



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 9, 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
- Andrew Wimsatt
- Councilmember Monica Daniels
- Laura J. Davenport
- Matt Steele
- Bershuan Thompson
- Dean Foy
- Mark Tysinger

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

GRPD Staff presenting.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: Byron Aynes

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Today had the opportunity to address 30 members of the Leadership Institute about GRPD, its mission, and some of the projects taking place. Several staff members such as Chasity McCurdy, Don Octigan, Bershuan Thompson and myself have participated in the past. Invited annually to address the participants on a day when they are learning about the quality of life within the community.
- B. When the Town Common Master Plan was completed a few year ago, there was a general agreement that while the City was fortunate to have a great piece of parkland in the center of the city and on a river, the park seldom attracted large numbers of people unless a special event was taking place. Since that time, numerous picnic tables and park benches have been added, a new fishing pier, a

kayak and canoe launch, a modern restroom building, a picnic shelter, and the best playground in the City, and the South Tar Greenway connects to the park on the east. In addition, construction is active on the Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza and it will not be long before the South Tar Greenway is extended westward from Town Common to Nash Street. There were also recommendations to further activate the park with more events and programs such as Yoga In the Park series, Zumba In the Park series, the Youth Arts Festival, the Field of Honor, Greenville Grooves, the Latino Festival, Movies in the Park, the Canine Crawl, a multitude of runs including the Dash for Cash, the Seafood Festival, and for the last two summers, 4 free midweek performances that were a part of the Concert in the Park sponsored by Outer Banks Media & their generous sponsors. And for the first time, there will be a New Year's Eve Celebration at the Town Common on 12/31. Also, as part of the Mountains to the Coast Bicycle Ride, about 1,000 cyclists visited Greenville and many camped at the Town Common.

- C. Staff continues to work on the project nicknamed "Discovery Landing" and recently received word we are able to purchase the last needed parcel that's just east of Hwy 264. Staff is hoping for the western parcels as well, and a donor willing to help significantly with the cost – we will have the beginnings of the most remarkable Recreation and Parks facility in eastern NC.
- D. Staff is working to get a waiver from the Department of Natural Resources that if approved, will allow the City to utilize the purchase of this land as a match for a 2020 PARTF grant for this project. Approval is needed before closing on the property, which for the eastern parcels will take place in December.
- E. Staff joined the City Manager and Assistant City Manager in Fayetteville for a tour of some of the recent capital projects being managed by the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Parks and Recreation Department. Staff was particularly interested in the aquatics facilities since our community pool at Guy Smith Park is approaching 50 years old and will soon need to be replaced. Fayetteville has been building new aquatics facilities; numerous spraygrounds and several swimming pools. The pool projects generally included a lap pool for fitness, competition, and general swimming, as well a separate water park type amenity with a shallow water playground area for younger children. A few years ago Fayetteville passed a voted parks bond and that has enabled them to take on a great deal of capital work, including aquatic facilities, a new senior center and a BMX skateboard park.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Don Octigan, Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks
 - 1. Recreation Update
 - a. North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association – Arts and Humanities Program Award was presented to the Specialized Recreation staff for their hard work with the Creative Oasis program.
 - b. Fall Programming
 - i. There are 10 teams and approximately 120 players for adult flag football.
 - ii. Youth Flag Football has 12 teams.
 - iii. There are 872 players to make 97 teams for Future Stars Soccer.
 - iv. This season there are 47 participants in the Exceptional Community Football League, which is an increase from last year.
 - v. Center for Arts - Highest number of pottery club participants. Programs throughout the week during day, evenings, and Saturday's. art programs
 - vi. GAFC – Wellness Lunch and Learns and a Health Fair at Hyster-Yale.
 - vii. The Boo Bash Splash is on 10/18 from 5:30 – 8:00 PM at GAFC.
 - viii. Staff is expecting 17 performers in the performing arts talent show at the Youth Arts Festival on 10/19. New participants attended auditions this past Sunday with the Celebration of Youth Expressions Committee to help prepare them to showcase their talents. Many more are expected to participate in the visual arts display.
 - ix. The 7th Annual Holiday Art Sale is on 11/2 from 10:00AM – 4:00PM at Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts.
 - x. Adult Basketball at H. Boyd Lee is now taking registration through 12/12.
 - 2. River Park North Presentation, Parks Coordinator Mark Tysinger and Parks Program Coordinator Andrew Wimsatt
 - a. Recent Happenings at River Park North (RPN)

- i. Summer camp programs were consistently full throughout the summer. Staff is considering expanding the Junior Explorers to an 8 week season to run concurrently with other camps.
 - ii. NC Science Museum grant was awarded, which allows staff to continue operating the LAST STEAM Lab with paid staff.
 - iii. Construction began on the accessible boating facility in September. There is no estimated time for completion, however most likely sometime in November.
 - iv. Staff hosted a SKYPE call with Philippe Cousteau and Welcome Middle School students during World Water Day with community partner Love A Sea Turtle and *Chasing Coral* star Zackery Rago.
 - v. Staff is currently in discussions with ECU to act as a water quality resource hub. This project would be funded through a National Science Foundation Grant.
 - vi. RPN's October Catfish Contest began on 10/01.
 - b. Programs and Projects (pictures shared)
 - i. Summer campers riding the ferry from Aurora to Bayview.
 - ii. Construction began on the new watersports facility.
 - iii. Children enjoying the Forts and Hideout program.
 - iv. Junior Explorers camp reviewing fire safety.
 - v. Moonlight Hayride and Campfire.
 - vi. Zackery Rago from *Chasing Coral*.
 - vii. Community partner Love A Sea Turtle team and Mayor P.J. Connelly.
 - c. Upcoming Programs at RPN
 - i. Dirt Day on Saturday, 10/12 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.
 - ii. Creepy-Crawly Fall Fest, 10/24 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
 - iii. Science at the Park, 11/7 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.
 - iv. Leaf Pile Learn & Play, 11/16 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - v. Forts & Hideouts, 11/30 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.
 - vi. Santa's Workshop, 12/14 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.
- 3. Youth Athletics, Recreation Manager Bershuan Thompson and Youth Recreation Supervisor Matt Steele
 - a. Youth Athletics – Spring Future Stars Soccer (over 900 youth) and Greenie League Baseball (400 youth).
 - b. Summer Athletic Camps – Baseball camp (4 sessions), Soccer Camp, Basketball Camp,
 - c. Greenie League Classic
 - d. Future Stars Soccer
 - e. Winter Basketball – in registration process now through 10/28.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

1. Parks Update

- a. Parks Planner Position Update – Offered the position to a candidate that ultimately turned it down and will interview a potential candidate when Mr. Fenton returns from vacation.
- b. ADA Self Evaluation – Staff is evaluating facilities based on what other municipalities are doing based on things such as curb cuts, accessible parking, automated doors, accessible restrooms, accessible counters, etc. Two facilities are 100% compliant including the Drew Steele Center and South Greenville Recreation Center.
- c. FIP is on schedule and hope to bring additional pictures at next meeting.
- d. Sycamore Hill Gateway Project – Project is on schedule. Shared pictures of paved footings.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Jaimie Yahnker – Amazing all of the work shown tonight.
- B. Saroija Durant-Moore – Greenville has become more of a vision for others coming to town.
- C. Byron Aynes – A lot of hard work represented in the photos.

- D. Nikki Caswell – Congratulations for the Creative Oasis award and program participation increasing numbers!
- E. Hassan Hilliard – No comments.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Motion: Saroija Durant-Moore

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department