



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF:

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

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 June 9, 2021 agenda as presented.

Motion: Nikki Caswell

Second: Byron Aynes

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 Darin White | <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 |
| Commissioner Derrick Clark | <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 May 12, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion: Nikki Caswell

Second: Darin White

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 Darin White | <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 |
| Commissioner Derrick Clark | <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. Agenda modifications – Don, Dean, Heather, and Mark met last week to discuss the outline of the Commission Agenda and made a few minor changes. Staff has listed all of the Rec/Park employees who are attending the meeting in the left hand column and changed the staff report layouts. Staff are working on many projects right now and sometimes two staff may have to present on the same project, which is the case tonight. Superintendent Heather White and Parks Planner Mark Nottingham will be providing an update on Wildwood Park as they both are working on major components of the project. As we look to future Commission meetings, the plan is to get additional staff involved so you can hear all of the great things happening in their department.
- B. In the 06.07.2021 City Council meeting, City Council members approved the resolution that will allow for in person meetings for City Council and other City of Greenville Boards and Commissions beginning 08.01.2021. Rec/Parks staff will work with the Public Information Office in the next two months to determine how that will impact future Commission meetings. The July meeting will take place via ZOOM, but we hope to see everyone in person for the September meeting. We'll have a complete update next month.
- C. A few important dates to share:
1. Thomas Foreman Park, 400 Nash Street, will host the Jackie Robinson Baseball League Opening Day on Sunday, 06.13.2021. This opening ceremony, which celebrates the 30th year of the league, will begin at 3:00pm. The league has also partnered with various community organizations to help celebrate the 30th anniversary prior to the opening day ceremony. Vidant Health, West Greenville Health Council, Pitt Community College and other league partners plan to offer COVID vaccinations, health screenings, healthy food, employment information and health related education. These activities are open to the community and will take place inside Eppes Recreation Center. All pre-opening ceremony activities will begin at 2:00pm and are free to the public. We hope you will be able to join us and the Jackie Robinson Baseball League families this Sunday for the start of their 30th season.
 2. On Wednesday, 06.23.2021 we will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at Thomas Foreman Park to highlight the Eppes Recreation Center Renovations, which actually began last week and the construction of the new Community Pool, which you will hear about during Mr. Nottingham's report. Both of these projects will be great additions to the park and will have a positive impact on our community for years to come. The event will take place at 11:30am on 06.23.2021 and we invite all Commission Members to join us if you can. Each of you will receive an invitation by the end of this week.
- D. Lastly, the Director would like to meet one on one with each Commissioner in the next few weeks. Laura Davenport will be in contact with you regarding this meeting. The goal is to speak with each of you and your vision of various recreation and parks initiatives and simply have a discussion about our department. I'm doing this with all of the full-time employees as well. This will give them a chance to provide their perspective of our department, goals they would like the department to achieve and share any goals or initiatives they would like to accomplish for their own personal career. As we continue to move this Department forward, I believe it is very important to gain their feedback which will help the Leadership Team set goals for the future.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Heather White, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
1. The Specialized Recreation Division was awarded funds from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation 2021 Direct Effect Quality of Life Grants program. This organization focuses on improving quality of life for individuals and families impacted by paralysis. A grant in the amount of \$14,525 will be used to purchase four all-terrain wheelchairs to enhance the programming for individuals in need. These wheelchairs will be used

for both the Exceptional Community Baseball and Football Leagues, as well as field trips during summer camps. These wheelchairs will be a great addition to the Specialized Recreation Division. They can also be used for programs at Wildwood Park.

B. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner, CIP Projects

1. Community Pool Update

- a. Bids were received on 05.13.2021 and all were within budget.
- b. City Council awarded the contract to Fariior & Sons at their 05.02.2021 meeting in the amount of \$3,392,000.
- c. The project includes a 6-lane lap pool with a 16' tall water slide.
- d. A ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for 06.23.2021 at 11:30am.
- e. Construction will take 333 days.
- f. The pool will open in May of 2022.

2. Wildwood Park Update

a. Project Timeline

- i. City acquired east side parcels in December 2019 and west side parcels in February 2021. The purchase of Wildwood Park was possible through a generous donation by Grady White Boats.
- ii. February 2020 – City contracted with Rivers & Associates to design and permit Phase I improvements.
- iii. January 2021 – The City contracted with Designco Construction to begin Phase I improvements; including beach access, kayak launch, 1.5 miles of primitive trails and parking.
- iv. February 2021 – City contracted with Kimley-Horn & Associates to begin design and permitting of Phase II improvements.
- v. March 2021 – McGill & Associates began work on Park Development Plan/Groundbreaking of Phase I improvements.

b. Park Development Plan Process

- i. Process to draft Development Plan included:
 - Community Engagement – Public Survey (March – May) with 900 responses received representing 1,600 individuals.
 - Public Meeting held on 03.11.2021 at the Town Common.
 - Five focus group meetings were held.
 - City Staff Input.
 - Public Input on Development Plan Draft.

c. Community Engagement – Top Amenities based on Public Feedback

- i. Aqua Park
- ii. Bicycle Trails
- iii. Adventure Course
- iv. Open Space
- v. Natural Areas
- vi. Walking/Running Trails
- vii. Hiking
- viii. Playground
- ix. Kayaking
- x. Paddle Boarding
- xi. Picnic Shelter
- xii. Outdoor Swimming

d. Focus Groups Included

- i. Economic Development
- ii. Greenways/Trail Users
- iii. Watersports

- iv. Action Sports
- v. Recreation and Parks Commission
- e. Summary of Focus Group Feedback
 - i. Entertainment Options
 - ii. Festivals & Community Events
 - iii. Unique Amenities
 - iv. Sports Tourism
 - v. Outdoor Education
 - vi. Restroom Facilities
 - vii. Bird Watching
 - viii. Allow for Greenspace
 - ix. Concession Area
 - x. Variety of Trails
 - xi. Programming
 - xii. Water Safety/Inspection
 - xiii. Partnerships
 - xiv. Outreach Opportunities
- f. After compiling all the data, McGill Associates developed the first draft of the Park Development plan, which will now be reviewed by the public to gain additional feedback.
- g. Shared plan maps for Wildwood Park, Wildwood Park West Lake, and Wildwood Park East Lake.
- h. Upcoming Target Dates
 - i. June 17, 2021 Public Input Session for Park Development Plan draft being held at the Town Common during Concert on the Common event.
 - ii. June 21, 2021 30% design documents and probable cost estimates due for Phase II.
 - iii. July 2021 City staff work with McGill Associates to finalize Park Development plan.
 - iv. August-September 2021 Commission recommendation and City Council consideration of Adopting Final Park Development Plan.

3. Activating Wildwood Park through Programs and Events

- a. Wildwood Park Program Plan
 - i. Mark Tysinger and his team at River Park North are leading the efforts in identifying programs that will take place at Wildwood Park this fall. These programs will be nature based and offerings will increase once the first development phase and a needs assessment is completed. While some programs will be ones that have been successful at River Park North, there's a need for additional sessions; a majority of the programs in the upcoming year will be unique to Wildwood Park.
 - ii. Programs that are being planned for this fall after Phase 1 of development is complete include: BioBlitz, Homeschool Programming, Stargazing, Fishing Demos, Camping Programs, and Guided Kayak Tours. Staff will continue to plan events with promotion beginning in August 2021.
- b. Wildwood Park Event Plan
 - i. The City of Greenville is excited about the expansion of special events across the city in FY22. New events are being proposed at Wildwood Park that will showcase the natural beauty of our trails, lake, and the Tar River and create a stronger sense of family, community, and unity. Approximately 35+ new events have been identified to date to be held at Wildwood Park and will be implemented in the next 12-18 months. These efforts will be

afforded by continuing to build relationships with community partners and seeking local sponsorships and fundraising opportunities.

- ii. A few Wildwood Park events include: Roast at the River, Wellness Wednesdays, Homegrown Concert Series, National Kids to Parks Day, BBQ, Blues & Brews, Paddlefest, and Flick-n-Float.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendment to Alcohol Policy to Add Wildwood Park

As mentioned in the Wildwood Park update, staff are working on various plans and events to be held at Wildwood Park. These events will be similar in nature to events held at the Town Common. In 2019, the City of Greenville amended the Policy and Procedures for the Conditional Service, Sale, Possession, and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages within the Greenville Recreation and Parks facilities, which included the Town Common. Currently, the policy governs the Conditional Service, Sale, Possession, and Consumption of alcoholic beverages with the following City of Greenville Recreation and Parks facilities: The city-owned building at the Perkins Complex, the Walter L. Stasavich Science and Nature Center at River Park North, the C.M. Eppes Recreation Center, and the Town Common.

In the August City Council meeting, staff will ask Council to approve the resolution which will amend the current policy to include Wildwood Park. If approved, the same policy and procedures for hosting an event at the Town Common will be applied to future events at Wildwood Park. Currently, the sale of alcohol during an event at the Town Common can only occur if an event is co-sponsored by a non-profit 501c3 organization and all state permits are obtained.

Tonight, staff is requesting the Commission to recommend City Council approve the amendment to the current City of Greenville Recreation and Parks Alcohol Policy to include Wildwood Park.

Recommend City Council approve the amendment to the current City of Greenville Recreation and Parks Alcohol Policy to include Wildwood Park.

Motion:	Mike Saad		
Second:	Nikki Caswell		
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 Darin White	<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
	Commissioner Derrick Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Nikki Caswell – Excited to see plans for Wildwood Park. It will bring more festivals and bring more people. Thanks for all of your hard work.
- B. Mike Saad – The plans are very impressive with Wildwood Park. Very exciting times. Heather, excited to see the events going on at the park. Don, thanks for your leadership and guidance.
- C. Byron Aynes – Appreciate all of the hard work of the development of the park. Look forward to meeting.
- D. Darin White – Look forward to continue building first class parks. Look forward to meeting in person.
- E. Derrick Clark – Glad to be back after baseball season. Look forward to the completion of projects and can't wait to see them. Good luck with it all.

- F. Councilmember Daniels – Thank everyone for their hard work. Look forward to the new things that are coming. Thanks for the staff who attended the Heart of the City. Happy Father’s Day.
- G. Gordon Darragh – Great job with getting things accomplished so quickly at Wildwood Park.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:11PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Nikki Caswell

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 Darin White	<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
Commissioner Derrick Clark	<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