



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Wednesday, September 8, 2021 @ 5:30 PM  
 ZOOM Meeting

This meeting was held electronically via ZOOM.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh, Chair   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Saad        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montez Bishop    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah Sheppard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derrick Clark           |  |

**STAFF:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Nottingham    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather White      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Member Monica Daniels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brent Harpe        |  |

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:**

None.

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

The meeting opened at 5:41 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 September 8, 2021 agenda as presented.

Motion: Darin White

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 Derrick Clark        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Montez Bishop        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Deborah Sheppard     | <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 July 14, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion: Darin White

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 Derrick Clark        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Montez Bishop        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay | <input type="checkbox"/> Nay |
| Commissioner Deborah Sheppard     | <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. Welcomed new Commissioners Deborah Sheppard and Montez Bishop who were appointed in August. Both have met with the Director and they are both involved in the Greenville Community.
- B. Commission Meetings Update  
We will continue to meet virtually until further notice due to the increase of Covid-19 cases within the community. These meetings will not be televised on GTV9 in the future, but will be streamed on the City of Greenville's YouTube channel when virtual. Once the Commission is able to meet in person the meeting location will be rotated around to various Recreation and Parks facilities instead of City Hall. This will give Commissioners a chance to visit the different facilities in the park system and experience some of the programming taking place.
- C. Parks Planner Mark Nottingham will provide an update on Wildwood Park. Mark has been working non-stop on Phase I improvements for the park, as well as finalizing the Park Development Plan which will be presented tonight. With the improvements almost complete, Recreation and Parks Superintendent Heather White has been leading the efforts to plan ribbon cutting ceremony and a separate community event to officially open the park the public. She will have more details about the opening festivities in her presentation. You will receive an official invitation in the coming weeks.
- D. In August the City hosted the Little League Softball World Series at Elm Street Park. The City welcomed 10 teams and their families from across the country to compete for the championship. Although the tournament had some modifications due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was a great event that took many to make it happen. Various City of Greenville staff to volunteers through the community, the effort was there to make this a great tournament. I could not be more proud of the efforts of GRPD employees who helped make the tournament happen as well. We look forward to hosting this tournament again next August.
- F. Staff continue to work on various initiatives within our department. Some of the initiatives includes projects that you'll hear about tonight and others you will hear about in future meetings. Other initiatives include new community outreach programs, special events, athletic programming, various art programming and of course routine maintenance taking place at all parks and facilities. This will be a busy fall for our staff and I'm looking forward to seeing what they all accomplish. In the next couple of Commission meetings, these initiatives will be highlighted, along with the staff responsible for the initiative. We have a great Recreation and Parks team and we look forward to sharing with you the services provided for the citizens of Greenville. If you ever have a question about a service organized by our department staff or one of the many projects being managed, please let me know.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Heather White, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
  - 1. The Field of Honor will be installed at the Town Common on 9/9 with an alternate rain date of 9/10. Opening Ceremonies will be held at 4:30PM on 9/10 and the Field of Honor will remain in place through 11/13. If interested in purchasing a flag, purchases can be made at [www.greenvillefieldflag.com](http://www.greenvillefieldflag.com).
    - a. With the opening of the Field of Honor this week, the City of Greenville will also be remembering the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 at the Town Common. To signify that

“We Remember,” a 5'x8' American flag will be displayed vertically on the cross beams of the pedestrian bridge. The bridge lights will be red, white, and blue Thursday thru Sunday of this week.

- b. Two flags will be placed on the right side of the greenway as you are walking toward the bridge from Town Common and these flags will honor the first responders and all other lives lost on 9/11 in 2001.
  2. In addition, Mayor Connelly will place a wreath in between the two flags honoring the lives lost. The wreath ceremony will take place Friday morning and will be documented by Kelvin Thomas with the City's Public Information Office. This video will be shared on social media platforms on Saturday morning remembering those lost on 9/11, 20 years ago.
  3. The Recreation and Parks Department is excited to share Wildwood Park Ribbon Cutting with you. You are invited to attend the Wildwood Park Ribbon Cutting on Friday, 10/15 late in the afternoon. An invitation will follow with all details in the next few weeks.
  4. Specialized Recreation Presentation, Recreation Supervisor Brent Harpe and Recreation Assistant Cam McFarland Provided a presentation of Specialized Recreation programs.
- B. Dean Foy, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
1. Facility Manager, Steve Warner is retiring at the end of this month with 12 years in this position. Have transition plan in place to ensure continuity of services.
- C. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner
1. Community Pool – Provided update.
  2. Wildwood Park – Shared most recent aerial of amenities.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation of Wildwood Park Development Plan
1. City acquired east side parcels in December 2019 and west side parcels in February 2021. The purchase of Wildwood Park was made possible through a generous donation by Grady White Boats.
  2. March 2021 – McGill Associates began work on Park Development Plan.
  3. Process to draft Development Plan included:
    - a. Community Engagement (Public Survey – March – May 2021; 900 responses received representing 1,600 individuals; Public Meetings held on 3/11 and 6/17 at the Town Common; and 5 Focus Group meetings were held).
    - b. City Staff Input
    - c. Development Plan Draft Commission for recommendation and then to City Council in October.
  4. Top Amenities based on Public Feedback – open space, natural areas, walking/running trails, adventure course, playground, canoeing/kayaking, paddle boarding, picnic shelter, outdoor swimming, and bicycle trails.
  5. Focus Groups included Economic Development, Greenways/Trail Users, Watersports, Action Sports, and Recreation and Parks Commission.
  6. Shared images of the Development Plan.
  7. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Saad shared concerns of boat ramp and wake issues. Mr. Nottingham stated it would be a no wake zone with buoys. Commissioner Saad stated he was glad there would be access. Commissioner Sheppard asked if life jackets would be available. Mr. Nottingham stated there would be a contract with a rental group who would provide life jackets for kayaking. Commissioner White stated he would like to see jazz concerts and hoped a concert venue would be more intimate and nestled in the trees, different from the Town Common. He also state we need something to entertain Greenville residents so they do not go out of town for concerts.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the Wildwood Park Development Plan by City Council.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Derrick Clark

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 Derrick Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
	Commissioner Montez Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
	Commissioner Deborah Sheppard	<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.

#### X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Byron Aynes – Welcome new Commissioners and look forward to meeting them soon. Enjoyed the presentation of NC basketball team representing in nationals. Look forward to hearing more about it. Great to see City on national spotlight with LLSWS – thanks for all of the hard work. Look forward to WWP and activating the river.
- B. Darin White – Welcome new Commissioners to the board. Thanks to Don and staff for having a vision for the City. Need to think outside the box.
- C. Derrick Clark – Welcomed new Commissioners. Thanks for the hard work you are doing. Keep up the good work and progress. Proud of basketball team and like to see them win.
- D. Montez Bishop – Thank you for the warm welcome. Heard a lot of great things that made me smile during the presentations. Mentoring is the passion and loved the things happening with the special needs population. Thank you for having me.
- E. Deborah Sheppard – Thank you for having me and MR. Bishop on the Commission. Looking forward to learning more about the Commission and City.
- F. Gordon Darragh – Thanks Brett and Cam on the great job with Specialized Recreation and presentation. Open about Wildwood Park and all that’s happening, doing a super job. Welcome to the new Commissioners. Hope to meet in the near future.
- G. Mike Saad – Thank you for the hard work and great plans for Wildwood Park. Hope all is well.

#### XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Derrick Clark

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 Derrick Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
	Commissioner Montez Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yay	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay
	Commissioner Deborah Sheppard	<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.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department