

City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 13, 2013 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall - City Council Chambers
200 West 5th 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 type="checkbox"/> Deb Jordan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyler Clark | <input type="checkbox"/> Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones | <input type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thor Gylfason |

STAFF

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Gillespie | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Horrigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Godwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison | <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

Introduced new Commissioner Thor Gylfason, Parks Planner Dean Foy and Aquatics Supervisor Mike Godwin.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the November 13, 2013 agenda as presented.

Motion: Donald Williams

Second: Debra Jo Garfi

Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve the October 9, 2013 minutes as presented.

Motion: Donald Williams

Second: Robert Jones

Motion carried.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

A. Several staff recently returned from the NCRPA 2013 Annual Conference, the same conference Greenville hosted last year. Many presentations focused on the challenges of childhood obesity and the role of parks and recreation agencies in helping address this situation, thru their parks, greenways, programs, events, and education initiatives. GRPD will help address this issue thru the *Let's Move* initiative.

- B. Last month, Lamarco Morrison shared a presentation of the Tar River Utilization Study; excited to see the City is recognizing the great untapped potential of the river to impact the City's recreational opportunities, environmental quality, and probably most important, its economy. During attendance at the NRPA Congress in Houston, TX, Director Fenton was able to visit and learn about Houston's downtown park called "Discovery Green." He received copies of Discovery Green Conservancy magazine and distributed copies for Commission to review, but asked that they return the copies when they are through.

Tyler Clark arrived at 5:32PM.

VII. STAFF REPORT

A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent

1. Recreation Update
 - a. Just attended the NCRPA Conference in Raleigh where Recreation Supervisor Christen Winstead was given a Young Professionals Fellowship (scholarship to attend conference with a professional mentor).
 - b. 11/23 Holiday Art Sale from 10AM – 4PM at Jaycee Park.
 - c. 12/6 *Greenville Gives* at Five Points Plaza beginning at 6:00PM.
 - d. PCC is offering a Recreation Therapist Assistant degree and Kathleen Shank has been chosen to serve on the board.
 - e. HVAC problems persist at GAFC with heating, temperatures, and humidity; however staff continues to work on it. GAFC is celebrating their 27th anniversary with membership appreciation events and contests.
 - f. Future Stars Soccer has ended and basketball is beginning for ages 5-12 with 427 participants registered.
 - g. Basketball Clinics are being held at the Sports Connection and Boyd Lee Park.
 - h. Staff is currently working on the Spring/Summer Brochure.
 - i. Shared pictures of Fun Night (for Specialized Recreation older participants), Halloween Dance, cheerleading, and Exceptional Community Football League.
2. Mike Godwin, Aquatics Supervisor at GAFC, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the swimming program, which included an overview of facilities, aquatic activities, data collection (traffic analysis), aquatic opportunities, and challenges.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Coordinator (for Mark Gillespie, Parks Superintendent)

1. Parks Update
 - a. Park Ranger Status – The retirement of Toby Crandol left a vacant position, in which City Council has approved changing the full-time position to three permanent, part-time positions (20 hours/week each). The positions should be posted within the next week. The goal is to have them filled by the first of the new year. The Park Rangers will need extensive training.
 - b. There are two new interpretive signs for the greenway. One is to recall the severe impacts of Hurricane Floyd on Greenville, and was funded by WNCT-TV. The second provides information on Spanish Moss in Pitt County, and was funded by FROGGS, Mike Joyner, Dr. Danny W. Qualliotine, and Bryant Kittrell. Placement locations are yet to be determined; however there have been recommendations. Three more signs are to come.
 - c. A new golf cart lease has been finalized and will begin in the spring of 2014. The contract will cost \$3,500 more than the current contract. Easy-Go won the contract for 65 carts and utility vehicles.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Briefing: For-Profit Use of Parks

In a past issue of NRPA's magazine, *Parks & Recreation*, there was an article called "Private Business in Public Parks." The story focused on a nationally growing issue of

unauthorized use of public facilities and parklands by outside organizations and the risks and problems associated with this type of activity. "Unauthorized use" is an orchestrated, scheduled activity organized by a for-profit business that takes place in a park or at another city owned facility without the prior approval of the responsible agency, in this case, GRPD. The article suggested at the present time the most common example of this nationwide is related to boot camps hosted by fitness centers.

Quite often, city and county parks departments rent their indoor facilities to a "for-profit business" in order that the business may host a fee based, instructional program, such as dance classes, karate or gymnastics, within their facilities. While some may not understand why this is a problem, there are risks involved such as legal risks to the city from participant injuries, facility damage (or at least extensive wear and tear to the park or facility), uncertified or unqualified instructors, and displacing regular park users.

Staff is working to create a policy for dealing with this issue. A policy statement might read something like this: "It is unlawful for anyone to engage in commercial demonstrating, exhibiting, instructing, selling, soliciting or other for-profit activity on Greenville Recreation and Parks Department property, without obtaining and possessing written approval from the department director or designee."

Hope to have a policy in place by early into the new year and want to get it right, and Commission input is welcome.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- A. Donald Williams – Elections are finished and need to get acquainted with new councilmembers.
- B. Debra Jo Garfi – Enjoyed the Parks report tonight, straight to the point and glad to hear Commission will become more of an advisory committee to the department.
- C. Darin White – Thanked staff for their hard work.
- D. Tyler Clark – Thanked staff for their presentations.
- E. Audrey Nealy – Asked for prayers for a student at her school that has been diagnosed with leukemia (3rd time); noted there would be a bone marrow drive at Lake Forest School.
- F. Thor Gylfason – Excited to be a part of the Commission and what will be accomplished.
- G. Robert Jones – Thanked Dennis Vestal and maintenance staff for the renovations of the Jackie Robinson baseball field.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion: Debra Jo Garfi
Second: Robert Jones
Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura J. Davenport, Administrative Asst.