



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 14, 2015 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall - City Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Debra Jo Garfi, Chair
- Audrey G. Nealy
- Tyler Clark
- Robert Jones
- Donald Williams
- Garrett Taylor, Chair-Elect
- Deb Jordan
- Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison
- Darin White
- Jaimie Yahnker

**STAFF**

- Gary Fenton
- Shana Kriewall
- Mark Gillespie
- Christopher Horrigan
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison

**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**

Council Member Marion Blackburn introduced her ECU intern Caitlyn Reinauer.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the January 14, 2015 agenda as presented.

Motion: Don Williams

Second: Darin White

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made to approve the November 12, 2014 minutes as presented.

Motion: Don Williams

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

**VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT (Gary Fenton)**

A. City Council's annual retreat is January 23-24 in the Gallery at City Hall. On the Wednesday preceding the annual retreat Director will be in Durham participating in the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Directors' Annual Conference.

B. Since 1996, until recently, a portion of the North Carolina's Real Estate Transfer Tax has served as the dedicated funding source for the Park and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF), has provided funding to local and state parks and recreation projects. GRPD has been a recipient of PARTF funds on five (5) occasions, totaling \$1,750,000. State legislature has decided to remove the dedicated funding source for PARTF and when developing the state budget,

could appropriate funds into the fund from the state's General Fund. With the needs in GRPD's capital projects, we hope to apply for an additional PARTF grant in the near future. The City will include re-establishing a dedicated funding source for PARTF within their Legislative Initiatives for the 2015 NC General Assembly session.

- C. The Tar River Legacy Plan was presented to City Council in November 2014 and now staff is considering next steps. One recommendation is the development of a Tar River Alliance, a non-profit organization of citizens that would be willing and able to work towards making some of the recommendations of the Tar River Legacy Plan come to reality. There was a similar organization in Newark, NJ to help support, raise funding, and enable the massive restoration of Branch Brook Park in Newark. Barbara Bell Coleman, charter member and co-chair of the Branch Brook Park Alliance, will be hosting a conference call in early February to give insights into creating a similar organization in Greenville.

In the meantime, with the assistance of Uptown Greenville and The East Group, the search has begun to look into potential members of such an organization. The Facility Improvement Plan (F.I.P.) has already begun making a difference with a variety of capital projects completed or nearly completed.

- D. At the December 8, 2014 City Council meeting, McLean Godley of the ECU Student Government Association presented a presentation to construct a 9-hole Disc Golf course on the parkland adjacent to the South Tar Greenway and just west of the Off Leash Dog Area. City Council agreed the group should seek the input of the Recreation and Parks Commission. Mr. Godley will attend the February Commission meeting to share his proposal. Other ideas have been expressed for this property including a skate park and sand volleyball court. There are three (3) Disc Golf Courses currently available to the public which include: GRPD's at Matthew Lewis Park, ECU's North Recreational Complex near North Campus Crossing, and Covenant Church's near Firetower and Corey Road.
- E. In February the Parks Division will transition their "headquarters" from New Street (off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street) to two recently renovated sites, one in the current Public Works location on Beatty Street and the other on Hooker Road. This means that Facility Maintenance Staff and Grounds Staff will report to different sites and be separated.
- F. Fifth grandchild (first grandson) born yesterday. His name is Jack Fenton.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT**

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
  - 1. Recreation Update
    - a. *Greenville Gives*, Greenville's "kickoff" to the holiday season, had approximately 1,000 participants;
    - b. Drew Steele turned 30 with a birthday party at the Drew Steele Center (the facility received \$2,000 in donations in honor of Drew);
    - c. GAFC Challenge; Steve Hawley and Jonathan Edwards of Public Information Office is competing against each other to promote the GAFC;
    - d. Implemented an Employee Recognition Committee to discuss ways to better recognize employee efforts;
    - e. Eppes Recreation Center had a music performance from their participants in the music program;
    - f. South Greenville Recreation Center will host a Youth Basketball Tournament in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Entertainment will also be provided.
    - g. On Saturday at 2:00pm, the Jack & Jill Corporation of America will host a Founder's Day event at the Eppes Recreation Center Multipurpose Room with Council Member Kandie Smith speaking.
    - h. In Adult Athletics – volleyball league will begin in March, planning for summer programs, camp registration begins on 2/2, Spring/Summer Brochure will be available in February, Don Octigan was promoted to Recreation Manager (filling

Todd Riddick's position), and the Recreation Supervisor position left by Don's promotion has been posted for internal hire.

B. Mark Gillespie, Parks Superintendent

1. Golf/Parks Update

- a. Provided a handout to the Commission from the First Tee planning meeting held on 12/13/14 at Bradford Creek Golf Course.
- b. River Park North – Biodiversity Assessment and Natural Communities Management Recommendations, Christopher Horrigan, Parks Coordinator  
PowerPoint presented:
  - i. Recommendations – erosion control, new and existing trail routes, mowing cycles for right-of-way, native plant restoration, pond edge management, registration/dedication, and prioritization of invasive species and management methods.
  - ii. Value – volunteer recruitment, grants and donations, project justification, development impact, benchmark, and resource inventory.
  - iii. Possible Future Projects– additional property assessments (Phil Carroll Nature Preserve, Eastside Park, and Greenway extensions), spring flora assessment – RPN, specific faunal (animal) assessment – RPN, deer management recommendations, and inclusion in Tar River Legacy Plan.
  - iv. Conclusion – the southern side of River Park North, from the level forest, through the swamp is good natural condition; primary threat to biodiversity is invasive plants; demand for improvements (amenities) will likely increase; and careful choices and well-informed management will allow RPN to continue as a refuge for people and wildlife.

2. Update – South Greenville Engineering and Design Contract; Lamarco Morrison  
Mr. Morrison provided a PowerPoint presentation. The South Greenville Recreation Center Master Plan was adopted in 2010. \$600,000 from Pitt County Schools has been confirmed to go toward the project. The project schedule was presented:

Advertisement	12/9/14
Pre-Submittal Meeting	12/16/14
SOQ's Submitted	12/30/14
Evaluations	1/16/15
Shortlisted Firms Interviews	1/21/15
Council Contract	2/9/15
Estimator Contract	3/3/15
Design Phase	8 months
Construction	8-10 months

3. Tar River Legacy Plan, Lamarco Morrison

Next steps include:

- a. Identifying local partners and champions,
- b. Establishing a Tar River Alliance,
- c. Jumpstart the Legacy Plan,
- d. Implement,
- e. Explore the riverfront focus areas.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recreation and Parks Commission Schedule, November Meeting Rescheduling

The regularly scheduled meeting for November is on a City holiday (Veterans Day); therefore the meeting needs to be rescheduled. A motion was made to reschedule the meeting for Wednesday, November 18, 2015 in City Council Chambers.

Motion: Darin White  
Second: Jaimie Yahnker  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- A. Don Williams – Membership facilities include GAFC, Sports Connection and Bradford Creek.
- B. Darin White – Congratulated Mr. Fenton on his first grandson and thanked City Council for their efforts with the South Greenville Recreation Center.
- C. Jaimie Yahnker – Looking forward to new collaborations with STAR and announced Cultural Arts Day is at Jaycee Park on 2/28 from 9:30am – 3:30pm.
- D. Robert Jones – Thanked staff for a great job.
- E. Garrett Taylor – Thanked Council Member Kandie Smith for her forum and the police officers who attended. Expressed condolences to Carl Long’s family. Carl Long was a baseball player who played in the Negro League and had a great impact on Greenville. The funeral is at Mills Funeral Home in Kinston on 1/19.

**X. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion: Darin White  
Second: Robert Jones  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura J. Davenport, Administrative Asst.  
Recreation and Parks Department