



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 5:30 PM  
Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center

**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 type="checkbox"/> Montez Bishop        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes             | <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Sheppard     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derrick Clark           | <input 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"/> Brent Harpe     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Member Monica Daniels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Barrow         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chasity McCurdy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brent Harpe        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trey Joyner, Intern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunter Mills    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cam McFarland      |   |   |

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:**

None.

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

The meeting opened at 5:31PM and the following items were addressed:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Interns from City Manager Office include Trey Joyner, Aaron Long, Chris Kelly, and Bradley Downs.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the May 11, 2022 agenda as presented.

Motion: Darin White  
Second: Kevon Gainer

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Motion: Darin White  
Second: Derrick Clark

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

A. Pitt County Wildcats – Athletes were recognized and provided comments. The Pitt County Wildcats are traveling to Orlando, FL for the USA Games to represent Pitt County Special Olympics and the state of North Carolina in 5-on-5 basketball.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**

- A. Team meeting today, first time in two years. We want to recognize staff/participants in the future.
- B. Parks & Facilities of Pitt County App Launch on Friday, 05.13.2022 at 11:00AM at the Alice Keene District Park Pavilion on County Home Road, Greenville. Before Covid began, students were working on this app. Citizens can bring up the app from their smart phone. Staff will continue to work on this project as locations are added.
- C. Jackie Robinson Baseball League Opening Ceremonies on Sunday, 06.12.2022 at 3:00PM at Thomas Foreman Park at 400 Nash Street, Greenville.
- D. Sunshades provided through FIP for the Jackie Robinson Baseball League at Thomas Foreman Park. Will also be adding another batting cage at the park.

## **VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Heather White, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
  - 1. Community Outreach and Special Event Efforts
    - a. 05.07.2022 – HeART of the City Vol. 2 – Recreation and Parks staff provided support for this free event in the community. The event included music, face painting, and other art activities. Staff hosted a department and shared information to event goers about upcoming programs and events.
    - b. 05.21.2022 – Kids to Parks Day at Wildwood Park – Children and families are invited to join us at Wildwood Park beginning at 9:00AM for a nature scavenger hunt. The first 100 kids to complete the challenge will receive a Kids to Parks Day t-shirt. This is a free event, but registration is required.
    - c. 05.22.2022 – Paint in the Park – In a relaxed, creative and natural setting at the Town Common, join us from 1:00 – 3:00PM as artists, rather novice or experienced, work on their masterpiece in the Park.
    - d. 05.30.2022 – Memorial Day Celebration – Recreation and Parks staff are working with the Veteran's Council to plan a commemoration for Memorial Day. This year's annual remembrance will be held at the Town Common.
    - e. 06.03.2022 – Favorite Guy Dance – Grab your "favorite guy" and join us on the dance floor for our first dance under the event shelter at Wildwood Park from 6:00 – 8:30PM. Whether this guy is your dad, uncle, family friend, we want to celebrate what he means to you. The event includes snacks, live DJ, a photo booth, and a food truck for dinner. The cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child. Registration is open online and pre-registration is highly encouraged.
    - f. 06.05.2022 – Sunday in the Park Kickoff – The 2022 Sunday in the Park concert series will consist of eight live performances, beginning with the Tar River Community Band. These free shows will be held at the Town Common Amphitheater from 6:30 – 8:30PM on Sunday's. Concert performances include:
      - i. 06.05.2022 – Tar River Community Band
      - ii. 06.12.2022 – Afreyed Knot
      - iii. 06.26.2022 – The Monitors
      - iv. 07.10.2022 – Hank Pattie & The Current
      - v. 07.17.2022 – Rebekah Todd
      - vi. 07.24.2022 – The British Invaders
      - vii. 07.31.2022 – Garrett
      - viii. 08.07.2022 – Dirk Quinn Band
    - g. 06.18.2022 – Wellness Fair at Eppes Recreation Center – Staff are working with the West Greenville Health Council to host a wellness event at from 10:00AM – 1:00PM. The event will include a host of wellness vendors, food, and music to inspire the community, provide health education and many other resources. This is a free community event.

- h. Date to be Determined – Eppes Recreation Center Teen Social – With the renovations and additions at Eppes Recreation Center nearly complete, staff are looking forward to activating the facilities new teen lounge. Staff are still organizing the program, but plan for this social to showcase the new teen lounge and the amenities that will be available for daily use. More information will be provided once details are finalized.
  - i. LLSWS – Volunteer registration goes live next week.
  - j. Hosting the NCRPA Annual Conference on October 16-18, 2022. In the planning stages now.
- B. Dennis Vestal, Recreation and Parks Superintendent
- 1. Event Support – Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza Prayer Event, Wildwood Park Egg Hunt, Wildwood Park Concert, and Piratefest.
  - 2. Projects – River Park North water fountain from Metallix, Guy Smith Stadium scoreboard repair, and beautification projects.
- C. John Barrow, Recreation Manager, Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center (GAFC)
- 1. Facility Improvements – New family restroom. Next year plan to have new carpet and painting the interior.
  - 2. Swim Lessons – 27 Swim Lesson Programs this June & July with 13 being held at GAFC and 14 being held at the Greenville Outdoor Aquatic Center. Ages 6 months to adult.
  - 3. Yellowfins Swim Team – registration in progress, ages 5-18.
  - 4. Lifeguard Training – Three Lifeguard Classes since February and offering one each month. Currently have 14 on staff and need 40 lifeguards.
  - 5. April Membership Special was successful with 126 new memberships.
  - 6. Exercise classes – 26 exercise classes each week. Offered 67 classes prior to Covid.
  - 7. Active Adults – Zumba in the Park every Tuesday in May from 6:00 – 7:00PM at the Town Common and Senior Games (last month) – helped with shuffleboard and archery.
- 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, hope to be completed in the middle of May. Anticipated opening is 06.03.2022. Working on the bathhouse now, grading parking lot and paved next week. Looking at expanding parking lot on the Nash Street side of the facility.
  - 2. Eppes Recreation Center – Exterior improvement pictures, new construction has a large lobby. Project managed by Mike Watson. Improvements to the Teen Room and the Alumni room.
  - 3. Additional projects include:
    - i. Wildwood Park Bridges and Boardwalks – still looking for a contractor, have advertised 3 times. Pre-bid meeting yesterday with three different contractors in attendance. Received \$55,000 Natural Trails grant for the boardwalks.
    - ii. Wildwood Park Mountain Bike Trails/Skills Park/Pump Track – Contract has been awarded to Nature Trails. Will actively fundraise for these improvements. Construction will take approximately 12 months.
    - iii. Wildwood Park Welcome Center and Playground – The East Group, will advertise for construction bids this month. Cunningham Recreation has almost finished the design for the playground.
    - iv. Greenfield Terrace Improvements – adding a fitness center to the current Community Building, paving and expanding the parking lot, work with ReLeaf to add trees on the trail, update playground, and resurface basketball court. Will be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

- v. Recreation and Parks Comprehensive Master Plan – Has not been updated since 2008, usually a 10 year cycle. Request for Qualifications due tomorrow at 2:00PM. Will select the most qualified firm, then negotiate the contract. Lots of community involvement and will take 10-12 months.
- vi. Town Common Bulkhead – In anticipation of public/private partnership event space, best to update the bulkhead study completed in 2004. Bulkhead is 55 years old and in poor condition. Hope to use a portion of the ARPA to help fund.
- vii. Town Common Improvements – Ticketed concert events with permanent and removable fencing, green room, more seating, more restrooms, etc.
- viii. West End Fire Station/American Legion Building – Building by the Dream Park, managed by Public Works, now managed by Recreation and Parks. CMO would like for this to become a recreation building.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Nominating Committee Present Slate of Officers  
The Nominating Committee (Commissioners Mike Saad, Montez Bishop, and Kevon Gainer) presented slate of officers for Gordon Darragh as Chair and Darin White as Vice-Chair.  
A motion was made to nominate Gordon Darragh as Chair and Darin White as Vice-Chair.  
Motion: Byron Aynes  
Second: Kevon Gainer  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**X. SPECIAL RECOGNITION, continued**

- A. Commissioner Recognition – Commissioner Mike Saad was recognized for his 6 years (2 terms) on the Recreation and Parks Commission.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- A. Darin White – Great meeting. Will keep listening and sharing comments from the citizens.
- B. Derrick Clark – Very good job.
- C. Kevon Gainer – Great presentation, keeping pretty busy.
- D. Mike Saad – Appreciate the presentations and all of your work.
- E. Byron Aynes – Neat to see the whole basketball team today.
- F. Gordon Darragh – Great job everyone. Special to have the Pitt County Wildcats here. Our job is to express comments from the community. Appreciate Mike’s hard work on the Commission.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM.  
Motion: Darin White  
Second: Kevon Gainer  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department