



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 10, 2013 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall - City Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Jo Garfi, Chair-Elect        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Jordan                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Boardman     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams    |  |

**STAFF**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Gillespie     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Kriewall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Horrigan   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input type="checkbox"/> Todd Riddick              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Vestal                 |  |

**OTHER**

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

The meeting opened at 5:30 PM and the following items were addressed:

*Agenda items are in bold print and the highlights of the discussion and actions are below the agenda item.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

New Commissioners Deb Jordan and Garrett Taylor were welcomed to the Commission.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the July 10, 2013 agenda as presented.

Motion: Terry Boardman

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made to approve the June 12, 2013 minutes as presented.

Motion: Donald Williams

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried.

Motion made to approve the June 12, 2013 Closed Session minutes as presented.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Donald Williams

Motion carried.

5:33PM Garrett Taylor arrived.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

## VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Reminded of annual Commission Tour of Facilities scheduled for next Wednesday, 7/15 from 5:30 - 8:30PM, leaving from Jaycee Park parking lot.
- B. City Council has budgeted for a Tar River Utilization Study to explore the economic, environmental, and recreational opportunities the river may present to the City, its residents and visitors. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner is leading the River Study Project and working on Request for Qualifications.
- C. In FY14, Lamarco Morrison will also be working on the South Greenville Master Plan and an update of the Comprehensive Master Plan.
- D. Thanks to those who attended the Dream Park Ribbon Cutting. Event was well attended and received a lot of positive feedback. Those unable to attend can watch a video of the event on their computer by going to the City's website, [www.greenvillenc.gov](http://www.greenvillenc.gov) and searching GTV9 videos. There have been a few challenges with operations of the sprayground and restroom building, but Lamarco Morrison has been working to correct them.
- E. Some initially involved in the Dream Park effort have proposed hosting an event in the park called "Dream Fest" to introduce the park to the community. Walter Strathy, Director of the Third Street Community Center, contacted Mr. Fenton on behalf of the group to suggest an event on Saturday, 8/24. He says the group wants to encourage the greater Greenville Community to come to Dream Park, like they would any other City park. The event would run from 11AM - 3PM and have a multicultural flavor with a goal of having music and performances that would highlight the diversity of our City. A simple lunch would be served and a group will be inviting people from over the City to engage and participate.
- F. Fourth of July - recognized Dean Foy for his hard work.
- G. City Budget reductions have resulted in numerous City positions being kept vacant, including a couple of full-time Park Maintenance positions, as well as our part-time Marketing position. As a result of the Marketing position vacancy; the development of our bi-annual program brochure has had to be handled by other staff. The upcoming brochure, due out the week of 7/22, has been managed by River Park North Manager Christopher Horrigan. Appreciate his willingness to take on this task. Copies will be distributed shortly, which will be available at City Hall, all of GRPD's indoor recreation facilities, in libraries and at about 100 business locations across the City.
- H. With a new operation plan at Bradford Creek Public Golf Course, we have been working hard with Macon Moye of the First Tee Program, to establish a First Tee site at Bradford Creek. First Tee is a program that provides young people with character building and life lessons using golf as a platform. Thru the First Tee program, young people will learn how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them by successful in life. Bradford Creek would be First Tee's primary programming location in Pitt County.
- I. Long time Park Ranger Tobias Crandol will be retiring on 7/25, after many years with the department. Toby started with us part-time in 1983, became full-time a year later and became a Park Ranger in 1994 where he has served since then.
- J. This past weekend was the annual Eppes High School Alumni Reunion at Eppes Recreation Center. During the breakfast it was announced that the basketball court was being named in honor of long time Eppes Recreation Supervisor, Alonza Price, and the multi-purpose room named after Eppes Alumni Jimmy Jones. In the process of planning an "Eppes Open House" for late August or early September in order to properly celebrate all of the improvements.
- K. Still trying to develop a non-profit coalition of *Friends of the Park* type organizations. This initiative has been worked on and then bumped to the back burner. Will continue to work on it, it's an essential component of the department and it's park system.
- L. The intense rain and saturated soil has made mowing difficult, even impossible for turf across the park system. Hope the public will be a bit tolerant of this until we can get back on schedule. Park Superintendent Mark Gillespie will speak more on the this later in the agenda.

- M. Due to our partnership with the Eastern NC Chapter of AMBUCS, the American Business Clubs, providing adapted bikes to children with disabilities. In June, due to a generous donor, 19 youngsters received bicycles in June and the Eastern NC Chapter and Greenville were featured as the cover story in the summer 2013 edition of AMBUCS magazine.
- N. Staff seem excited about the transition to the new RecTrac registration and reservation program. It greatly increases our efficiency and ultimately the level of customer service we can provide. Thanked the IT Department and particularly Nancy Gossett for her dedication to seeing the project thru.

Chairman Darin White thanked City Council for helping with projects to help the Citizen's of Greenville.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT**

### **A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent**

#### **1. Recreation Update**

All of summer camps are full with a waiting list except for Tot Lot (shared pictures), staff are putting together a new program for the Fall and will have a Fall Baseball Clinic for Greenie League participants, GRPD Swim Team, the Yellowfins are doing well and a part of the Greenville Area Summer Swim League (GASSL), championship meet is on 8/3 at Community Pool, 8/17 is Annual Doggie Pool Party from 10AM - 2PM, and Mrs. Kriewall shared Senior program trip schedule.

### **B. Mark Gillespie, Parks Superintendent**

#### **1. Parks/Golf Course Update**

- a. Reviewed photos of tall grass in parks and trying to catch up after all of the rain.
- b. Reviewed golf course programs and revenue (down due to rain). New fee structure went into place on Monday. The Business Manager position closes on 7/28 and need a person who can work on the business and marketing end for the golf course. Course is in great shape (except for bunkers) due to all of the rain. Discussion ensued.
- c. Reviewed photos of the Dream Park Ribbon Cutting.

#### **2. Capital Projects Update**

- a. Reviewed photos of the renovations at Eppes Recreation Center.
- b. GUC added lining to the existent sewer line and will on Green Mill Run Greenway. No conflicts at this time.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Perkins Lease**

Last month the Commission approved the recommendation of Magnolia Arts Council as the lessee for the Perkins Building, and authorized staff to negotiate the lease. Mark Gillespie has worked with Collice Moore and Kevin Lee of the Magnolia Arts Council to negotiate the details of the lease. It is not completed yet, but working together to create a lease acceptable to all. Hope to have the agreement completed by the tour next Wednesday. Since the tour is announced as a Special Meeting, you can vote to accept it at that time, and it can be taken to City Council in August. If it cannot be finalized by next week, a copy will be sent to you to review, and consider it for approval by both the Commission and City Council in September.

### **B. Proposed Naming of Sprayground**

A proposal was presented to name the Dream Park sprayground, "Splashpoint."

Chairman White opened the public hearing. No one spoke in support or in opposition.

Chairman White closed the public hearing and opened for board discussion.

Motion made by Ms. Garfi, seconded by Mr. Williams, to recommend Council approval of naming the sprayground at Dream Park, "Splashpoint." Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- A. Donald Williams – very pleased and impressed with the Dream Park. Discussed exercise as a value. Programs at football games (mother/dtr competitions, 100 yd dash, father/son competitions, street dance) after events to promote exercise.
- B. Audrey Nealy - Pleased with the Dream Park, excited about the First Tee program, encouraged parents to visit Bradford Creek
- C. Deb Jordan - Thankful to serve on the Commission; concession stands would be a good place to impact nutrition in our parks.
- D. Debra Jo Garfi- At the groundbreaking and ribbon cutting for the Dream Park and was very glad to be a part of these things. Thanked staff for their work.
- E. Garrett Taylor - Honored to be on Commission. Also enjoyed the Dream Park Ribbon Cutting.
- F. Terry Boardman - no comments.
- G. Councilmember Kandie Smith - Enjoyed Dream Park Ribbon Cutting, Late Night Hoops is a wonderful thing and invited others to come (last night reached highest number yet of 40 people), and welcomed the new Commissioners.
- H. Darin White - would like to promote that all parks belong to all of the citizens of Greenville, not just to particular neighborhoods. Challenged Commissioners to also promote this aspect.

**XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion: Donald Williams

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura J. Davenport, Administrative Asst.