



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
 ZOOM Meeting

This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Saad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hasan Hilliard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes | <input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Watson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kristian Williams | |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Nottingham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Monica Daniels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Vestal | |

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:34 PM via ZOOM 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 14, 2020 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jamie Yahnker

Second: Mike Saad

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vote: Commissioner Nikki Caswell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Gordon Darragh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Byron Aynes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the September 23, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jamie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vote: Commissioner Nikki Caswell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Gordon Darragh | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Byron Aynes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Thanks for your support with the naming of the new adventure park, Wildwood Park, and for Commissioner Mike Saad's presentation to City Council during the public hearing on the naming during last Thursday evenings City Council meeting. Just like the Recreation and Park's Commission meeting public hearing on 9/23, City Council couldn't immediately vote, so the vote has been delayed until this meeting coming up on Monday. The park should get an official name that night and it will be good to have that finalized.
- B. Staff still hopes to find a way to acquire the acreage on the west side of the highway, but at this time, staff has not been able to identify an adequate level of financial resources to do so. It may have to be a future consideration, if indeed the land remains for sale, while staff concentrates on the development of the east property that's already owned.
- C. On 10/14 Director Fenton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the "What's and Why's of our Department" to the Members of the 20-21 Leadership Institute class, a Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Conference Program. Established in 1983, with over 900 participants since then, the Leadership Institute is an 8 month program that strives to provide the area with a diversity of leaders prepared and committed to serving our community. During the program, participants learn about this community and the issues it facing, work to improve their leadership skills, while exploring topics such as education, government and law, arts and culture, economic development, health care, business and industry, and the media. Director Fenton, as well as Assistant Director Don Octigan, Recreation Managers Dennis Vestal and Chasity McCurdy have also completed the Leadership Institute.
- D. The realization and culmination of the Sycamore Hill Gateway Project dedication was years in the making. It is a new, beautiful, and meaningful component of the Town Common, and is clearly worth a visit, both in the day time and the evening. Director Fenton is pleased the Chamber of Commerce has chosen to feature the Gateway in the 2021 edition of their annual publication, *Glimpse* magazine. The deadline for the submission of the article is just 10 days away. Last year's article was entitled "A Place with Potential" and focused on adventure park development. This year's about the gateway project is entitled "A Vision Finally Realized." The 2021 issue of *Glimpse* magazine will come out early in the new year and the editor's plan is to feature a gateway photo on its cover.
- E. Now the gateway project is completed, there are other needs to be addressed. Multi-tasking is required and now some of the issue staff are addressing include normal day to day operational and maintenance duties, finalizing plans for various 2021 programs, the winter program brochure, replacement of the City's 48 year old outdoor pool, a renovation project at the Eppes Recreation Center, grant applications, finishing up the bridge at the Town Common's eastern end, and the adventure park development.
- F. The characteristics that make the adventure park property so desirable for park purposes and enable the provision of so many dynamic activities, the lands proximity to water, the river, and the parks lakes, greatly complicates the development process because of the multiple permits required from the Department of Environmental Quality and the US Army Corps of Engineers. There's an immense amount of red tape involved. It will take time.
- G. It continues to be a challenging time period for staff in this time of uncertainty, but staff continue their efforts to provide a high level of service to the community, even though sometimes those services have been modified a bit. The Director continues to be grateful for their endurance and optimism.

VII. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

- A. Current Operations Update
 1. Bershuan Thompson moved to the western part of the state to follow his family. Heather White and Don will be working together at H. Boyd Lee Park.
 2. Shared Current Operations Update.
 3. Shelter rentals allowed for groups of 50 or less, with safety guidelines.
 4. Facility rentals allowed for groups of 25 or less, with safety guidelines.

5. Sports Connection opened on 9/29 by appointment only, participants must bring their own equipment.
6. Recreation Center Overview (shared facility hours).
7. Staff currently implementing fall programs and Winter Departmental brochure expected early November, for programs beginning in January.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Recreation Division Report

1. Heather White, Outreach Coordinator

a. Adult Athletics

i. SOAR Program

- Program is held at H. Boyd Lee Park and began in August when schools moved to virtual learning.
- Program was offered to provide children a safe place for academic support while learning virtually.
- Staff have incorporated a time for safe recreation activities and social connectedness.

b. Youth Athletics

- i. Youth Soccer Clinics (skill development) began in mid-September for ages 5-13 (258 participants) and will be completed at the end of this month.
- ii. Fall Greenie League Baseball (skill development) began first week in October (68 participants) and will be completed at the end of this month.

c. River Birch Tennis Center

- i. In early September Fall Youth Tennis programs and Try Tennis Beginner Adult class began.
- ii. 9/24 Private tennis lessons resumed.

d. Athletics staff is currently working on winter program offerings. Traditional seasonal programs being considered are youth and adult basketball clinics, adult kickball, adult softball, and tennis.

e. Staff continues to think through new modified, safe program offerings for the winter.

- Some of these include beach volleyball, cornhole, shuffleboard, and Pickleball.
- Staff will continue to monitor guidance provided by local and state health officials to determine future program offerings, modifications, and if they are unable to happen.

Darin White joined the meeting at 5:55PM.

2. Dennis Vestal, Recreation Manager

a. Aquatics & Fitness Center

i. June 1 – Pool open to GAFC members.

- Pool only memberships were sold during this period.

ii. Sept. 4 – Re-opened the entire facility.

- Followed interim Guidance for Fitness Facilities by the NCDHHS with reduced hours and capacity.
- Staff created safety plan for members and staff to follow and posted necessary signage throughout the facility.
- Group swim lessons began
- Drive-up Bingo was hosted

iii. October 12 – Expanded Services

- Increased hours of operations
- Limited Group Fitness Classes, Pickleball, and Personal Training
- Group and Private Swim Lessons and Drive-up Bingo continue

iv. Facility Amenities

- Indoor heated pool

- 8,000 sq. ft. basketball court
- Free weights and machine weights
- Cardio Equipment
- Group Fitness Classes
- Aquatic Classes (temporarily suspended)
- Swim Lessons
- General Programs
- Pickleball
- Locker Rooms
- v. Facility Operations
 - Increased safety precautions
 - Increased cleaning
 - Social distancing
- vi. Pool Operations
 - Reservations are encouraged
 - Individual work-outs
 - Up to 4 lap lanes
 - Group and private lessons are being offered
- vii. Group Fitness Classes
 - Classes are deigned following guidelines from the NCDHHS
 - Held in basketball gym to allow for social distancing
 - Limited classes to include (stretch & flex, Zumba, Zumba Gold, and HITT)
- viii. Pickleball
- ix. Membership Special - \$19 for the month of October

B. Parks Division Report

1. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

- a. Facility Improvement Plan – managed by Mike Watson. Funded close to \$1m each year. Funded this year with \$230,000. Have identified and completed 4 projects. All tennis courts in system have been resurfaced, resurfaced and striped parking lot at GAFC, painted exterior of restroom building at Westpointe Park, and control system link for lights at H. Boyd Lee Park. Left with \$68,000 in cost savings. Will address striping and signage at the new paved parking lot at the Town Common and replacing skate lite and welding at the skatepark.
- b. Parking lot paving and striping at Town Common is complete. Met with Engineering Dept. for signage today.
- c. Should receive temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Town Common pedestrian bridge and open for pedestrians this weekend.

2. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner, CIP Projects

a. Eppes Recreation Center Renovations

i. Project Overview

- Development of a true front entrance to the recreation center with ADA improvements
- Create a front desk and lobby area, including controlled entrance capabilities.
- New teen lounge with amenities
- HVAC improvements
- Eppes Alumni Heritage Center improvements

ii. Designer Selection

- HH Architecture's submittal was highlighted by the following:
 - Qualifications of individual project team members
 - Project approach
 - Project experience with historical preservation
 - Commitment to stay within budget and time requirements

- HH Architecture’s Design experience has included:
 - 2 million square feet in community & recreation facilities
 - \$260 million in costs associated with those facilities
 - References contacted provided supportive feedback, especially regarding projects related to recreation facilities.
- iii. Next Steps
- City Council may approve Design Services Contract with HH Architecture to provide design services for the Eppes Recreation Center renovations on 10/19.
 - 4 month design
 - 6 month construction
- b. Community Pool Replacement
- i. Replacement of a 48 year old Community Pool currently located at Guy Smith Park.
 - ii. Priority to relocate with existing location of West/South Greenville. Preferred location is Thomas Foreman Park.
 - iii. Project to Include:
 - Separate Zero-Depth entry recreation pool with Multi-feature play structure
 - Competition style lap pool
 - Access to changing rooms
 - Shade structures
 - iv. Potentially Include:
 - Small-scale waterslide attached to recreation pool
 - Concessions area
 - v. Designer Selection
 - Kimley-Horn’s submittal was highlighted by the following:
 - Qualifications of individual project team members
 - Project approach
 - Commitment to stay within budget and time requirements
 - Exceptional Experience with aquatic facilities
 - Kimley-Horn and the project team’s primary contact, Mark Hatchel, have completed over 100 successful aquatic projects in the past 20 years.
 - The proposed sub-consultant for the pool system design, Counsilman-Hunsaker, is also recognized as a top pool design firm nationally.
 - vi. Next Steps
 - City Council may approve design services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to provide design services for the new community pool on 10/19.
 - 4 month design
 - 12 month construction (completion May 2022)
- c. Adventure Park
- i. 10/13 – Received five bids for Phase I construction. Currently evaluating bids.
 - ii. 11/7 – Construction contract may go to City Council for award.
 - iii. Four month construction schedule.
 - iv. Phase I Construction complete spring 2021.
 - v. Phase I Improvements: Trail, parking, and beach access.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Renewal of Lease Agreement with the Greenville Industrial-Eppes High School Alumni Heritage Society
1. The Greenville Industrial-Eppes High School Alumni Heritage Society has been utilizing a portion of the Eppes Recreation Center (that was a part of the original high school) as the C.M. Eppes Cultural & Heritage Center.

2. Alumni Members use the facility for various events during the year, including the annual homecoming event in July.
3. Assistant Director shared a diagram of the Eppes Alumni Rooms.
4. Individuals within the Alumni Society have been involved in the early discussions of the Eppes Recreation Center renovation project, as the Heritage Center will undergo improvements during the process.
5. The relationship between the Recreation and Parks Department and the Alumni Society is one of respect and cooperation, and staff continue to believe this is an appropriate and desirable use for this space at the Eppes Recreation Center.

A motion was made to recommend City Council approve the three year lease agreement with the Greenville Industrial-Eppes High School Alumni Heritage Society on 12/7/2020.

Motion: Darin White
 Second: Gordon Darragh

Vote: Commissioner Nikki Caswell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Gordon Darragh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Byron Aynes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Darin White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Mike Saad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSINERS

- A. Gordon Darragh – Thanks for the hard work, the vision, and keeping things fresh and new, working hard through Covid and tough times. Appreciate it. Thank you.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – Phenomenal work, great to get together with this group.
- C. Mike Saad – Thanks so much, impressed with Recreation and Parks and all you’re doing to keep everyone engaged and safe. Everyone appreciates it so much. Finding new ways to activate the river. Looking forward to seeing new things on the biggest asset of the City.
- D. Byron Aynes – Great to see the department making plans to use the land and park to its greatest potential.
- E. Darin White – Golf tournament at Bradford Creek, sense of pride the City could host this tournament. Thanked the staff that has gone above and beyond.
- F. Nikki Caswell – Thanks for the hard work and being creative with all of the restrictions. Heard good things with the SOAR program.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:49PM.

Motion: Gordon Darragh
 Second: Darin White

Vote: Commissioner Nikki Caswell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Gordon Darragh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Byron Aynes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Darin White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Mike Saad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Davenport

Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department