

City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2013 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall - City Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Debra Jo Garfi, Chair-Elect |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Jordan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Boardman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Todd Riddick |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Vick | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chris Padgett, ACM |

OTHER

- Council Member Marion Blackburn

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

Debra Vick, Barbara Avery and Todd Riddick

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the September 11, 2013 agenda as presented.

Motion: Don Williams

Second: Robert Jones

Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the July 10, 2013 minutes as presented.

Motion: Deb Jordan

Second: Don Williams

Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Hosted the Eppes Open House last night with approximately 150 in attendance to tour the renovated facility and celebrate the improvements recently completed. A step dance group called "Prodigy" performed and Mayor Thomas, Mayor Pro Tem Glover, Council Member Smith and Recreation and Parks Commission Chair Darin White addressed the crowd.
- B. Commissioners Debra Jo Garfi, Deb Jordan, Garrett Taylor and Audrey Nealy attended the NCRPA's Citizen Board Member Forum in Greensboro and had an opportunity to discuss some issues related to their role as members of the Commission.

1. Commissioner Jordan met with Mr. Fenton to discuss some of their questions and issues. As a result, provided a copy of Section 7, Chapter 2 of the City Code, entitled "Recreation and Parks Commission." It addresses Powers and Duties of the Commission, however is vague, and we may need to propose updates.
 2. Received a general feeling that Commissioners want to be more involved, which is encouraging. The idea of a Commission Retreat of some sort to discuss operational issues was mentioned – not a really practical discussion for a Commission meeting. Would like to schedule an open meeting early next year in a venue where face-to-face, across the table discussions are easier.
- C. The community planned event called "Dreamfest" took place on 8/24 at Dream Park. GRPD supported this event and River Park North staff provided activities.
 - D. City Council approved the name "Splashpoint" for the sprayground at Dream Park. It has remained open on the weekends, but next Sunday will be its final day for the season. Splashpoint attendance exceeded 9,200 for the summer.
 - E. Fall & Winter Program Brochure is available at all indoor facilities, City Hall and about 100 business locations across the city.
 - F. The Perkins Building Lease has been signed, have copies of all necessary insurance papers and the Magnolia Arts Center is busy preparing to make improvements. Their 5 year renewable lease began 9/1.
 - G. Let's Move - Monday night City Council approved the resolution of participation in the *Let's Move - Cities and Counties* program, a White House initiative to help address the nation's childhood obesity epidemic.
 1. The National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties, has partnered with *Let's Move* to advance this initiative. The resolution expresses the City of Greenville's desire to join other cities, towns, and counties across the nation in becoming a *Let's Move - Cities and Counties* site, thereby endorsing and participating in the *Let's Move* program.
 2. There are 5 goals of the program, primarily relating to increasing physical activity among youngsters and increasing their access to nutritional foods.
 3. Because some goals are not directly under control of the City, addressing some of the issues will require coordination with the County. GRPD staff and Mr. Fenton will meet with local government, school officials, community organizations, and the Pitt County School Health Advisory Council.
 - H. Received Community Appearance Award for the Town Common from the Greenville Community Appearance Commission.

VII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
 1. Recreation Update
 - a. Summer is over - Fall Season sports have began - adult flag football (33 teams), Future Stars Soccer (1,035 participants) - invited Commissioners to attend games on a Saturday-- youth flag football, Couch to 5k (69 registered so far), Splash and Dash on 9/29, Eppes Summer basketball league honored Alonza Price with signed basketball, Recreation Supervisors' position for Eppes opened and received 140 applicants, 40th Anniversary of Sunday in the Park and Stuart Aronson was honored at the final 2013 concert, swim team concluded its 5th year (over 100 participants) and Lauren Purdue (Olympic Games medalist) was a guest at end-of-season party, Special Olympics programs have begun, Late Night Hoops for 17-24 year olds now at Eppes Recreation Center on Thursdays, and ages 13-16 at the Drew Steele Center on Fridays from 6:30 - 9:30PM.
 - b. Wellness Presentation - Recreation Supervisor/Wellness Coordinator. Barbara Avery provided a PowerPoint presentation on the COG/GUC Wellness Program.

- B. Mark Gillespie, Parks Superintendent
1. Parks/Golf Course Update
 - a. Hiring for the Business Manager position at Bradford Creek is in progress.
 - b. The Greater Greenville Open Golf Tournament is 11/2-3.
 - c. Continue to work on 10-Year Facility Plan (infrastructure) with Public Works. Recreation and Parks has found 379 items to be considered for this plan.
 - d. Wayfinding signs added to the greenway in response to citizen concerns.
 2. Capital Projects Update
 - a. Five responses to the RFQ for the Tar River Study have been received. The deadline for submission is 9/19.
 - b. Eppes Recreation Center project has been substantially completed. The center is now ADA compliant. There are still some other capital issues that need to be addressed but are unfunded at this time. A mural will also be added. Chairman White expressed thanks to City Council and City Manager for support of the Eppes project.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Facility Index Rating

Mr. Fenton briefed the Commission regarding this issue, noting that one of City Council's goals reads, "Expand and enhance our parks and greenways, as resources allow." An action item associated with the goal reads, "Establish a Recreation and Parks facility condition rating index, to aid in the prioritization of Recreation and Parks facility improvements."

Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Fenton have been working on this Action Item, trying to develop a fair and effective point system that will help in ranking improvements needed within various parks and facilities across the City.

The final product will only serve as one means, though not the only means, of determining capital priorities. However, the professional judgment of staff, Recreation and Parks Commission, and City Council must also be a part of the prioritization process. The point is to try to make decisions regarding capital priorities a bit cleaner, less subjective, and less emotional.

The system's proposed criteria are separated into "Core" (primary) and "Non-core" (secondary), with higher point values assigned to the core criteria. (Reviewed document on overhead projector).

Mr. Gillespie has also spent a lot of time working with Ken Jackson and Kevin Heffernon at Public Works on a 10-Year Facilities Plan, basically intending to create an infrastructure replacement system that, even when a piece of infrastructure or equipment is new, anticipates and plans for its replacement at the end of its projected life. 379 pieces of infrastructure with the Recreation and Parks System have been considered.

A motion was made to recommend City Council adopt the Facility Rating System.

Motion: Audrey Nealy
Second: Garrett Taylor
Motion carried.

B. First Tee Curriculum Provider Agreement

Staff has been working with representatives of First Tee to bring the program to Bradford Creek, a program that provides young people with character building and life skills lessons using golf. Thru the program, young people learn how many of the skills that are

essential to success in golf can also help one achieve success in other areas of life. Ultimately, the goal is to establish Bradford Creek as an official First Tee Course.

First Tee would establish a chapter at Bradford Creek and ultimately grow it into the Eastern NC regional hub for the First Tee program. Securing a license to establish a chapter is a complex process involving the creation of a non-profit, "First Tee of Pitt County," establishing a Board, extensive fundraising, identifying a number of dedicated volunteers, and other chapter requirements. This could take 1-2 years to complete, so the First Tee staff identified a means for the City to begin offering the First Tee curriculum and promoting our affiliation with the First Tee organization prior to the establishment of a formal chapter.

This would involve the City entering into a Provider Agreement (provided) which has been reviewed by Chris Padgett, Assistant City Manager and Dave Holec, City Attorney.

The agreement states that Mike Cato, Golf Pro, will attend training and then transition some of the youth outreach programs that are already offered, into the First Tee curriculum. There is no cost to the City to enter into this Provider Agreement, except the staff time and minor travel expenses for training.

The term of the Provider Agreement would be its approval by City Council until 12/31/2016. There is an escape clause, where either party can terminate the agreement with a 30 day notice.

A motion was made to recommend that City Council approve the First Tee Curriculum Provider Agreement which will allow Recreation and Parks to provide the First Tee curriculum at Bradford Creek Public Golf Course.

Motion: Deb Jordan
Second: Don Williams
Motion carried.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Donald Williams – Provided a handout of a graph with heat index chart. The chart shows temperatures at South Greenville Gym. The gym needs air conditioning, but in the meantime staff should be extremely cautious regarding the participants' wellbeing.
- B. Audrey Nealy – Thankful for being able to attend the NCRPA forum. Mentioned partnerships, volunteers, advocacy, helping to lobby on state and national level, and excited to get more involved. Mr. Fenton mentioned NCRPA Legislative Day in Raleigh and NRPA's Legislative Forum in Washington, DC.
- C. Deb Jordan – Agreed with Commissioner Nealy's comments.
- D. Garrett Taylor – Daryl Strawberry was guest speaker at the Jackie Robinson Baseball League Banquet and did an awesome job.
- E. Councilmember Kandie Smith – Proud of Late Night Basketball and its growth.
- F. Darin White – Thanked staff for all they do. Wished ECU good luck with their upcoming football game.
- G. Robert Jones, Jr. – Did a wonderful job with Eppes Recreation Center.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Deb Jordan
Second: Garrett Taylor
Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura J. Davenport, Administrative Asst.