



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Nikki Caswell, Chair
- Gordon Darragh, Vice-Chair
- Hasan Hilliard
- Garrett Taylor
- Byron Aynes
- Jaimie Yahnker
- Mike Saad
- Sarojia Durant-Moore

STAFF:

- Gary Fenton
- Don Octigan
- Councilmember Monica Daniels
- Laura J. Davenport
- Lamarco Morrison
- Dean Foy
- Patricia Tyndall

AUDIENCE PRESENT:

None.

MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INTRODUCTIONS

New liaison Council Member Monica Daniels recently appointed to fill Kandie Smith’s vacant position.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the February 13, 2019 agenda as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Garrett Taylor

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 9, 2019 minutes as presented.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Sarojia Durant-Moore

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR’S MONTHLY REPORT

A. GRPD’s new Spring & Summer brochure is now available and it outlines many of the services, events, and programs staff plan to develop and operate for area residents and visitors. You will find a wide variety of recreation options and get an idea of what it takes to pull all of the information together. Recreation Superintendent Don Octigan and his staff have worked diligently to pin down the details of every program and service in the brochure, working to provide something for everyone, and putting it all in a single document. Thanks to Don Octigan and his staff, Patricia Tyndall, and Aaron in the Public Information Office for ensuring this resource is available to Greenville.

Commissioner Byron Aynes arrived at 5:35 PM.

- B. This year's the "Good, Bad, and Ugly Tour" is scheduled for Wednesday, 6/26 departing Jaycee Park at 5:30 PM. Hope each Commissioner and Liaison will mark their calendar and be able to attend that evening. The tour is scheduled to provide each of the Commissioners a realistic view of the conditions of park and facilities, and give you the chance to see "up-close and personal" some of the programs and services in action, in order to assure you each grasp a few of the issues staff faces in managing, programming and supervising the sites you will visit. For new Commissioners, we'll schedule a few mini-tours to acquaint them and some of the facilities and programs staff have been tackling in the last year or two.
- C. One of the recommendations of the Tar River Legacy Plan was to acquire "riverside lake lands," because of the great recreational opportunities these lands represent to the citizens and visitors of Greenville, such as a state of the art BMX/Skateboard facility, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, wake boarding opportunities, fishing facilities, campsites, cabins, picnic shelters, trails and even canopy walks, elevated trails that take the visitor high above the forest or wetland floor. Staff has been negotiating with a land owner regarding acquisition of such lands and hopefully we'll be able to bring good news about some parkland in the next month or two.
- D. The Director is also working on the early stages of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant application to assist with the purchase. The completed application is due 5/1, but applying for the PARTF funding is quite a process. The last PARTF grant was \$500,000 used in the construction of the Drew Steele Center, but it took three tries over a 2.5 year period to finally be awarded. Other projects that received \$250,000 - \$500,000 in PARTF funding have included \$500,000 towards improvements at the GAFC, \$250,000 in support for Guy Smith Park, \$250,000 towards the Nature Center at River Park North (after the old center was destroyed by flooding from Hurricane Floyd), and \$250,000 in support of the development at H. Boyd Lee Park.
- E. City Council's 2019 Budget Retreat took place on 1/25-26 and included discussion on the Adventure Park proposal, as well as Town Common improvements. Friday night was devoted to an economic development presentation which included an emphasis on how important such factors as outdoor recreation opportunities, walking and biking trails, and a vibrant arts scene are successful economic development efforts.
- F. Staff continues to work with the East Group regarding a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will solicit proposals that will ultimately result in the development and operation of a restaurant/event space at the Town Common. Any such proposed amenity clearly must be compatible with the existing park and available for use by and benefit of visitors to the Town Common. Uses such as residential facilities, a hotel, and offices are not being sought and will not be considered under this RFP.
- G. At last month's meeting the Director shared about repeated incidents of vandalism at Westpointe Park. There have been no recent events of vandalism since. As spring approaches staff intends to meet with residents regarding the possible establishment of a "Friends of Westpointe Park" group.
- H. The Public Works Storm Water Project at Jaycee Park is substantially completed and the work addressed drainage issues in an 8-acre area around the park. The project also renovated an overgrown and poorly functioning Stormwater detention pond, turning it into a hardwood forested Stormwater wetland with the removal of invasive plants and trees and the replacement of plants and trees native to Eastern North Carolina. It also removed dilapidated fencing and has given a new and attractive look to the area of the park. This project was funded by a grant for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund and one from the Division of Environmental Quality. Some interpretative signage will also be funded and installed, explaining to visitors what the project was about.
- I. On 3/11 the Commission Chair will deliver a briefing to the City Council regarding departmental progress and issues over the last year.

VII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Don Octigan, Recreation Superintendent
 - 1. Community Pool
 - a. During the last monthly inspection of the Community Pool, major structural issues were identified associated with the facility's dive tank. On 2/1, staff met with representatives from the Greenville Pool & Supply Company to assess the damage.

- b. The damage is believed to be limited to the dive tank area of the pool and was likely caused by the dive tank shell being pushed from below by the area's high water table. The resulting pressure, in combination with the pool's advanced age and leaks over time, finally caused failure in the adjacent concrete.
- c. Most of the damage is near the pump house (which controls the filter system for the main pool and dive tank) and the pool deck near the south edge of the pool fencing. The concrete area between the pump house and dive tank, which includes the filter lines, has been significantly damaged.
- d. The average life expectancy of an outdoor pool is 50 years and given the age of the Community Pool, this will be a delicate project. The immediate priority is to open the main pool for the summer season, which is set to begin on 6/8. Success will require working closely with the demolition contractor, as well as Greenville Pool & Supply to ensure the pool's filter system is not damaged during the demolition process. Greenville Pool & Supply will inspect the main pool once complete.
- e. Community Pool Extended Hours – Scheduling of all activities within Guy Smith Park, where the Community Pool is located, is challenging due to the proximity of the pool to the baseball fields. Because of the potential for foul balls to enter the pool area, schedules must be managed cautiously. All groups using the park have been notified of the following schedule change and baseball programs should not be negatively impacted by the additional pool hours:

- Monday 1:30-5:00 PM
- Tuesday 1:30-7:00 PM (2 additional hours)
- Wednesday 1:30-7:00 PM (2 additional hours)
- Thursday 1:30-5:00 PM
- Friday 1:30-5:00 PM
- Saturday 11:00AM - 4:00 PM (adjustment of time and 1 additional hour)
- Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM (NEW for 2019, in the past pool was closed on Sunday)

2. Current Programming
 - a. Youth Basketball at Eppes Recreation Center is taking place. Other facilities have also had basketball programs in progress.
 - b. Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts – Try it Art Series – this program allows participants to try different art mediums such as sewing, clay hand building, painting and drawing.
3. Upcoming Programs
 - a. New teen program this year for summer – Teen Voyager for ages 13-15. Creating more teen opportunities.
 - b. Couch to 5K program at H. Boyd Lee Park (BLP) beginning 3/5, meeting every Tuesday and Thursday, in partnership with Fleet Feet. This program was held several years ago at BLP and is being brought back. This program prepares participants for Run/Walk for Autism being held on 4/27.
4. Summer Employment Opportunities – summer camp counselor positions. Summer camp counselor pay rates were increased.
5. Important Dates
 - a. 2/12 Future Stars Youth Soccer Registration concluded. There are 870 participants with 100 teams. 52 volunteer coaches are needed, please call 252.329.4550 if interested.
 - b. 2/17 Ronald Vincent Hitting Clinic begins at the Sports Connection.
 - c. 2/23 Cultural Arts Day at Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts
 - d. 3/2 Future Stars Youth Soccer practices begin.
 - e. 3/8-10 Hosting 10U SWAC Youth Basketball Tournament (8 teams from Eastern NC).
 - f. 3/9 Jackie Robinson Baseball Camp (at Thomas Foreman Park, organized by South Central Baseball)
 - g. 3/23 Exceptional Community Baseball Opening Ceremonies at Elm Street Park, Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams.

- B. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - 1. Reviewed safety and security of construction site required by the contractor.
 - 2. Met with ECU RLS class with Dr. Deb Jordan (who recently served on this Commission). Was able to discuss summer positions.
 - 3. River Park North is offering a Fly Tying Program in partnership with the Great Outdoor Provision Co. on 3/2 from 9:00-11:00 AM.
 - 4. Specialized Recreation joined forces with Park Maintenance for the Kiwanis AKtion Club to prepare and paint furniture for a sale. Works on leadership, skill development and getting back into the community.
 - 5. Kayak Launch is no longer under water; it has been cleaned and re-mulched and is ready for use. Staff will need to post No Fishing signs because citizens are using the launch for fishing.
 - 6. Section of South Tar Greenway damaged by hurricane has been completed.

- C. Lamarco Morrison, Parks Planner
 - 1. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza Update
 - a. Have had issues with getting bids. Met with one contractor that submitted a bid last time and found out some of the materials need to be replaced with a different medium, substituting light fixtures with same design intent. Duration of completion was ambitious, 10 months was not enough time; 16 months is a better duration. Will need a little bit of redesign. April will be a better time to bid project because other projects will be finishing up their delayed projects due to weather. Will resubmit bid in April. Plan to be under construction in May.
 - b. Project made Metropolitan Magazine (article at seat). Historic interpretation is her main focus.
 - 2. Floating Kayak Launch – Open and ready for use. Signage will let park users know it is only used for kayaks, not fishing. Park users are walking on the control arm, which needs to be discontinued as well. Will talk to contractor on options to deter this treatment.
 - 3. Town Common Development
 - a. Parking Lot Realignment – Shared approved schematic plan for parking lot and boat dock. Looking to bring in 12' of field dirt to make the area 2' above basic flood plain. Anticipating starting construction when equipment is destabilized from the Town Creek Culvert Project. Discussion ensued.
 - 4. Tar River Legacy Plan Implementation
 - a. Adventure Park Master Plan (shared schematic plan).
 - b. Phase I – BMX & Skatepark – contractor will have 30% documents. Will have an amphitheater will possible ticketed events.
 - c. Programmed Building Space – Three structures used for museum, demonstrations, rentals, boathouse, many opportunities are available. Public Info session will be coming soon.
 - d. Canopy Walks & Observation Towers – Wetlands would work well for these ideas.
 - 5. 2nd Street Landfill – Mountain Bike Trail Development
 - a. Last week DENR completed all testing and a report will be available soon. Will begin the capping process, cover with 2-2.5' of field dirt. DENR will pay for the site to be capped. Discussion ensued. Will take 1-2 yards to reestablish plant material.

- D. Patricia Tyndall, Marketing and Events Coordinator
 - 1. Right now Specialized Recreation has a Valentines Dance at the Drew Steele Center with over 400 participants.
 - 2. 2019 Spring & Summer Recreation & Parks Program Guide (at your seat). Distributed to over 80 locations throughout the City.
 - 3. Upcoming Special/Community Events
 - a. Six runs and/or walks set for the Town Common through 5/11.
 - b. Movie in the Park – Beginning 3/29.
 - c. PirateFest – 4/12-13.
 - d. Concert on the Common – returns 4/24 with 5 concerts on Wednesday nights.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Mike Saad – Thanks for sharing great information and what is going on on the river.
- B. Jaimie Yahnker – STAR and GRPD saw the value of having a liaison on the STAR Board (Brent Harpe), had a bowling event – had 19 participants and 10 family members. 29 people at the event and thanks Brent Harpe for all of his help.
- C. Garrett Taylor – Happy Valentine’s Day, keep up the great work.
- D. Hassan Hilliard – Welcome to Council Member Monica Daniels.
- E. Saroija Durant-Moore – Thanks for all your hard work for the community.
- F. Byron Aynes – Thank you for your hard work.
- G. Council Member Monica Daniels – Thank you for your warm welcome.
- H. Nikki Caswell – Looking forward to things to come in the next 2-5 years.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM.

Motion: Jaimie Yahnker

Second: Garrett Taylor

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department