



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 2016 @ 5:30 PM  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
200 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garrett Taylor, Chair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasan Hilliard           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White                | <input type="checkbox"/> McLean Godley, City Council Liaison |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audrey G. Nealy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Saad                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Ann Blanck     |

**STAFF:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton    | <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 5:35 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 September 14, 2016 agenda as presented.  
Motion: Audrey Nealy  
Second: Darin White  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
A motion was made to approve the July 13, 2016 minutes as presented.  
Motion: Audrey Nealy  
Second: Darin White  
Motion carried unanimously among those present.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
None.
- VII. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**
  - A. Welcomed Commissioner Elizabeth Blanck.
  - B. Work continues on the Town Common Playground project, made possible a \$750,000 grant from Trillium Health Resources, as well as additional resources from the City, Greenville Utilities Commission, and the Vidant Foundation. A ribbon cutting has been scheduled for 10.18.2016 at 4:00 PM. Unfortunately, it is unlikely the Liberty Swing, which is manufactured in Australia, will not be on the site at the time of the opening. Trillium Health Resource supports moving forward with the dedication at this time.

The project will result in a distinctive and high quality playground, GRPD is hopeful that City residents and businesses will join in to provide additional community funds to support the inclusion of more canopy trees and sensory landscaping elements, as well as system of interlocking wooden blocks and planks for the nature play area. Donations may be made by credit card through the *Fund Your Park* program at [www.fundyourpark.org](http://www.fundyourpark.org); go to page two (2) to find the Town Common playground project. To date, there are 24 donors. Donations can also be made by check by contacting Christopher Horrigan, Campaign Coordinator, at River Park North at 252.329.4560. All donations are 100% deductible. The *Fund Your Park* campaign runs till a week from this Friday, 09.23.2016.

- C. The riverside camping platform project, in partnership with Sound Rivers, will begin construction on the camping platform at River Park North tomorrow, which is accessible from the river. This platform will be used for camping, as well as educational classes. Construction on the other two (2) platforms, one on the Phil Carol Nature Preserve south of the airport, and the other on Greenville Utilities Commission land a little east of Port Terminal, will follow with completion anticipated in late fall.
- D. GRPD, applied for a 50/50 funding for park improvements in Greenfield Terrace Park, north of the river, thru the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP), and GRPD is one of 60 finalists nation-wide. Only two (2) applications from North Carolina applications were recommended to National Park Service (NPS) for funding. If moving to the next step, GRPD will be asked to complete a final application, and hopefully receive a \$488,000 grant for the project. If so, the City has approved to match it, which will mean \$975,000 in improvements to Greenfield Terrace. GRPD was expecting to hear an announcement by 09.30.2016 regarding the NPS selections for funding, however they are behind in determining which projects to fund, but hope to make an announcement in the fall.
- E. The 2016 Latino Festival has been scheduled at the Town Common on Saturday, 10.01.2016 from 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM. This event will feature food, dancing, games, information booths and more. This event is sponsored by the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, Radio La Invasora, BB&T Bank, and the East Carolina Latin-American Coalition. The whole community is invited to this event and for more information citizens may call 252.757.3916.
- F. River Park North and the Walter Stasavich Science and Nature Center became “NC Green Travel Certified” by the NC Green Travel Initiative in the category of Parks, Museums, and Nature based businesses.

The NC Green Travel Initiative is a program to help promote economic growth and environmental stewardship in the travel and hospitality sector thru recognizing “green” travel-oriented businesses. River Park North is the first city owned park to be certified by the by the initiative, all the other parks are state owned. River Park North was awarded the certification due to its environmental programs, its native wildlife landscaping around the park, and its environmentally friendly policies. We commend the staff for receiving this certification.

## VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Shana Kriewall, Recreation Superintendent
  - 1. Recreation Update
    - a. Ms. Kriewall shared a PPT with pictures and information regarding summer camps and programs.
    - b. The pool is closed at the Greenville Aquatics & Fitness Center due to lights not working and unsafe conditions as a result. Parks Maintenance staff will have the equipment

repaired prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Splash and Dash Triathlon, this Sunday, 09.18.2016 beginning at 2:00PM.

- c. Specialized Recreation – Special Olympics aquatics, bowling, cheerleading, and roller skating have begun, A.B.L.E. (Achieving Benefits of Leisure Experiences) this Friday night, and Exceptional Community Football League (ECFL) in partnership with Carolina Panthers football begins Saturday from 10 AM – 12 PM at Jaycee Park.
- d. Youth Flag Football will be taking place during the week at Jaycee Park. NFL Punt, Pass, and Kick will be held on Saturday, 09.24.2016 at JH Rose High School for 6-16 year olds, and Future Stars Soccer began this past weekend with close to 1,000 participants.
- e. Adult Flag Football and Adult Softball has begun. Adult Basketball registration begins soon.
- f. Exercise in the Park is held every Thursday night beginning at 6:00pm (September and October) at the Town Common.

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

1. Facility Improvement Plan Update

- a. Hillsdale Park and Westhaven Park will receive new playground equipment at a cost of \$65,000 each. Westhaven Park had the option of having a larger playground area, however after meeting with the Homeowner's Association, they preferred to keep the current playground layout, which will result in a smaller playground but also looking at other amenities. They requested to have a soccer goal in the open space, however that request was denied due to potential safety risks.
- b. The Eppes Recreation Center parking lot will be demolished and rebuilt beginning late-October. The project bid came in under budget.
- c. Shared Hillsdale Shelter before/after pictures of the new roof.
- d. Jaycee Park tennis courts (4 courts) have been demolished due to the subsurface failing. The courts will not be replaced and the ground was seeded.
- e. Shared Greenmill Run Greenway Bridge before/after pictures. The bridge was pressure washed and painted with a new surface paint to help prevent a slippery surface, line of sight issues were resolved, and a line painted down the middle to help with traffic flow.
- f. The lights at Greenville Aquatics & Fitness Center are down due to a dead fault in the line and resulting ballast burn out. Parks Maintenance staff will have this repaired prior to the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Splash and Dash Triathlon on Sunday, 09.18.2016.

C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner

1. Capital Project Updates

- a. South Greenville Recreation Center  
Mr. Morrison shared before/after pictures and project progress pictures of the construction. Memorandum of Understanding with Pitt County Schools addresses shared utilities, custodial services, and floor maintenance. Tentative re-opening date is Monday, 11.21.2016.
- b. Town Common Schematic Plan Update
  - i. The Town Common Inclusive Playground grading and site work is 80% complete. Equipment has been shipped. At the Town Common Schematic Plan Open House on Monday, 08.29.2016 two schematic plans were shared for public input.
  - ii. Town Common Schematic Design – Plan A includes the Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church commemorative tower, a civic building close to Greene Street, and a living shoreline.
  - iii. Town Common Schematic Design – Plan B which some ideas will be incorporated into Plan A, includes the tower, relocating the amphitheater to expand open space

for informal play and better views of the river, civic building closer to First Street, and diagonal parking along First Street.

- iv. Rhodaside and Harwell will be back in November to present plan with changes.
- v. The Tar River Overlook Pavilion (close to the Off-Leash Dog Park) is almost ready to install, materials have arrived and are on-site. The pavilion will be 30'x30'. The contractor will begin construction this week.

- c. Lukas Zonato, Volunteer Intern, PPT Presentation

Motion made to table this item to the 10.12.2016 Commission Meeting.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Surplusing Ballfield Drag Machine (Dean Foy)

A 2005 Ballfield Drag Tractor is ready to be added to surplus because its useful life with GRPD is complete. This tractor will be replaced through the Vehicle Replacement program. Staff would like to donate it to JH Rose High School baseball because GRPD uses the JH Rose High School baseball field for Bath Ruth baseball. Also, the baseball coach, Ronald Vincent, partners with GRPD for many programs. A motion was made to recommend to City Council that the ballfield drag machine be deemed as surplus and authorize its donation to JH Rose High School.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Darin White

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Yard Sale Requests at Westhaven Park

For a third time, a representative from Westhaven neighborhood was not present for comments regarding yard sale requests. A motion was made to reject the yard sale request by Westhaven.

Motion: Audrey Nealy

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

## **XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Jaimie Yahnker – New STAR brochure at your seat.
- B. Hasan Hilliard – Welcomed Commissioner Elizabeth Blanck.
- C. Audrey Nealy – Thanked staff at Boyd Lee Park for camp and loved the Junior Counselor Program.
- D. Darin White – Spoke with a new citizen from New York and she had received a Recreation Program Brochure prior to moving. She was impressed with the brochure and the things GRPD offered. Welcomed Commissioner Elizabeth Blanck.
- E. Elizabeth Ann Blanck – Asked if media is invited to special events (yes). Asked who maintains the website and staff, as well as IT maintains the website. Excited to be here and appreciate any help.
- F. Nikki Caswell – Welcomed Commissioner Elizabeth Blanck. Sees a renewed energy regarding the Town Common with the new playground under construction.

## **XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Audrey Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Laura J. Davenport*

Laura J. Davenport  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department