



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Nikki Caswell, Chair
- Gordon Darragh, Vice-Chair
- Darin White
- Byron Aynes
- Derrick Clark
- Jaimie Yahnker
- Mike Saad
- Kristian Williams

STAFF:

- Don Octigan
- Mark Nottingham
- Council Member Monica Daniels
- Laura J. Davenport
- Heather White
- Dean Foy

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 May 12, 2021 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Vote: 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 Nikki Caswell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <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 April 14, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Gordon Darragh

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Vote: 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 Nikki Caswell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Mike Saad | <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. Pleased to announce Heather White has been offered and accepted the Recreation and Parks Superintendent position. Heather has been in the Outreach Coordinator position since the fall of 2019 and has also played a significant role in the department's response during the pandemic. This role will continue in the Superintendent position as programs continue to evolve and operations expand. The promotion was effective Saturday, 05.08.2021.
- B. As part of the overall department organization, the Outreach Coordinator position will be renamed to Assistant Recreation and Parks Superintendent. Heather White and Don Octigan are working with Human Resources staff to get this position posted in the next week or two. This position will also be an internal recruitment and only open for City of Greenville employees.
- C. In addition to the Assistant Recreation and Parks Superintendent position, Dean Foy's title will also be Recreation and Parks Superintendent effective 06.01.2021. In addition to the title change, Dean will oversee the Greenville Aquatics & Fitness Center operations, which Don Octigan previously oversaw as Assistant Director.
- D. Greenville will host the Little League Softball World Series in August. More details about the tournament will be shared in June and July, thanks to staff thus far for their efforts. Both the Recreation Division and Parks Division have been busy with duties related to the tournament. Heather White is working with other Recreation Division staff and closely with Little League International on recruiting volunteers for the tournament. Our goal is to provide a quality experience for those attending the tournament and it will start with a great plan for volunteers. Heather White will be able to share more details in the coming months. Dean Foy and the Parks Division have been completing various improvements including painting of the Elm Street Center and other areas of the park; new right field bleachers will be installed later in May or early June. In July, staff hopes to share with the Commission the tournament schedule and other details. If you have questions, please let staff know.
- E. Don Octigan's last comment for the night was for Commissioner Yahnker. Tonight is Commissioner Yahnker's last meeting as a Recreation and Parks Commissioner. His first commission meeting was in July 2014 and he's only missed four meetings. Commissioner Yahnker has been a great supporter of Recreation and Parks programs and services, but the Specialized Recreation staff hold a special place in their hearts. Don Octigan stated he has had numerous conversations with Jaimie about various programs and especially programs related to the Support Team for Active Recreation non-profit, which Commissioner Yahnker serves as the president. Commissioner Yahnker is a great supporter and truly understands the importance of Recreation and Parks within the Greenville Community. This may be his last meeting, but staff hopes Commissioner Yahnker will continue to support the department and provide feedback on programs. He will certainly be missed.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Heather White, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
 - 1. Friday, 05.14.2021, staff will hold a Service Awards Luncheon to recognize 12 Greenville Recreation and Parks employees who have served our community faithfully. The service awards presented will range from 5 to 25 years of service. Typically, these awards would be presented in a bi-annual staff meeting, but were unable to have this meeting due to COVID. We wanted to personalize the recognition by holding a quarterly luncheon where staff will present employees their plaques.
 - 2. Greenville Recreation and Parks Department have a partnership with Riverside Recreation, to provide kayak, paddle boats, and SUP board rentals to the community at Town Common. As Riverside recreation kicked off their 2021 spring season, GRPD worked with them to beautify the grounds by the kayak launch with the addition of picnic tables, planter benches and flowers to make for an inviting space to recreate and

relax. The partnership that Riverside Recreation provides helps activate the river access at Town Common which is a City Council goal for our department.

3. Sundays Unplugged - Four acoustic music performances from 6:30 to 8:30 PM each Sunday in June (6, 13, 20, 27). The first two shows will be at Jaycee Park, followed by H. Boyd Lee Park and Greenfield Terrace. These are free and registration is required to keep up with attendance numbers. Registration is live in RecTrac.
4. July and August - Sunday in the Park - Will host 8 performances beginning 07.11.2021 running through 08.29.2021.
5. Movie in the Park is returning to the Town Common. On 05.21.2021 – Jumanji - The Next Level and 06.25.2021 - Onward. These are free and registration is required to keep up with attendance numbers. Registration is live in RecTrac.
6. Fourth of July Discussion – Plans for the July 4th Celebration include: 12-15 food trucks, a 2 hour band performance, a beer garden hosted by a non-profit, and a fireworks display.

B. Dean Foy, Recreation and Parks Superintendent

1. Congratulated Heather White for her promotion and look forward to having her as a counterpart.
2. Extreme Park – Continue with repairs, a long process, but able to keep the park open. Lots of support from Extreme Park users.
3. Landscaping at Facilities – Town Common is completed with landscaping. Ready for Sunday in the Park. Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center is now being landscaped.
4. Eppes Recreation Center Renovations – Contract for renovation is at City Hall for signatures. Have a construction meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM. Projected start date is the end of May, should be complete by end of October or early November.

C. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner, CIP Projects

1. Wildwood Park
 - a. PARTF Grant submitted on 04.30.2021 - \$481,350 being requested.
 - b. Phase One Construction Update – Clearing and rough grading began week of 05.03.2021; electrical install begins in May.
 - c. Water depths of the east side lake gathered on 05.04.2021. Will be used to guide future amenities/activities.
 - d. Sound Rivers – Water quality report being conducted weekly and will be posted for public viewing; available late May through August/early September.
 - e. Development Plan – Public Survey – 900 responses representing 1,600 total individuals. Survey ended on 05.07.2021. Draft plan options will be presented at a Town Common event in June. Plan to be presented to City Council for adoption in August.
 - f. Design of Phase Two Improvements – 30% documents will be submitted on 6.18.2021 and will include initial probable cost estimates.

Commissioner Darragh asked if the observation tower would have lighting. Mr. Nottingham confirmed that staff intend to have lighting incorporated into the design of the tower. Commissioner Saad inquired about the amenities that would be constructed in phase 1. Mr. Nottingham informed the Commission that phase 1 improvements include the parking lot, sidewalks, floating dock with kayak launch, sand beach, a natural surface trail, and a camping platform.

2. Community Pool Update

- a. Bids advertised on Monday, 04.19.2021; public bid opening is on Thursday, 05.13.2021 at 2:00PM.
- b. Contract will go to City Council on 05.24.2021.
- c. Finalize contract/hold ground breaking in June. Construction time frame is one year.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee Present Slate of Officers for Rec/Parks Commission

Commissioner members who volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee included Byron Aynes (chaired), Darin White, and Gordon Darragh. The Nomination Committee nominated Gordon Darragh for Chair.

- Motion: Mike Saad
- Second: Byron Aynes
- Vote: Commissioner Gordon Darragh Yay Nay
- Commissioner Byron Aynes Yay Nay
- Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker Yay Nay
- Commissioner Nikki Caswell Yay Nay
- Commissioner Mike Saad Yay Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

The Nomination Committee nominated Commissioner Darin White for Vice-Chair.

- Motion: Gordon Darragh
- Second: Byron Aynes
- Vote: Commissioner Gordon Darragh Yay Nay
- Commissioner Byron Aynes Yay Nay
- Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker Yay Nay
- Commissioner Nikki Caswell Yay Nay
- Commissioner Mike Saad Yay Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Gordon Darragh – Thanked Jaimie for his 6 years on the Commission. Missing only four meetings is very impressive. Thank Nikki for her three years as chair. Thanks to staff for smooth transition to Don and all of the projects on everyone’s plate. Look forward to meeting with each you.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – Six years went by quick; not going anywhere. Make sure Director has cell phone number. Sure Wildwood Park has many natural obstacles and would be happy to give them a try. Recreation has always been near and dear to my heart. Carry on and I have enjoyed it.
- C. Byron Aynes – Congrats to Heather on new role. Congrats to Jaimie, a great friend and a better person; we’ll be in touch.
- D. Mike Saad – Congrats to Don and Heather on new positions. Appreciate Nikki for taking the helm the last several years. Jaimie, going to be odd to not see your smiling face and your giggles. Please stay in touch. We have a wonderful staff.
- E. Nikki Caswell - Jaimie has been on the Commission since I started. Have learned so much from each of you over the last three years as Chair. Understand more about projects and bidding and the time it takes for a project. Thanks for all of the work you do behind the scenes. Congratulations to Heather and look forward to see you working together. Excited about the summer programs with Sunday in the Park and the 4th of July.
- F. Councilmember Daniels – Thanked Commissioner Yahnker for his service and great to hear what has been shared. Congrats to Heather. Thank you to everyone for what you are doing, so excited about everything that is going.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 PM.

- Motion: Gordon Darragh
- Second: Jaimie Yahnker
- Vote: Commissioner Gordon Darragh Yay Nay
- Commissioner Byron Aynes Yay Nay
- Commissioner Jaimie Yahnker Yay Nay

Commissioner Nikki Caswell

Yay

Nay

Commissioner Mike Saad

Yay

Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport

Administrative Assistant

Recreation and Parks Department