



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Garrett Taylor, Chair
- Jaimie Yahnker, Vice-Chair
- Hasan Hilliard
- Audrey G. Nealy
- Nikki Caswell
- Gordon Darragh
- Mike Saad
- Elizabeth Seda
- Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison
- JuQuon Whitaker

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Bershuan Thompson
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison
- Dean Foy
- Patricia Tyndall

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. and the following items were addressed:

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Commissioner Hilliard’s wife in the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the May 9, 2018 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jamie Yahnker

Second: Audrey G. Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the April 11, 2018 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Audrey G. Nealy

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

A. Thank you to those Commissioners who were able to join staff for a special meeting scheduled by a conference call, to try and take advantage of a last minute opportunity to apply for a PARTF grant; to support the acquisition of riverside lake lands, a recommendation of the Tar River Legacy Plan. This last minute application was because the land the City was considering was only on the market a few days before the PARTF grant application deadline. It was discovered one of the required components of the application could not be completed by the 5/1 deadline. Staff has a great start for the proposal in 2019 whether it is with PARTF grant or another funding resource.

B. At Monday’s City Council meeting, City Council members approved accepting the parcels of land next to Evans Park, land donated to the City by Ray Evans. An environmental assessment is being

completed and if acceptable, the land will be transferred to the City. Staff will look into the development of a primitive trail from Hooker Road into the park. This acquisition gives staff access to Green Mill Run, which is a future corridor for the extension of the Green Mill Run Greenway.

- C. PirateFest this year was the best and most attended one thus far; and PirateFest is an example of a major event that can appeal to large groups of local residents and visitors from out of town. Uptown Greenville is the main sponsor, however much of the event takes place at the Town Common and requires much support from the Recreation and Parks Divisions. Thanks to all staff who played a role in making it a success.
- D. A new free concert series called "Concert on the Common" is taking place at the Town Common, this evening, hosted by IBX Media, 107.9 WNCT, the City, and Uptown Greenville. This series will be offered on the second Wednesday night of June (6/13) and July (7/11) from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Town Common. The 6/13 concert will feature On the Border (Eagles Tribute Band) and the 7/11 concert will feature The Band of Oz.
- E. The need for maintenance staff continues to grow as our parks and facilities continue to increase. Westpointe Park is a good example. There are no new positions in the FY19 budget, however some funding is coming back to the department, as a result of projected increases in revenues. These are a result from some fee increases and these funds will go towards inclusion programs and additional part-time staff needed for more supervision at South Greenville Recreation Center.
- F. The Public Information Office produces a high quality employee newsletter. The May/June issue featured the Mayor on the cover from the opening and dedication of the STEAM Lab at River Park North. The newsletter also included articles on the planting of almost 100 trees along the South Tar Greenway, PirateFest, and a great picture of the festival's concert on the Town Common stage.

VIII. STAFF REPORT

- A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Recreation Update
 - a. Summer Camp Update

Summer camps begin on 7/11. Various camps offered including six full day camps, sports camps, dance camps, and a variety of art camps. 55-60 summer employees began training on 5/15; the first of six sessions (approximately 30 hours of training). Camps are 78 percent full.
 - b. Special Olympics
 - i. Spring Games held on 4/20 at JH Rose High School. Thanks to Aaron Hines and Kelvin Thompson from the PIO office for coverage.
 - ii. This event had 350 athletes and 700 volunteers and was led by Recreation Supervisor Chasity McCurdy.
 - c. Centers for Arts & Crafts (Programs & Events)
 - i. Tap & Ballet recitals are taking place.
 - ii. Recreation Supervisor Sara Caropreso worked hard with PirateFest and the Community Youth Arts Festival.
 - d. Athletics Update
 - i. Youth Baseball began on Saturday and Future Stars Youth Soccer ended on Monday.
 - ii. Adult Softball continues.
 - iii. Adult Kickball will finish in two weeks.
 - d. Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center Open House is scheduled for 5/17-19 for tours of the facility and experience programs GAFC has to offer. This gives non-members a chance to look at the facility.
 - e. Sunday in the Park – First concert of the summer is on Sunday, 6/3 with the Tar River Community Band at 7 p.m. Recreation Supervisor Ron Harris continues to recruit sponsors for the series.
 - f. Upcoming Events include:
 - i. 5/15 Summer Camp Training begins.
 - ii. 5/17-19 GAFC Open House
 - iii. 5/26 Splashpoint at the Dream Park Opens (12-6 p.m).
 - iv. 6/2 Community Pool opens for the season.

- v. 6/2-3 Special Olympics Summer Games (Raleigh, NC) with 30 Pitt County Athletes competing.
- vi. 6/3 Sunday in the Park Opening Concert at the Town Common (Tar River Community Band – beginning at 7:00pm).

B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent

1. Construction is complete at Peppermint Park for the new playground. Construction continues at Elm Street Park due to concrete in the ground. Staff is hoping for completion by 5/24.
2. Parks Coordinator Christopher Horrigan has accepted a position in Guilford County. His creative programming will be missed. Staff is actively recruiting for this position.
3. Mr. Foy shared pictures of vandalism on the greenway and at the skatepark. Over \$2,400 worth of damage on the skate ramps.

C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner

1. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza
 - a. 60% of construction documents are completed (shared design and drawing examples).
 - b. A wide range of opportunities for companies and individuals to support the initiative.
 - c. The leaf shape pavilion is under construction, as well as the retaining wall.
 - d. This project continues to be within budget.
 - e. The plaza will be well lit at night and have cameras to hopefully deter vandalism.
2. Town Common Restroom
 - a. The restroom is under construction; this project is led by Parks Coordinator Mike Watson.
 - b. Additional dirt is required for ADA compliance.
 - c. The Town Common playground is completed, thank everyone for their patience. The warranty work was in the six figure cost. More seating was added for parents.

Councilmember Kandie Smith arrived at 5:55 p.m.

3. Floating Kayak Launch
 - a. Pre-construction meeting will be held next week, then a notice to proceed afterwards.
 - b. A seven-day notice will be given for closure of the boat ramp during the week.
4. Westpointe Village Park
 - a. Restroom facility is on site; contractor working on grading, stripping, and adding field dirt.
 - b. GUC is running utilities.
 - c. A 45-day construction period and then install playground with a ribbon cutting.
 - d. Phase I includes walking trail, three play components, restroom facility and open space for informal play.
5. Action Sports Park Feasibility Analysis
 - a. Met with Stuart Engineering on 4/23. Sites to analyze include warehouse off Greene Street, Second Street Landfill, Jaycee Park, old trailer park on Mumford Road, and the Phil Carrol Property north of the river near the lake lands.

Recreation Supervisor Bershuan Thompson arrived at 6:30 p.m.

D. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator

1. Upcoming Events
 - a. Kids to Parks Day on Saturday, 5/19 (always 3rd Saturday in May). Encouraged families to take their children to any of the City's 23 parks and post a picture online.
 - b. The Town Common is always active with Yoga in the Park, Zumba in the Park, Sunday in the Park Summer Concert Series (12 concerts), 11 community events and rentals through August.
 - c. Heroes in Our Lives flag display Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, 5/26 at 9 a.m. at the Town Common.

- d. Great partnerships with PirateFest and the Community Youth Arts Festival.
- 2. Marketing Update
 - a. Consistent marketing with Business Expo last week at Greenville Convention Center, assistance from PIO and many programs to share.
- 3. Grants and Fundraising
 - a. Consistently looking for grants and fundraising ideas.
 - b. Current grant opportunities include Green Stormwater Education Grant with FROGGS, ORLP Grant (finalist last year), and NC Trails Grant (invitation to submit application for Round B – over the next 4-6 weeks).
 - c. Working for sponsorships for July 4th celebration.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Nomination Committee for Present Slate of Officers for the Recreation and Parks Commission
The Nomination Committee recommends Commissioner Nikki Caswell as Chair and Commissioner Gordon Darragh as Vice-Chair. A motion was made to accept the nomination of Commissioner Nikki Caswell as Chair and Commissioner Gordon Darragh as Vice-Chair.
Motion: Audrey G. Nealy
Second: Jaimie Yahnker
Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None.

Chairman Garrett Taylor recognized Commissioner Nealy for her six years of service on the Recreation and Parks Commission. Director Fenton also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to her.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Elizabeth Seda – Thanks to Audrey for the mentorship.
- B. Hassan Hilliard – Thanks to staff for their hard work.
- C. Jaimie Yahnker – Thanks to Audrey for keeping “me” straight; startled by resignation of Christopher Horrigan – he has worked well with STAR and happy for him; and last weekend’s STAR Beach Trip had 27 participants and was a blast.
- D. Nikki Caswell – Thanks for support of the Chair position; have loved serving with Audrey. Has been a great experience playing Adult Kickball.
- E. JuQuon Whitaker – Great job to staff and good luck to Audrey.
- F. Councilmember Kandie Smith – Thank you to Audrey for the acceptance of being a part of the community, becoming active, involved and living through the process with Westpointe Village Park. Thank you to all Commissioners for your time dedication. On 6/29 Greenville Grooves will be at Five Points Plaza from 5-8 p.m.
- G. Garrett Taylor – Thanks to Audrey Nealy for her work on the Commission. Thanks to all staff for their continued hard work. Congratulations to Councilmember Kandie Smith for her recent election win.
- H. Audrey Nealy – Big congratulations to Christopher Horrigan, thanks to Mr. Evans for the land donation and serving on the Commission has been a pleasure.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Motion: Audrey G. Nealy

Second: JuQuon Whitaker

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura J. Davenport

Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department