



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
River Park North

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah Sheppard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derrick Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Najiyah Lewis |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevon Gainer | |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Vestal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Nottingham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather White | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Tysinger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Member Monica Daniels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Thompson | |

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:37 PM and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the April 13, 2022 agenda as presented.

Motion: Derrick Clark

Second: Montez Bishop

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the March 9, 2022 minutes as presented.

Motion: Montez Bishop

Second: Derrick Clark

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Greenville Little Leagues Opening Ceremonies were held this past Friday at Elm Street Park. We continue this partnership with this organization to provide Little League Baseball in Greenville. Jackie Robinson Baseball League Opening Ceremonies are in June.
- B. Will receive an update from Mark on the Outdoor Aquatic Center.
- C. A Ribbon Cutting for Eppes Recreation Center and the Greenville Outdoor Aquatic Center is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 05.26.2022 at 4:00PM.
- D. The PARTF Grant was approved by City Council on Monday night.
- E. A Wildwood Park – Giving Guide has been completed and brochures will be in on Monday. This will be a huge resource for the City. Once copies are received, staff will provide a

copy for each Commissioner. Initially printed 250 copies and staff will make updates as changes are made. These Giving Guides will be shared at presentations given by staff to select organizations, businesses, corporations, civic groups and will also be working with the Chamber of Commerce to provide more presentations. This guide will eventually be online.

- F. Staff are working hard on different initiatives, Spring into Wildwood, Egg Rush, and support of PirateFest. A lot of behind the scenes work go into these events. Egg-stravaganza this weekend at Greenfield Terrace. Very proud of staff, going from 0 – 100mph since February. These events help support the community.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Chasity McCurdy, Assistant Recreation and Parks Superintendent

1. Little League Softball World Series – Save the Date for August 9-15, 2022. Volunteer opportunity information will be available soon. Will have Opening Ceremonies at the Town Common on Monday, August 8 at 6:30PM; there are volunteer opportunities this night.
2. Adult Athletics Input Meeting also being held tonight at Sawyer’s Fun Park from 6:30PM – 8:00PM to gain input from the community on Adult Athletic programming.
3. Spring Eggstravaganza is being held on Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 10:00AM – 2:00PM at Greenfield Terrace Park/Barnes Ebron Taft Community Building. This event will provide games, an egg hunt, medical screenings, employment support, school resources and much more.
4. NC Special Olympics – Pitt Co Special Olympics basketball team hit their fundraising goal, headed to Orlando June 55-12, 2022. Raised \$25,133 with the 5 on 5 basketball team.

B. Ben Thompson, Parks Program Assistant, River Park North

Recreation Manager Mark Tysinger introduced Parks Program Assistant Ben Thompson. Ben provided information and shared photos regarding:

1. Special Events – Winterfest, Egg Rush at Wildwood Park (WWP) with a huge crowd, and recently partnered with Cystic Fibrosis for a 5k.
2. Programs – Homeschool Outdoor Series (Knot Tying and Fire Safety), Geocaching Program, Dreams Program with activities, and Spring Migrators Birding Program.
3. Upcoming Programs – Swamp Stomp (RPN/WWP), Bug Hunt (WWP), Kayak Program, Gardening Program, Forts & Hideouts, and National Trails Day.
4. Ongoing Projects – Virtual Bio Blitz (smartphone program), and encourage camping at WWP.
5. Trail Camera Photos – Shared photos of a whitetail deer, gray squirrel, possum, raccoons, fox squirrels, cottontail rabbit, wild turkeys, mink, and a bobcat.
6. Riverside Recreation will provide kayak rentals at the Town Common and WWP.

C. Dennis Vestal, Recreation and Parks Superintendent

1. Town Common – PirateFest this past weekend; first since 2019. Staff helped with preparing the Town Common for the event, as well as staff provided support during the event. Feedback from debriefing was good and smoothest event thus far.
2. Greenville Little Leagues – Staff are maintaining areas outside of the field for Opening Ceremonies.
3. Athletic Field Support – Year round support for all fields, kickball, softball, Greenie League Baseball, and Greenville Little Leagues.
4. Graffiti Removal – Picnic table was vandalized with more graffiti after it was cleaned. Vandalism is addressed as it is found.
5. Greenway Repairs – Completed bridge repair.
6. Wildwood Park – Staff installed drainage.
7. GAFC

- a. Pickleball programs are full.
 - b. Senior Health Fair – First fair since Covid-19.
 - c. Lifeguard in Training – Still recruiting for lifeguards. Lifeguard in Training program.
- D. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner
- 1. Greenville Outdoor Aquatic Center – Play features in the recreation pool area (zero depth entry) for the small kids (pictures), pool is still on schedule, looking at being complete in the middle of May.
 - 2. Eppes Recreation Center – Exterior improvements pictures, new construction has a large lobby.
 - 3. WWP – Middle shelter was removed in preparation for the Welcome Center and playground. Re-advertised bids for boardwalks and bridges. Confident will receive bids by May 19, 2022. Mountain Bike Trails rebid and are due on May 20, 2022.
 - 4. Hope to move forward with a Comprehensive Masterplan. The last Masterplan was completed in 2008. The department has seen many changes since 2008. This project will have a Steering Committee and a lot of public meetings for public input. Masterplan could take as long as 9 months. Looking to award the contract in June.
 - 5. Looking at land around the Frog Level area for a new fire station and possibly a playground. Eastside Park continues to be presented as a CIP project, but is not given funding. Commissioner Clark recommended a park around the Albemarle area for fitness groups.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Nomination Committee for Recreation and Parks Commission
 The Commission needs three volunteers to serve on the Nomination Committee. These three will nominate individuals for Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioners Mike Saad, Montez Bishop, and Kevon Gainer volunteered to serve on the Nomination Committee. A motion was made to nominate Mike Saad, Montez Bishop, and Kevon Gainer to the Nomination Committee.
 Motion: Byron Aynes
 Second: Derrick Clark
 Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- B. Naming Request for Guy Smith Stadium Baseball Field
 Staff received a community request to name the baseball field at Guy Smith Stadium after legendary Rose High Baseball Coach Ronald “RV” Vincent. The request is for the field to be named “Ronald ‘RV’ Vincent Field.”
- 1. Ronald Vincent Background
 - a. Graduated from JH Rose High School in 1965.
 - b. Graduated from East Carolina University in 1969.
 - c. Began his teaching and coaching career in 1969.
 - d. Became the baseball coach at JH Rose in 1973.
 - e. While at JH Rose, teams under his leadership have won 7 State Championships, most recent in 2021.
 - 2. Ronald Vincent Recreation Highlights
 - a. Worked with Greenville Recreation and Parks in 1960’s while at East Carolina University.
 - b. Has served on the Babe Ruth Board of Directors since early 1970’s and is currently the League Commissioner.
 - c. During this time, Greenville Babe Ruth has won numerous state championships, regional championships and participated in many World Series.
 - d. Works with GRPD Youth Athletics staff to organize and lead various baseball camps.
 - e. Worked with thousands of Greenville youth, with several baseball players at the college level and numerous players drafted by Major League Baseball.

3. Fun Facts about Coach Vincent:
 - a. Has thrown over 1,500,000 batting practice pitches at Guy Smith Stadium.
 - b. Hit over 1,000,000 ground balls at Guy Smith Stadium.
 - c. Coached or played in over 10,000 games at Guy Smith Stadium.

A motion was made to approve the proposed naming request and recommend City Council approve the Naming Request for the baseball field at Guy Smith Stadium to be named Ronald "RV" Vincent Field.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Najiyah Lewis

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Deborah J. Sheppard – Glad to be meeting in person, presentations were great and look forward to the event on Saturday.
- B. Darin White – Glad to see staffs vision and things happening. Thanks for working hard.
- C. Montes Bishop – Good to see everyone in person and hear everything that is happening.
- D. Najiyah Lewis – Glad to see all the parks looking great. Commend everyone.
- E. Derrick Clark – Great job at what you are doing.
- F. Kevon Gainer – Proud to be on the board and learn as I grow.
- G. Mike Saad – Thanks for the presentations, they are always eye-opening. Naming the field after RV is an awesome idea.
- H. Byron Aynes – Appreciate the presentations made tonight. Was at the event on Saturday and great to see more activation.

d. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM.

Motion: Montez Bishop

Second: Deborah Sheppard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department