Works Compound.
- I. Public Information Photographer Aaron Hines of the Public Information Office has a photography Exhibit at the Emerge Art Gallery on Evans Street entitled "A City at Work" through 9/26.
- J. Another project in the works is the expansion of existing natural trails at RPN to ultimately allow a connection the Discovery Landing properties.
- K. Recreation Superintendent Don Octigan was promoted to Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks

VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - 1. Parks Update
 - a. Hurricane Cleanup – citizens of Greenville see the greenway as a priority. Due to no major damage, the greenway was cleaned Saturday morning. Four downed trees and one hanger on the greenway. Hanger will have to be removed by a contractor. Have two 5 person crews that were mutual aid to the Public Works Department for street cleanup, only one crew was activated for a 12 hour shift.
 - b. Drew Steele Center painting – logo will be added to wall.
 - c. Bridge Lighting – Shared concept drawings from Musco. Can display any color, and they are controlled separately.
 - d. River Park North Painting – exterior painting.
 - e. The well is almost complete at Bradford Creek Soccer Complex.
 - f. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza – footings are poured, remains on schedule. Walls are being made and will be brought in and then crews will work to get these walls in place. Parks Planner Mike Watson has done a great job managing this project and has been able to find cost savings.
- B. Don Octigan, Assistant Director
 - 1. Departmental Updates
 - a. Fall programming began on 9/3.
 - b. Winter program registration began on 9/9.
 - c. Brent Harpe was promoted to Recreation Supervisor of Specialized Recreation. The Specialized Recreation Assistant Position is open and applications will be received through 9/15.

- d. Recreation & Parks Outreach Coordinator Position – This is a new position for the department as a part of the reorganization. Interviews are taking place on Thursday, 9/19.
- e. Hurricane Clean-up Efforts – Thanks to Parks staff for their hard work. Public Works staff also put in a lot of hours.
- f. Financial Assistance through Fee Reduction – Outreach Coordinator will reevaluate this policy when on board. Mr. Octigan reviewed the current Financial Assistance Program with the Commission.

Byron Aynes left the meeting at 6:17 PM.

- 2. 2019 Summer Camp Briefing
 - a. Day camps at various locations began on 6/10 including Eppes Recreation Center, South Greenville Recreation Center, H. Boyd Lee Park, Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center, Greenfield Terrace, and the Drew Steele Center.
 - b. Day camps were offered for ages 5-12.
 - c. Teen camps were offered for ages 12-15 at Elm Street Park and the Sports Connection.
 - d. Sports specific camps were offered in baseball, basketball, and soccer.
 - e. Art camps were held at the Jaycee Park Center for Arts and Crafts.
- 3. 2019 Summer Programming
 - a. Staff offered over 3,000 registration slots for this year's summer program season. The camps were 94% to capacity serving youth in the community aged 5-15.
 - b. Daily schedules of these camps included various field trips that were fun, same, and educational. Each week is evaluated which allows staff to gain valuable feedback from parents and their child.
 - c. Local parks and businesses were used for several of these trips, which helps with financial efficiency and keeping money within the community. Staff utilizes the Community Pool, as well as Splashpointe at the Dream Park.
 - d. Staff also partners with the Fire/Rescue and the Police Department to provide educational sessions as well as tours of Fire Station 1 and Police Headquarters. South Greenville Recreation Center and Eppes Recreation Center partner with the Police Athletic League (PAL) to create program opportunities for both facility camps, as well as theirs.
- 4. Attended Director's School last month. Reminded of how great the staff is in our department.
- 5. Special Events and Marketing Coordinator, Patricia E. Tyndall
 - a. Paint in the Park event this past Sunday in partnership with Emerge Gallery. Six came, attendance most likely effected by hurricane weather.
 - b. Chasing Coral – 9/17-18 will be shown at the Town Common.
 - c. Movie in the Park on 10/18. Movie has not been selected at this time.
 - d. Youth Arts Festival on 10/19 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Town Common. Shared pictures from last year's event.
 - e. Carter Williams Art Show Fundraiser – Proceeds support breast cancer research. Now in its third year.
 - f. Holiday Art Sale is on Saturday, 11/2 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Jaycee Park.
 - g. Greenville Gives is on Friday, 12/6 at Five Points Plaza in partnership with Public Works and Uptown Greenville.
 - h. New Year's Eve Celebration on 12/31 beginning at 9:00 PM in partnership with the Greenville Jaycees.
- 6. Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center, Dennis Vestal, Recreation Manager
 - a. Swim lessons were provided for the Boys and Girls Club, youth and adults. Additional sessions in the fall.
 - b. Programming included three (3) Lifeguard Classes with 30 participants and one (1) Water Safety Class. These classes follow the Red Cross lifeguard criteria.
 - c. Camp Adventure – lots of children in the facility and new members are a result of camp.
 - d. Newer Exercise classes – Zumba continues to be popular, Zumba Gold Class which is a lower impact for seniors, Zumba Gold and Tone, and Strong by Zumba. Kid Fit class created by a summer intern. New water walking class in the pool. Deep Water Toning class – high impact but light intervals.

- e. Pickleball continues to be a popular program 6 days a week at GAFC.
- f. Pirates Night Out – 55 participants for the first event.
- g. Community Pool and SplashPointe – three rescues, two during swim tests. Increased hours of operation on two week nights. Total SplashPointe attendance for 2019 was 9,962 and the Community Pool attendance was 11,367.
- h. Pool had First annual Luau with 60 participants. Ended the pool season with a Doggie Pool Party with 40 dogs and 60 humans.
- i. Boo Bash Splash – Free to members with charge to the general public. Scheduled for 10/18 from 5:30 – 8:00 PM.
- j. Lifeguard Certification Classes will be held on 11/15, 11/6, and 11/17.
- k. Water Safety Instructor Class is also being held 1/11/2020 – 1/19/2020.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mike Saad – Impressive on how well the department is organized. Congratulations on the new property.
- B. Gordon Darragh – Thanked Director Fenton for all of the work, hours and does a great job with good staff. Congratulated Nikki on her recent engagement.
- C. Jaimie Yahnker – Wonderful to know staff is working hard and is appreciated.
- D. Saroija Durant-Moore – Thank you for your hard work, can't wait to see what happens with the new property acquisition.
- E. Nikki Caswell – A lot going on and thanks for all you do. If you haven't been to Greenville Gives, please go.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Gordon Darragh

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department