



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 13, 2016 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall – City Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy            | <input type="checkbox"/> McLean Godley, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyler Clark                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Jones               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Williams          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh           |

**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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lamarco Morrison |  |

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INTRODUCTIONS**  
None.
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
A motion was made to approve the April 13, 2016 agenda as presented.  
Motion: Don Williams  
Second: Gordon Darragh  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
A motion was made to approve the March 9, 2016 minutes as presented.  
Motion: Gordon Darragh  
Second: Nikki Caswell  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- V. PUBLIC HEARING – NAMING PROPOSAL FOR PARKLAND NEAR DOG PARK**  
Commissioner Taylor opened the public hearing for comments regarding the parkland near the dog park informally known as “Tar River Park.” No one was present for the public hearing, therefore Commissioner Taylor closed the public hearing.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
None.
- VII. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT**
  - A. Briefed City Council on Monday night on recent efforts to address some recommendations from the Tar River Legacy Plan. Recreation Supervisor Bershuan Thompson has been able to redirect some of time to this project due to the South Greenville Recreation Center being closed for renovations. He has looked into the possible development of an adventure park on City land

along the river. This venue would include several possible elements such as rope climbing facilities, canopy walks, zip lines, obstacle courses, and observation towers. Ideally, a park would be developed and operated by an outside company. Staff has met with three companies, and the Director and Mr. Thompson have visited two such facilities (one in Ohio and one in Virginia). In both cases, staff was able to meet with representatives from the companies who built those adventure parks. As a result, a feasibility assessment will be completed, followed by a Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction and operation of such a park on land in proximity to the Tar River. Pictures of elements were shown in a PowerPoint Presentation.

Commissioner Darin White arrived at 5:39 PM.

- B. Greenville Little Leagues had their opening ceremonies for the 2016 season this past Friday evening. It was followed by Exceptional Community Baseball League Opening Ceremonies on Saturday morning. PirateFest was also taking place at the Town Common and Uptown Greenville. PirateFest ended with a concert by Smashmouth at the Town Common. Several thousand people were in attendance. This event requires a lot of planning and operations from staff which is impactful on the budget. Other departments also provide staff as well.
- C. The River Guardians Environmental Symposium at River Park North will host events such as Festival of Flight, Reduce/Reuse/Recycle, Shark Film Fest, and a Family Earth Sciences Night, all throughout Earth Week, which begins on 4/16 and will come to a close on Earth Day, 4/22. More schools and associations will be present than the symposium held two years ago. For more information you can contact Christopher Horrigan at RPN.
- D. A group of participants from the Chamber's Leadership Institute is completing a community project improving Beatrice Maye Garden Park on Farmville Boulevard. The project includes the installation of pergola on a concrete deck, park bench, a little library (Ms. Maye was a librarian), and landscaping. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the park improvements is on Saturday, 5/7 at 10:00 AM. Numerous individuals have contributed to the improvements, including an industrial arts class from JH Rose High School.
- E. City continues the budget process for FY 17 and FY 18. At first the department received a small increase when targets were received, but as City revenue projections were updated, staff was directed to cut about \$100,000 from the budget. Staff will try to minimize negative impacts on programs related to these cuts.
- F. The state of the art playground project provided by a \$750,000 grant from Trillium at the Town Common will possibly have to see some elements removed from the original plan, due to the cost associated with the design and plans.

## VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
  - 1. Recreation Update
    - a. Provided pictures/information for Create a Monster class, SWAC 12U basketball champions who won first place in the State, Couch to 5k with over 90 participants, soccer has begun, department participated in ECU's Youth Art Festival, PirateFest with carnival games and crafts, Futsal ending, Eppes Recreation Center new games in game room, Senior Games have begun, Senior Health Fair at GAFC, Specialized Recreation at the Drew Steele Center, participants in Eppes Recreation Center music program will be participating in the symphony in Raleigh on 5/13 at 7:15 PM, and on 5/7 the Second Annual Celebration of Youth Expression at the Town Common.

- b. Greenie League baseball registration has ended.

Commissioner Tyler Clark arrived at 6:09 PM.

- c. Nick Lewis has been hired as the new Recreation Assistant for Adult Athletics at H. Boyd Lee Park. Will meet him next month.
- d. Late Night Hoops at the Drew Steele Center is back on the schedule.
- e. Softball is underway and Adult Futsal and Kickball have ended.
- f. River Birch Tennis Center continues to rent tennis courts to ECU for practices and matches.
- g. GAFC had a successful Spring Break Camp.
- h. Live Healthy America wellness challenge had 148 participants from COG/GUC and ended with a luncheon.
- i. Friday, 4/15 at 9:45 AM Spring Games will begin at JH Rose High School. Over 700 volunteers and 335 participants.
- j. Eppes Community Event on 4/29.
- k. Sunday in the Park opens the season on 5/15 at 7:00 PM with Storyteller Don Davis.
- l. Opening Day for the Community Pool and Splash Pointe (sprayground) is on 5/28.
- m. Drive-by shooting at Eppes Recreation Center today with people standing in the parking lot. No one was injured.
- n. Commissioner Jones commented on a successful Jackie Robinson Baseball League St. Patrick's Day Tournament.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

1. Parks Updates

- a. Recent budget cut has equated to \$52,000 (5%). Ms. Kriewall has helped with the budget, so actual cuts are at \$44,500. Two items that have been cut are Port-A-Jons at the parks (\$10,500) and the HVAC Maintenance from \$18,000 to \$9,000 since HVAC's have recently been replaced.
- b. Bradford Creek revenues are back to an 80% cost recovery after March. April and May are usually good months for the golf course.

2. Facility Improvement Plan Update

- a. Mike Watson, Parks Coordinator has hit the ground running. The Green Mill Run Greenway behind Wahl Coates Elementary School has some line of sight issues due to undergrowth around the bridge. The bridge is structurally sound and undergrowth will be removed. The bridge will also be power washed and water sealed with an epoxy paint with sand in it to prevent the bridge from being slick. Lines will be painted through the center of the bridge with signs posted to "Keep Right." A concave mirror will also be added so greenway users can see around the curve on the bridge.
- b. Roof replacement bids received for Eppes Recreation Center and H. Boyd Lee Park. Bids were under budget and construction will begin in May and should be completed in August.
- c. Storm water issues at Eppes Recreation Center results in flooding at one entrance. This will also be repaired.
- d. Plaza repairs at H. Boyd Lee Park will be taking place.

- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
  - 1. Capital Project Updates
    - a. Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison shared that Capital Project Updates will now be included in the agenda packet for more detailed updates. These reports are also available to review online. Mr. Morrison will provide the link to the Commission for online review.
    - b. Town Common Design Development Phase
      - Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc. will be presenting schematic plans to City Council tomorrow night. Mr. Morrison provided a PowerPoint Presentation that included Schematic A, which follows the contour of the Town Common and Schematic B, which is a more linear design that follows First Street. Will return to Commission in May with the City Council schematic plan that City Council preferred.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Appointment of Nomination Committee for Recreation and Parks Commission – Chair and Vice Chair  
Commissioner’s Nikki Caswell, Jaimie Yahnker, and Gordon Darragh volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.
  
- B. Naming Proposal – River’s Edge Park, Gary Fenton  
The 12 acres of land in proximity to the dog park has a proposal for naming. This park land has been informally referred to as “Tar River Park.” Mr. Morrison has completed a Master Plan on this park land which includes the City’s first overlook of the Tar River, greenway adjacent to park land, increased parking, a playground, and few holes of disc golf. A motion was made to recommend that City Council approve naming the parkland, the “River’s Edge Park.”  
Motion: Darin White  
Second: Jaimie Yahnker  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Fee Waiver Changes, Shana Kriewall  
Recreation Superintendent Shana Kriewall would like to update the fee waiver after staff discussion and concerns. The new proposal would be effective on 7/1 and increases the \$5 minimum fee to a \$10 minimum fee and the maximum limit per person is \$150 in a 12 month period. The citizen must also apply at least one (1) week in advance of the program registration deadline. A motion was made to accept the presented changes to the fee waiver.  
Motion: Gordon Darragh  
Second: Don Williams  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Don Williams – Asked if there was any putt putt in the City – Ms. Kriewall answered that she had heard there is an indoor putt putt coming to an old restaurant on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Zika Virus has been proven to cause birth defects in newborns. A walking bridge would be a great asset over the Tar River to help with parking issues at the Town Common. Asked if Tug of War could be played at Sunday in the Park for the children and was told it could be looked into. Brief discussion on HB2.
- B. Audrey Nealy – Excited about Late Nate Hoops returning.
- C. Robert Jones – Appreciate hard work of the department, thanked Frank Livesay and his ballfield crew for their hard work during the Jackie Robinson Baseball League (JBRL) Tournament; and the JRBL begins on 6/18.

- D. Darin White – no comment.
- E. Tyler Clark – no comment.
- F. Nikki Caswell – no comment.
- G. Garrett Taylor – Provided a salute to NC Civil which is organization helping to find unemployable individuals an employment opportunity. Also questioned ID's for participants at Eppes Recreation Center. Ms. Kriewall mentioned there had been some discussion for memberships at all facilities beginning in FY 17. She will meet with GPD regarding ID possibilities and will come back with a proposal at the next Commission meeting.
- H. Gordon Darragh – no comment.
- I. Jaimie Yahnker – Promoted STAR Seashore Project which is a two and half day beach retreat at Pine Knoll Shores. Registration information is in the agenda packet. Recreation and Parks helps with the utilization of two vans and transportation.

**XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Don Williams

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department