



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2015 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall - City Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair-Elect | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deb Jordan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyler Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams | |

STAFF

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shana Kriewall | | |

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the March 11, 2015 agenda as presented.

Motion: Deb Jordan

Second: Audrey G. Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the February 11, 2015 minutes as presented.

Motion: Deb Jordan

Second: Jaimie Yahnker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

Commissioner Darin White arrived at 5:32PM.

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT, Gary Fenton

- A. Great time of year for Recreation and Parks, as people with cabin fever are ready to get out and enjoy their parks, trails, and recreation programs. The parking lot at Green Springs Park is often full, as Green Mill Run Greenway and the South Tar Greenway intersect at the park, so it serves as a trailhead for these two (2) greenways. Many people are taking advantage of the greenway and enjoying the weather.

- B. Provided members a copy of the 2015 issue of the Chamber of Commerce's annual publication, *Glimpse*. For seven (7) years the Chamber has provided the Director the opportunity to submit an article for this annual publication, on something related to GRPD. This year's article, entitled "A River of Opportunity," focused on the Tar River and the development of the Tar River Legacy Plan.
- C. Director noted that departmental revenue represents 25% of the department's operating budget. Revenues are being monitored throughout the year, and we're doing fairly well. Our annual target from all revenue sources is just under \$2M, and at the end of February we'd taken in about 60% of that, or \$1.2M.

The fiscal year begins in July, so at this point we are 2/3 of the way through FY15. That's 67% and though we've only taken in 60% of the expected revenues, we should be in good shape because March, April, May and June are always high revenue months, as people register for summer camps and instructional programs, play golf, and reserve picnic shelters and indoor facilities for their picnics and family reunions. While there's an occasional complaint about our fees, we try to keep them reasonable, and remind the public they make it possible to provide many, many services that would be impossible to provide without them.

- D. The NC Division of Parks and Recreation is currently seeking public comments about a draft update of the NC Outdoor Recreation Plan. We'll review the update and provide some input. This plan provides a framework for addressing issues and opportunities related to the need for public outdoor recreation in NC, and contains the results of a recent statewide public survey about recreation in the state. It also contains the results of an inventory park acreage and recreation facilities provided by public agencies in all 100 counties.
- E. The West Greenville Community Garden Network, along with an organization called Greenville Harvest, is applying for a Vidant grant to help organize and maintain Community Gardens in west Greenville, which ultimately provide free, fresh, nutritional produce to garden neighbors. Dr. Wall-Bassett, of the Department of Nutrition Service at ECU, leads this initiative with a group of volunteers. Director is a member of the planning board and Dr. Wall-Bassett addressed the Commission about this initiative in 2012. Since then the effort has continued to grow and impact the health of many are residents.

There are now seven (7) gardens in West Greenville, with one each at Thomas Foreman Park and Dream Park. Six (6) of the seven (7) sites have "Garden Guardians," men and women who recruit volunteers, watch over the garden, and nurture it along. There is an eighth garden being planned on the corner of Fifth and Hudson Streets, and the non-profit Riley's Army, an organization aimed at providing support to area children with cancer as well as to their families, will serve as the Garden Guardian.

The ECU Scholars will be hosting a 5k run on Sunday, 3/22 called the "ARGH 5k," the *Amazing Race for Greenville Harvest*, and it will take place at ECU's North Recreation Complex east of town on Hwy 264. This garden initiative will benefit from this 5k. Citizens wanting more info on the ARGH 5k Run or any aspect of the Greenville Community Garden Network can check out the website at www.greenvilleharvest.org. They also have a group FaceBook page.

Councilmember Kandie Smith arrived at 5:42PM.

VII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Recreation Update; included PowerPoint.
 - a. STAR Cultural Arts Day was held and included ECU Music Therapy.

- b. GAFC Interns are providing personal training.
- c. Creative Oasis Specialized Recreation Program at the Drew Steele Center.
- d. Specialized Recreation Valentine Dance had 261 in attendance.
- e. Youth and Adult Basketball programs have ended.
- f. 2015 Black History Quiz Bowl was held at Holly Hill Church.
- g. Live Healthy Greenville Fitness Initiative – City and GUC employees participated and documented their workouts in this wellness program.
- h. Cornell Powell, previous participant in the Jackie Robinson Baseball League, was showcased on the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation website.
- i. Free Shuffleboard and Pickleball being held at the Drew Steele Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- j. Exceptional Community Baseball League Opening Ceremonies scheduled for 3/28 at the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.
- k. Easter Egg Hunt on 4/5 at River Park North with over 5,000 eggs and 175 participants expected.

- 2. Celebration of Youth Expression, Lillian Outterbridge
Past Recreation and Parks Commissioner Lillian Outterbridge is assisting with planning the *Celebration of Youth Expression* Talent Show on 6/20 at the Town Common. This will showcase talent of young people ages 5-21 to show a positive side of area youth. Auditions are scheduled for 4/18 at Jaycee Park Auditorium. Participants must be a Greenville/Pitt County residents, ages 5-21, and an amateur (individual/group). Applications are being accepted through 4/3. Visual arts will be presented, as well as poetry, music, and dance. The application can be found on the www.greenvillenc.gov website.

B. Dean Foy, Interim Parks Superintendent/Parks Coordinator

- 1. Golf/Parks Update
 - a. River Park North Annual Photography Contest ends on 5/31.
 - b. SNAG Golf (First Tee Pilot program) for ages 7-13 starts on 3/25. Reminded Commissioners that there is room available for more individuals, as well as volunteers. Practices will be held at Bradford Creek Public Golf Course and transportation from the Third Street Center is available.
 - c. Will be scheduling a trip to Brunswick County to see their First Tee Curriculum in action. Will coordinate schedules with Councilmember Kandie Smith.
- 2. Capital Project Updates
 - a. South Greenville Recreation Center Park Renovation – Open House is scheduled for 3/30 at 6:00PM, with the presentation scheduled for 6:30PM by Hite Associates. Anticipate the final design being completed by July.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resignation and Replacement of Chair
With the resignation of Debra Jo Garfi, due to moving out of the city limits of Greenville, a Commissioner will need to be appointed as Chair through the end of May 2015. Commissioner Garrett Taylor appointed to Chair and Commissioner Deb Jordan volunteered to serve as the Vice-Chair for April and May 2015. A motion was made to accept her offer to serve as the Vice Chair for April and May 2015.
Motion: Don Williams
Second: Audrey G. Nealy
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

- B. Request Selection to Comp Plan Committee
Commissioner Taylor received an email from Thomas Weitnauer asking for a representative from the Recreation and Parks Commission to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee (22 members). There will be six (6) meetings scheduled for this Committee (every other month). Commissioner Nealy volunteered to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- C. Proposed Repurposing of In-line Skating Rink to Skateboarding Site
Recreation Superintendent Shana Kriewall provided pictures of the inline hockey rink which is used occasionally, but not extensively. Some in the community has proposed turning the inline skating rink into a skate park, including elements that will make it more specific for skateboarding, such as rails and jumps. A community meeting on repurposing the inline hockey rink will be scheduled.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on Disc Golf Proposal
A Public Meeting is scheduled for 3/26 at the Jaycee Park Auditorium to discuss the "Tar River Park" Master Plan and a proposal for a 9 hole disc golf course.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Don Williams – Mentioned that someone at a City Council meeting asked for a dam on the Tar River and that he didn't feel the project was feasible.
- B. Audrey Nealy – Need volunteers for the gardens; also noted that Cornerstone Church was the 2015 Black History Bowl Quiz winners.
- C. Deb Jordan – Happy about proposal for no smoking in parks, asked staff to consider re-naming the Easter Egg Hunt to a Spring Egg Hunt to promote inclusiveness.
- D. Darin White – Wish Mark Gillespie a "Happy Retirement" and stated that he looks forward to working with Dean Foy.
- E. Jaimie Yahnker – Thanked GRPD staff for their help with the STAR Cultural Arts Day. The next event is the Sea Shore Project with 20 individuals visiting the Trinity Center and Fort Macon. STAR also has its own FaceBook page.
- F. Tyler Clark – Thanked staff for their presentations.
- G. Garrett Taylor – Sees tangible benefit to the budget and excited to see the Spring/Summer brochure.
- H. Councilmember Kandie Smith – Thanked the Commission for all of their hard work.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:51PM.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Darin White

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully submitted,



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