



City of Greenville
Recreation and Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
City Hall – Council Chambers
200 West 5th Street

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikki Caswell, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaimie Yahnker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Saad |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasan Hilliard | <input type="checkbox"/> Sarojja Durant-Moore |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Byron Aynes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Watson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kristian Williams | |

STAFF:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gary Fenton | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura J. Davenport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dean Foy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather White | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dalace Inman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Monica Daniels | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Vestal | |

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

None.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the January 8, 2020 agenda as presented.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Hassan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes as presented.

Motion: Mike Saad

Second: Hassan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

- A. Staff has recently learned that Commissioner Sarojja Durant-Moore will be moving to Seattle, WA at the end of the month. She found out Sunday that she could not get her work schedule altered to attend this evening. She emailed the following, "Unfortunately, I am not able to get off work for that day so I will not be able to attend the last meeting. I would like to say thank you so much for the time and opportunity the City of Greenville has given me to serve on this Recreation and Parks Commission for past year and a half. I will cherish the chance I had to make a difference in my community. God bless you all and Happy New Year. I wish you all the best all your future endeavors." Staff thanks Sarojja for her service to the department and the City of Greenville.

- B. The Commission will meet the department's two newest staff members, Park Planner Mark Nottingham and Outreach Coordinator Heather White. Both will present tonight and staff is glad they have joined the GRPD team. They are already making a difference.
- C. The City hosted Greenville Gives and the tree lighting on 12/6/2019 at Five Points Plaza and believe it was the biggest ever.
- D. In addition, the Town Common was the site for the City's first New Year's Eve Celebration a week ago, which attracted approximately 2,500 people. The City partnered with the Greenville Jaycee's to host the celebration and while it wasn't specifically a recreation and parks event, it required support from many staff, from both the Parks Division and the Recreation Division. Some were onsite most of the day New Year's Eve to others that were still there several hours into the new year. The Daily Reflector referred to the events as a "New Tradition" which certainly suggests that 2019 will be the last time Town Common.
- E. Since the last time the Commission met, the City has acquired 163 acres of the Phil Carroll estate lands located immediately to the east of the 264 bypass on the north bank of the Tar River, a mile or so north of the intersection of 10th Street and Greenville Boulevard. These lands will be a part of the Adventure Park recommended for the development in the Tar River Legacy Plan.

More than \$100,000 was donated to the department in support of the acquisition, and before acquiring the land, the state agreed that any money invested in the acquisition in December could later be used as ours for the NC PARTF grant application, either in 2020 or 2021.

As time moves toward the initial development projects for this new park, the Director will be assembling a promotional brochure that will invite organizations and businesses to book a half hour Adventure Park presentation this coming spring, summer, and fall; where staff will share the vision for the project, provide a discussion of the possible amenities it might include, and invite and encourage partnerships for the development and perhaps even opportunities of some of those amenities. When the materials are completed the Director will share the presentation with the Commission and ask Commissioners to help get the word out.

- F. Glimpse Magazine recently released their 2020 edition with an article written by the Director entitled "A Place with Potential." The annual publication of the local Chamber of Commerce refers to as "the official Quality of Life magazine for the Greenville-Pitt County area." The new edition's online version is now accessible on the Chamber's website and printed copies will be available very soon. Once staff receives the 2020 edition, each Commissioner will receive a copy.
- G. Director has already heard from several citizens and groups sharing their ideas and desires for particular amenities they would like to see in the park, which, of course, should be somehow related to the physical and natural attributes of the property and the activities that those attributes enable, such as canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing, ropes course initiatives, zip-lining, trail activities, fishing, astronomy, picnicking, overnight camping, running, exploration, and just enjoying the beauty of the natural environment and its wildlife. While the interest and involvement of citizens and groups in the park is appreciated – essential long term development and successful operation – the magnitude of the Adventure Park project and its potential impacts will require not only interest in the project but also support for it, in the form of grants, donations, bequests, or sponsorships – businesses or individuals that provide funding to build a particular component of the park; a cabin, a boathouse, a picnic shelter, zip-lines, trails, overlooks, an elevated canopy walk, an observation tower, piers, and so on.
- H. Without such outside support, completion of the vision associated with this dynamic riverside land could take decades. While the City will obviously be the prominent player in this project, partners will be needed and hope others will see the vision and step forward. Staff will keep you posted on developments.
- I. Staff has been working with the City Manager's Office towards the development of a primitive trail on the southern edge of River Park North, along the North bank of the Tar River. This trail will connect to and extend existing trails at River Park North and hopefully be able to connect these trails at the future Adventure Park to the east.
- J. Discussions continue regarding the replacement of the Community Pool, located at Guy Smith Park. The aquatics facility has been serving the families of Greenville for almost 50 years and should come as no surprise the pool is approaching the end of its life and its days are numbered. Staff does not

believe a demise is imminent, but painting and patching and duct taping can only be effective for so long, so staff must get serious about identifying the resources needed for pool replacement.

- K. City Council's Annual Planning Session will take place in about two weeks starting on 1/24 and continuing most of the day on 1/25. City Council traditionally determines the City's goals during this annual meeting and those goals are key to the development of the Recreation and Parks goals and strategies for achieving them. Hope to share some of the results of that meeting at the February Commission meeting.

VII. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT

A. New Year's Eve Celebration at the Town Common

1. 2019 was a successful year for GRPD staff. The department planned hundreds of programs that impacted 1000's of citizens within the community.
2. Staff also implemented several events and worked with community organizations on many others. Shown in pictures is the New Year's Eve Celebration held at the Town Common, which was the first for Greenville. Patricia Tyndall, Ron Harris, and several Parks staff worked with other city employees to make this a huge success. Patricia also led the efforts for the before mentioned Greenville Gives, which our department takes the lead in planning. That event which was held on 12/6/2019, had over a thousand in attendance and was the largest one thus far.

B. Beach Volleyball Facility Project Update

1. Benefits to the Community
 - a. Addressed a need for additional beach volleyball courts due to the increase in participation and anticipated growth in the Greenville-Pitt County area.
 - b. Allows Recreation and Parks staff to provide new youth and adult program opportunities.
 - c. Provides opportunity for Greenville to host regional level tournaments, which will have a positive impact on local economy.
 - d. Allows Recreation and Parks staff to work with club beach volleyball teams from area high schools.
2. Project Timeline
 - a. 11/26/2019 Four construction bids received for project.
 - b. 12/12/2019 Best qualifying bid proposal accepted.
 - c. 12/12/2019 Construction contract approved at City Council meeting.
 - d. 01/02/2020 Recreation and Parks staff met with contractors on-site.
 - e. 01/16/2020 Groundbreaking Ceremony (tentative)
 - f. Construction to begin early-mid January and take approximately 120 days.
3. Next Steps
 - a. Parks Coordinator Mike Watson will continue to serve as project manager and work with contractor during construction. Scheduled to be completed within 180 days.
 - b. Recreation staff within the Athletics Division are currently planning new youth and adult beach volleyball programming which is set to begin in the fall of 2020. The programs will include leagues, clinics and specified times for open play.
 - c. Staff are also developing a fee structure which will allow the facility to be rented by the public when events/programs are not being held. This will provide the opportunity for outside tournaments to be held and for the community to rent the facility for birthday parties or for general use. Reservations will be managed by Athletics staff and the procedure will be the same as current rentals for tennis courts, ballfield and other athletic sites.
 - d. This facility will also provide the city the ability to host various regional beach volleyball tournaments. The four court set-up will allow for a maximum tournament of twenty teams per age group, which will bring an economic impact to the community and allow for local players to stay in Greenville instead of traveling two hours or more to compete. Staff will work with the local volleyball community, various sanctioned organizations and the Greenville-Pitt County Sport Commission to recruit tournaments, which will likely begin in 2021. The hope is for the city to host 4-6 tournaments annually which will provide an economic impact each year of approximately \$200,000-\$300,000.
 - e. Commissioner Hasan Hilliard asked for a copy of the bid tab. Assistant Director Don Octigan will email to him.

4. Summer Programming
 - a. Staff are currently finalizing plans for this year's summer camp program. Registration will begin on 2/3. Schedules for most camps will be on-line within the next week at greenvillenc.gov.
 - b. Employment Opportunities – Have 16 different job titles to hire for the summer. Applications accepted 2/3 thru 4/7.
5. Important Dates
 - a. 1/6 Adult Basketball games began at Boyd Lee Park, South Greenville Recreation Center, and Eppes Recreation Center.
 - b. 1/12 Youth Basketball games begin at several locations.
 - c. 1/20 Recreation facilities closed due to City Holiday.
 - d. 1/29 Department All Staff Meeting.
 - e. 2/3 Future Stars Youth Soccer Registration ends.
 - f. 2/5 Registration opens for Summer Camp and Greenie League Baseball.
 - g. 2/29 Cultural Arts Day at Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Recreation Division Report

1. Dennis Vestal, Recreation Manager and Dalace Inman, Recreation Supervisor – Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center
 - a. Amenities – Indoor heated pool, 8,000 sq. ft. basketball court, free weights and machine weights, cardio equipment, group fitness classes, aquatic classes, swim lessons, general programs, badminton and Pickleball, locker rooms, supervised area for children, and special events.
 - b. Free Fitness Week held 1/2-8.
 - c. Aquatic Exercise Classes – 25 weekly classes, shallow and deep classes, early morning, evening, and Saturday's, new this year – Saturday, Deep Toning, Water Walking, and Orientation Classes.
 - d. Swim Programs – ages 6 months to adult, adaptive and Spanish accommodations, aligned with American Red Cross Learn to Swim Model, 60 programs in Fall/Winter and 116 programs in Spring/Summer, class sizes are 3-10 participants per instructor depending on level, all Swim Instructors are expected to be certified by Summer 2020, and group lessons for after school programs and summer camps.
 - e. Water Safety – Lifeguard Training – 5 certification courses yearly, 3 staff members certified to train lifeguards, Lifeguard CPR Training is at a professional level, Water Safety Instructor Courses – 2 per year, Staff In-Service Training – 2 hours monthly in off-season and 1 hour weekly during summer, downward trend of active drowning incidents, and projecting no staffing shortfalls in Summer 2020.
 - f. Programming – Swim meets, Doggie Pool Party, Water Polo, and Boo Bash Splash.
 - g. Community Pool and Splashpoint – 4th of July and Luau scheduled again this coming summer.
 - h. Have a 97% satisfaction rate on survey.
 - i. In April will be resurfacing part of the Community Pool for the summer season.
2. Heather White, Outreach Coordinator
 - a. Shared work history from Harrison Family YMCA, Rocky Mount Parks and Recreation, and Rolesville Parks and Recreation.
 - b. Sponsorship Package
 - i. Athletics and Special Events
 - a) Provide quality, affordable programs to patrons of Greenville.
 - Enhance existing programs.
 - Expand program offerings.
 - b) Offer annual events that are well attended by community.
 - Enhance existing programs.
 - Expand event offerings.
 - Use of various recreation parks and venues.

- c) Financial Assistance
 - Evaluation of financial assistance program.
 - Create community fundraising effort to supplement assistance provided (\$7,000 subsidized annually).
 - To better promote assistance program to the community.
- d) Next Steps
 - Portfolio for presentation of sponsorship materials (tier levels).
 - Sponsorship Letter.
 - Athletic and special events full page detail on sponsorship benefits.
 - Sponsorship Commitment Form.
 - Rack cards provided for exposure.

B. Parks Division Report

1. Dean Foy, Parks Superintendent
 - a. If there is any aspect of the department you would like to learn about, email Dean or Laura Davenport and it will be shared at a Commission meeting.
2. Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner
 - a. Tar River Primitive Trail
 - i. Design work to be completed in January 2020.
 - ii. Phased construction begins early 2020.
 - b. Rivers Edge Park Sculpture Garden
 - i. Design work to be completed early 2020.
 - ii. Construction in spring 2020.
 - iii. Soliciting input from FROGGS since it a part of their garden.
 - iv. Plan to have around 10 sculptures in the garden.
 - c. Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza
 - i. Construction on schedule, estimated completion date is March 2020.
 - d. Beach Volleyball Courts
 - i. Preconstruction meeting held on 1/2/2020.
 - ii. Construction expected to take 4 months, spring 2020.
 - e. Greene Street Bridge Improvements
 - i. Painting – Under contract, work to start early spring 2020. Work will take two weeks.
 - ii. Decking Replacement/Widening – Out for bid, due 1/21. Work will take place after painting is completed.
 - iii. Lighting – Work will take place after decking is completed.
 - iv. Total project to be completed by mid-June.
 - f. Water Sports Facility at RPN
 - i. Accessible Water Sports Access – Pier work ongoing.
 - ii. Project completion date expected in February 2020.

VIX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Rescheduling of November 2020 Commission Meeting
 A motion was made to move the November 2020 Commission meeting to Tuesday, 11/10/2020.
 Motion: Gordon Darragh
 Second: Byron Aynes
 Motion carried unanimously among those present.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Nikki Caswell – Welcome to Heather and Mark. Looking forward to the Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza completion.
- B. Hassan Hilliard – Thanks to Laura for being here all the time. Thanks to Dean and Don too. Welcome aboard to Mark and Heather.
- C. Carrie Watson – Thanks to everyone who gave reports.
- D. Mike Saad – Welcome Mark and Heather, look forward to working with you. Big accomplishment with the 170 acres of purchased land, will take decades to build.

- E. Byron Aynes – Welcome Heather and Mark, good to meet you. Thanks for all of the reports. Really excited about the beach volleyball courts. Have to travel to Wilmington or Raleigh to play.
- F. Gordon Darragh – Welcome to Heather and Mark, thanks in advance for all of the hard work you put in. Great job on newly purchased land.
- G. Councilmember Monica Daniels – Happy New Year! Welcome Heather and Mark. Thanks to everyone for the work you do. Thank you for the financial assistance program so we can provide services to that community.

XII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM.

Motion: Gordon Darragh

Second: Hasan Hilliard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura J. Davenport
Administrative Assistant
Recreation and Parks Department