



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 @ 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
- Kristian Williams
- Jaimie Yahnker
- Mike Saad
- Darin White
- Carrie Watson

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Councilmember Monica Daniels
- Patricia Tyndall
- Laura J. Davenport
- Mark Nottingham
- Sara Caropreso
- Heather White
- Dean Foy
- Chris Hinson
- Bershuan Thompson

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

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the March 11, 2020 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

A. News of the Coronavirus is out there and parks and recreation staff across the nation want to be on top of this because a big part of our business centers on programs, facilities, and events that bring people together, sometimes in great numbers. Every City department wants to react responsibly and knowledgeably to the situation and do whatever we can to minimize the likelihood that one of the City’s programs, facilities, or events might be part of the problem. We are asking staff and customers to help however they can; staying away if they’re sick, washing hands often, disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and when necessary, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve and not into your hand. Staff is

hopeful facilities will not have to close and programs or events will not be canceled in the weeks and months to come.

- B. Two days ago, a bipartisan group of eight US Senators, including our own Senator Richard Burr, introduced Senate Bill 3422 – The Great American Outdoors Act. This act would dedication the full \$900 million annually to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), as well as providing funds to address massive maintenance backlogs in national parks. Senator Tillis has also signed on to support this bill. The legislation will provide increased funding for parks and recreation in our state for generations to come providing full funding for LWCF. The primary source of revenue for the LWCF is from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. The Fund is based on a simple concept: take revenues from the depletion of one resource, offshore oil and gas, and use those revenues to conserve parks, wildlife areas, forests, open spaces, and waterways.
- C. Each of the City of Greenville’s Commissions deliver an annual presentation to City Council (CC) and on Monday, 3/23 Vice Chair Gordon Darragh will deliver that presentation. Other members may also attend the meeting to offer support to the presenter. Commission reports fall fairly early in the CC Agenda.
- D. Staff has been told there’s a possibility of reductions in the operating budget next year and Don and staff have been planning as if those reductions have occurred. Staff hopes that won’t be necessary because any cuts at all are going to create impacts. If necessary, staff will make reductions in places where they will have the least negative impacts, but there will be impacts.
- E. The Sycamore Hill Gateway Project (SHGP) at the Town Common is starting to come out of the ground and as this project has been unfolding, could not help but think about how long it’s been in the works. In 2009 staff began working a contractor on the development of a master plan for Town Common and assuring the history of the site was buried by future park development became one of the master plan’s goals. It doesn’t look like much today, but about two months from now on Tuesday, 5/19 at 5:30 PM staff will host a ribbon cutting and dedication of the new Sycamore Hill Gateway. The rain date is the time on the following day.
- F. Tomorrow night staff expects CC to approve the application for grant support for the adventure park thru the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). This year’s application will focus on land acquisition, using the monies previously invested in acquiring some other acreage associated with this project as match for this grant. The application is rather lengthy and complex and must be submitted by 5/1. During this time, staff is looking for ways to make some improvements to the eastside parcels and begin providing public access to Phase I of the project. We’ll visit the site as part of the facility tour in a few months.
- G. Annually, as staff moves toward the end of the fiscal year, goals for the following fiscal years are established along with steps various departments must take in support of the City achieving these goals. One Recreation and Parks goal that’s not on the list, but needs to be achieved anyway is to keep providing high quality programs, events, parks and trails, and facilities that were provided last year. In addition, there are a few other goals.
 - 1. Enhance community engagement, safety and wellness by doing the following:
 - a. Expanding swim lesson program and wellness opportunities,
 - b. Working with FROGGS and other partners to expand the use of greenways and other wellness opportunities,
 - c. Working to increase security at parks, on greenways, and within recreation facilities, and
 - d. Expanding and promoting recreation and fitness opportunities at SGRC and other recreation facilities.
 - 2. Deliver public infrastructure improvements and execute existing opportunities related to transportation networks, recreation and parks, and storm water projects. Action steps include:
 - a. Developing recreational amenities and services at new adventure park,
 - b. Identifying a site and initiating a design for replacement of the Community Pool (now 47 years old),
 - c. Creating a main entrance, front desk, and teen lounge, as well as completing other facility improvements at Eppes Recreation Center,
 - d. Completing the update of the Comprehensive Master Plan,
 - e. Completing FIP projects at existing facilities such as Town Common, greenways, parking lot resurfacing, gym floor replacements, irrigation improvements, and HVAC installation,

- f. Issuing an RFP for a restaurant/event space to be developed and operated in Town Common (on the portion of the park that does not have development restrictions),
 - g. Investigate feasibility of utilizing the old 2nd Street landfill for development of recreational amenities, and
 - h. Enhance public BMX and skateboarding opportunities through improvements to existing BMX/skateboard facility and/or development of new facility.
3. Another City goal involves creating positive impacts for our community in terms of recreation and parks, this relates to fostering more sports tourism in Greenville, which has a big economic value for Greenville. The action step association with this goal is work with the Greenville-Pitt County Sports Commission to build sports tourism.
 4. Building a thriving and attractive community by creating vibrant neighborhoods, and expanding artistic, cultural, and recreational opportunities by the following:
 - a. Planning and providing programming opportunities at new beach volleyball courts and the adventure park,
 - b. Work with the Pitt County Arts Council to initiate the Emerald Loop project,
 - c. Promote activities on and near the river, as recommended in the Tar River Legacy Plan,
 - d. Further activate the Town Common with events and activities,
 - e. Continue to expand greenway art program, and
 - f. Complete and dedicate sculpture zoo along the greenway.

VII. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

- A. Upcoming Events
 1. Will provide more information on the LLSWS next meeting.
 2. Jr. NBA Basketball Summer League at South Greenville Recreation Center.
 3. I Need A Job Workshop & Job Fair at South Greenville Recreation Center, 4/14-16.
 4. Pirate Night at the Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center on Friday, 3/20.
 5. Senior Wellness Fair at the Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center on Wednesday, 3/25.
- B. Staff continue to finalize plans for this year's summer camp program. Registration began on 2/3.
- C. Still accepting applications for Summer Camp staff, including Camp Counselors, Camp Supervisors and Camp Bus Drivers. Applications will be received through Friday, 4/17.
- D. Important Dates
 1. 3/21 Exceptional Community Baseball Opening Ceremonies at Elm Street Park on the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.
 2. 4/3 Pitt County Specials Olympics Spring Games at J.H. Rose High School.
 3. 2/29 Future Stars Youth Soccer practices begin at Bradford Creek Soccer Complex.
 4. 4/10 Greenville Little Leagues Opening Ceremonies at Elm Street Park, 6:00 PM.
 5. 4/17-18 PirateFest at Town Common and Uptown Greenville.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Recreation Division Report
 1. Chris Hinson, Recreation Supervisor – River Birch Tennis Center (introduced by Recreation Manager Bershuan Thompson)
 - a. Tennis Center offers Seasonal Tennis Classes, Adult League Tennis, Junior Tennis Tournaments, Rentals and Special Events, Private Lessons, Ball Machine Rentals, and Free Walk-Up Play.
 - b. Youth Tennis Programs include: Preschool Tennis (ages 3-4), Quickstart Tennis (ages 5-10), After School & Summer Beginner (ages 11-15), Learn to Compete & Tournament Prep (ages 11-15), Junior Team Tennis (ages 9-18), Winter Quickstart (ages 5-10) and After School (ages 11-18).
 - c. Adult Tennis Programs include: Adult Tennis classes, Cardio Tennis, Try Tennis, and USTA Adult League Tennis.
 - d. Shared images of Try Tennis, ECU Tennis, and Abilities Tennis.
 2. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Special Events Coordinator - Town Common Events
 - a. 4/3 Movie in the Park
 - b. 4/17-18 PirateFest
 - c. 4/29 Concert on the Common

3. Sara Caropreso, Recreation Supervisor – Center for Arts & Crafts at Jaycee Park (introduced by Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Patricia Tyndall)
 - a. Shared images and program details for the Auditorium, Meeting Room and Arts Library, Craft Room, Paint Room, Throwing Room, Glaze Room, Kiln Patio, Pottery Club, youth programs, Summer Art Camps, Adult Programs, Special Events, and Paint in the Park.

B. Parks Division Report

1. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - a. Town Creek Bridge – plan to have completed by 6/30.
 - b. Watersports Facility at River Park North – project is complete, managed by Parks Coordinator Mark Watson. Area is accessible with grills and picnic tables.
 - c. Beach Volleyball Courts at H. Boyd Lee Park – have one more retaining wall to add after interior is complete. Optimistic this will be completed by 6/30.
2. Capital Improvement Projects
 - a. Rivers Edge Sculpture Zoo
 - i. Invitation to bid will be published once FEMA has granted approval for this project.
 - b. Beach Volleyball Courts
 - i. Foundation work is underway.
 - ii. Construction expected to take 4 months; completion by 6/30.
 - c. River Park North Primitive Trail
 - i. Adding 1.3 miles of primitive trail.
 - ii. Bid solicitation – Received on 2/6; low bidder has been selected.
 - iii. Environmental Permits – Floodplain, Riparian Buffer Authorization, and Wetlands.
 - d. New Park Land
 - i. Permits – Erosion control, buffer authorization, and no-rise certification.
 - ii. Site Plan – Site plan scope being defined and will include grading, parking, as well as a kayak launch.
 - iii. Property Prep – Repairing roof damage, cleaning gutters, clearing/pruning vegetation, trails, entrance improvements, and lighting.
 - e. COVID-19
 - i. Focusing on cleaning surfaces that are commonly touched.
 - ii. Current supplies are okay for use, no need to order different supplies.

VIX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Tour Discussion

A motion was made to schedule “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly Tour” on Tuesday, 6/23 at 5:30 PM, beginning at Jaycee Park.

Motion: Hasan Hilliard

Second: Carrie Watson

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Carrie Watson – Thankful for your presentations and sharing pictures.
- B. Hasan Hilliard – Keep up the good work, great team, always prepared. Keep pressing forward.
- C. Byron Aynes – GAFC interns have all been outstanding, professional and cream of the crop.
- D. Gordon Darragh – Presentations tonight were great.
- E. Darin White – Spoke with young man at BCPGC did a great job of helping him plan for a wedding. Doing a great job as the front line for the COG. You are unsung heroes.
- F. Jaimie Yahnker – Impressed as always with presentations.
- G. Councilmember Monica Daniels – “You guys do a great job. Give everything every week and it shows.” Appreciate you.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker
Second: Hasan Hilliard
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department