



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 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"/> Darin White | <input type="checkbox"/> Kristian Williams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Watson |

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Monica Daniels | | |

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:33PM 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 January 13, 2021 agenda as presented.

Motion: Gordon Darragh

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 Jaimie Yahnker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Carrie Watson | <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 October 14, 2020 minutes as presented.

Motion: Gordon Darragh

Second: Carrie Watson

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 Jaimie Yahnker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Carrie Watson | <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. The impacts of Covid-19 on Recreation and Parks services are numerous, because staff has to consider not only the well-being of the people who utilize our services, the customers, but also the well-being of the people who provide those services, staff and volunteers. While most services traditionally offered have been impacted, I'm proud and grateful for staff's efforts to not allow the pandemic to totally eradicate those services and the positive impacts they have on our community and citizens. Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks and his staff have led the endeavor and he'll share more about that during his report. It's truly been a heroic effort as he and the staff continued to press forward despite the ongoing challenges, frustrations, and discouragement.
- B. You may recall last fall I mentioned the Chamber of Commerce would featuring the Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza Project at the Town Common in their 2021 edition of *Glimpse* Magazine and this year's edition arrived last week. We'll send you a copy. In general, the Chamber has been willing to feature some aspect of our department's efforts and impacts in each edition of *Glimpse*. This year's article is entitled, "A Vision Finally Realized," reflecting how long ago we envisioned and began working on development of the Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza. A plus for us and for the project is a gateway photo is featured on the cover and we'll have copies of *Glimpse* available at various facilities.
- C. City Council approved the name "Wildwood Park" for the Adventure Park on the north bank of the Tar River. You may also know, thanks to a \$550,000 donation, the City will soon add 185 acres on the west side of Greenville Boulevard to a similar amount of acreage on the east side. Staff has hoped for and been working toward the land becoming part of the park for quite some time and thanks to this generous gift, it's finally going to happen. The vision for the park is pretty vast and in the months to come we'll be seeking grants and partners that might assist financially with various aspects of Wildwood's development. Though Parks Planner Mark Nottingham will report on some of the projects that are being addressed at Wildwood, Director Fenton shared individual images of some of the possible future components – the potential amenities – that may become a part of the park as it develops over time. The addition of any of features will be contingent upon the ability to identify the necessary funding for the particular feature, whether that be from a corporate or non-profit sponsorship, a donation, a grant, the City's capital budget, or a combination of it all. Director Fenton shared a detailed PowerPoint regarding the development of Wildwood.

This is not an inclusive list, there could be others and some that were mentioned may not be added. Adding an amenity is first, a matter of appropriateness: Does it fit in a park like this? Secondly, has funding been identified for this particular feature? And thirdly, does staff feel confident the annual budget will include funds to allow for the operation and maintenance for that feature? Through it all, we must continually remember the most important aspects of Wildwood will be its natural ones, its meadows, forests, river and streams, lakes, and wetlands. As staff plans for capital improvements, we must assure that our planning efforts prioritize the protection of the natural features that already exist.

VII. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

- A. Current Operations Update
 - 1. Shared Current Operations Update.
 - Recreation Centers are open limited hours and the operating hours at each facility are dependent on current programming.

- GAFC is still operating at a limited capacity with various safety measure being implemented.
 - Shelter rentals continue for groups of 50 or less, with safety guidelines.
 - Indoor building rentals have been suspended due to gathering limits of only 10 individuals indoors. Once this limit increases staff will re-evaluate building rentals.
 - Staff is not allowing any rentals at the Town Common due to gathering limits. This continues to be evaluated with each update of the Executive Order and is subject to change.
2. Shared statistic rentals from March 1 – December 31, 2020.
 - a. Program Sections Offered 1,367
Includes individual classes and weekly camp sections
 - b. Participants Served 3,519
 - c. Program Revenue \$118, 376
 - d. Program Cancellations/Suspensions 37
Specifically related to Covid-19 impacts
Does not include individual sections/classes
 - e. Program Refunds Issued 1,600+
Majority due to spring 2020 programming
 - f. Building/Shelter Reservation Refunds 300+
 3. Recreation and Parks Highlights (2020)
 - a. Greenville selected to host the Little League Softball World Series each August at Elm Street Park.
 - b. Beach Volleyball Facility at Boyd Lee Park.
 - c. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza completed.
 - d. Improvements to Town Common Bridge (held first Bites on the Bridge).
 - e. Improvements to Town Common Parking Lot (58) parking spots and (6) boating spots.
 - f. Over \$700,000 in Facility Improvement Projects (FIP) completed.
 - g. Riverside Recreation will provide watersports recreation at the Town Common when the river is usable.
 - h. New social media marketing plan initiated.
 - i. Fundraising initiatives began and continued, for multiple departmental services and projects.
 - j. Design phase for upcoming construction projects:
 - New Community Pool
 - Renovations at Eppes Recreation Center
 - Wildwood Park Development
 - k. Staff adapted various programs and services to operate with specific safety measures and protocols related to Covid-19 to ensure a safe experience for all involved. This includes face coverings, temperature checks, social distancing measures, signs throughout facilities with reminders of the three W's that we are all aware of.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Recreation Division Report
 1. Heather White, Outreach Coordinator
 - a. Greenville Gives
 - i. Held Saturday, December 5, 2021 at 5:30pm with the Christmas Parade.
 - ii. Collaboration with Greenville Recreation and Parks, the City Manager's and Public Information Offices, Uptown Greenville, Greenville Chamber of Commerce, and the Greenville Jaycees.
 - b. 2021 Spring Brochure
 - i. Staff are in the planning stages.

- ii. Hope to be online in early February.
- iii. Soccer, Pickleball, art programs, tennis, swimming and more.
- iv. Hope to release summer brochure in March.
- c. Spring/Summer Events
 - i. Sunday in the Park
 - Summer Music Concert Series (June-August) at the Town Common.
 - Investigating ways to make this happen following safety guidelines.
 - Conversations with private partnerships and bands.
 - ii. Movie in the Park
 - Family friendly movie series, held 9 successful events last year.
- d. 2021 Summer Camp
 - i. Summer camp registration begins Monday, February 8, 2021.
 - ii. Camp begins week of June 20th.

B. Parks Division Report

1. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - a. Beginning renovations of Skate Park beginning 3/20. Staff will be replacing the skate lite and the substructure and square tubing. Will take approximately 24 weeks to complete. Staff will do the work between 8am – 3pm, park will remain open and available for use.
 - b. New employee, Michael Turner is on staff in Parks Division. Will be responsible for special events and the Town Common. Hope is to elevate the standard at the Town Common. Will have a full time staff member supporting these events and will eventually have part time staff working for him as well. His first big event is The Beast of The East Soccer Tournament at the Soccer Complex.
 - c. Currently cleaning from a mud event at the Town Common. Also on the greenway.
2. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner, CIP Projects
 - a. Eppes Recreation Center Renovations
 - i. Facility Overview
 - New Teen Center
 - New Entry/Check In and Lobby
 - New cooling system in south wing
 - ii. Front Entrance and Lobby
 - Entry will include an accessible ramp from the Nash Street Parking lot into the Entry vestibule.
 - The entry way leads to the check-in area with controlled access for security.
 - Layout is similar to the front entrance at South Greenville Recreation Center.
 - Check-in area is a large space that is inviting, user friendly and provides a great area for customer service.
 - Check-in area provides an effective line of sight for the front desk staff to help with facility supervision.
 - Layout provides a display area which is seen from the lobby as well as the main entry.
 - iii. Front Entrance
 - Front entrance design also provides opportunity to have decorative cement at front entrance to highlight the history and heritage of C.M. Eppes High School.
 - Opportunity exists to have a visual on the exterior of the building.
 - iv. Project Timeline
 - December 2020 Complete Concept Design

- February 2021 Construction Documents Completed
- March 2021 Advertise for Construction Bids
- May 2021 Construction Begins
- October 2021 Construction Complete

b. Community Pool Update

i. Project Overview

- Replacement of 48 year old Community Pool currently located at Guy Smith Park.
- New location is Thomas Foreman Park.
- Project to include:
 - Zero-depth entry recreation pool with multi-feature play structure
 - Competition style lap pool
 - Access to changing rooms
 - Shade structures
- Potentially include: small-scale waterslide attached to recreation pool.

ii. Shared photos of Conceptual Design, Mechanical Building and Bathhouse Design, Children’s Water Play Feature, and Optional Recreational Pool Features (Water Basketball and 16ft High Body Flume Slide).

iii. Project Timeline:

- December 2020 Complete Conceptual Design
- March 2021 Construction Documents Complete
- April/May 2021 Advertise for Construction Bids & Receive Bids
- May/June 2021 City Council Consideration of Construction Contract; Construction Begins
- April 2022 Pool Start Up and Training
- May 2022 Open to the Public

c. Wildwood Park

i. Phase I Improvements

- Access and Parking
 - Gravel Parking Lot
 - Water Access/Beach Area (Sandy Beach)
 - Three (3) Existing Building (170’x80’)
- Nature Trail
 - River Park North (RPN) Primitive Trail Extension (1.3 miles) – construction completed August 2020
 - Primitive Trail around Lake (1.5 miles) – estimated completion February/March 2021
 - Potential location for an observation tower/tree house
 - Sections of bridge/boardwalk/canopy walk/trail to connect the primitive trail (Phase 2)
 - Proposed trail connection under Greenville Boulevard
 - Boardwalk to Connect RPN to Wildwood Park (Phase 2)
- Camping Platforms
 - Three (3) camping platforms
- Floating Dock

ii. Project Timeline

- January 2020 Complete Purchase of West Side Acreage
- February 2021 Obtain remaining permits and hold ground breaking for Phase I Improvements
- June 2021 Complete Phase I Improvements

- Fall 2021 Complete Design of Phase 2 Improvements
- Winter 2021 Award Phase 2 Construction Contract

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSINERS

- A. Gordon Darragh – Thanked staff for creativity and getting many program sup and going with challenging times of 2020. Thanks to Dean and all staff for their hard work and making Greenville a destination place.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – Absolutely blown away with all of the phenomenal things that are going on with Rec and Parks. Thanks to all the staff.
- C. Byron Aynes – Appreciate all of the hard work with giving Greenville all recreation opportunities. Personally appreciate all the efforts to make it a safe place to enjoy.
- D. Mike Saad – Thanks to all the staff and Director Fenton for the work you are doing, especially with Covid. Big thanks for offering Wildwood to the citizens here. Excited with the new opportunities it affords us all.
- E. Carrie Watson – Thank you so much for the update. A lot of curious people asking about Wildwood Park. Looking forward to sharing the details I heard tonight. Our family loves the parks. Appreciate all of the hard work and studying releases and new guidelines.
- F. Council Member Monica Daniels – Thank you so much for your hard work. Great to see the growth in Greenville. Your hard work is showing and making Greenville look good.
- G. Nikki Caswell – We’ve become one of the places everyone is moving to. Recreation and Parks is what makes a community and a city. Keep up the good work and thanks for your vision and making it happen.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:59PM.

Motion: Gordon Darragh

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

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
Commissioner Carrie Watson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Davenport
 Administrative Assistant
 Recreation and Parks Department