



City of Greenville  
**Recreation and Parks Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @ 5:30 PM  
South Greenville Recreation Center

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |                                                             |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordon Darragh, Chair   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevon Gainer  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darin White, Vice-Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montez Bishop |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deborah Sheppard        | <input type="checkbox"/> Derrick Clark            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Najiyah Lewis                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joel Sweeney  |

**STAFF:**

- |                                                                                |                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Octigan, Director                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dennis Vestal, Superintendent          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Nottingham, Parks Planner             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather White, Superintendent          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtnee McGrath, Administrative Assistant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Member Monica Daniels, Liaison |

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:**

Council Member Blackburn was present in the audience as well as Recreation Manager Dontrell Jones, Recreation Supervisor Nicole Mangio, and Recreation Assistant Da'Andre Beverly.

**MEETING AGENDA, DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:**

The meeting opened at 5:32 PM and the following items were addressed:

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the March 8, 2023 agenda as presented.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Kevon Gainer

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the February 8, 2023 minutes as presented.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Montez Bishop

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

**V. STAFF MONTHLY REPORTS**

A) Director, Don Octigan

- 1) Director Octigan informed the Commission that Dontrell Jones has been promoted to Recreation Manager from Recreation Supervisor. He will oversee Eppes Recreation Center, South Greenville Recreation Center, and the Drew Steele Center.
- 2) Nicole Manigo last day with the department will be Friday as she is getting her doctorate in physical therapy. The department will miss her, but greatly appreciates everything she has done.
- 3) An offer has been made for the vacant Superintendent role. The individual is looking to join our team the end of April.
- 4) The Comprehensive Master Plan will be presented to the Commission next month. As data has been gathered, we are below staffing levels and above standards compared to other cities in similar size. This shows how hard our staff is working to provide excellent service.

- 5) Courtnee has seen extreme growth on social media and the Facebook page reached 112,616 people last month with one post reaching over 92,000 people.
  - 6) The funding for the pickleball conversion was approved at Elm Street Park. This will expand our offerings to the community. The project will start later this month and is expected to take 6-8 weeks.
    - (a) Commissioner Darragh commented on the tremendous growth of pickleball.
- B) Superintendent, Heather White
- 1) Summer camp registration is open and job recruitment has begun.
  - 2) Winterfest was this past month and staff is already planning for the egg rush at River Park North, which will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - 3) The athletics division has kicked-off the spring soccer season with over 1,200 kids enrolled.
  - 4) Pickleball currently has 54 participants registered for open play and five teams for the pickleball open. There are 86 registered for clinics and a waitlist has begun.
  - 5) Tennis is also doing extremely well with programming and new programs as staff sees fit.
    - (a) Commissioner Darragh asked if a pickleball tournament could be held in Greenville with the new outdoor court transformation. Heather informed him that it can.
- C) Superintendent, Dennis Vestal
- 1) A lifeguard class was held, and two individuals from that class were hired.
  - 2) Staff is doing a recruitment event at Eppes Recreation Center on April 1<sup>st</sup> to educate the public on the requirements for being a lifeguard.
  - 3) Registration nights for the Outdoor pool are planned at multiple facilities to collect waivers and improve the efficiency for the first week.
  - 4) Staff has seen an increase in pickleball at the fitness center.
  - 5) The Fitness center and outdoor pool passed inspection for the health department.
  - 6) The Fitness center held their member retention program for meter rows that must be completed in one sitting. Two individuals battled it out for 20,000 meters in 2.5 hours.
  - 7) Park maintenance have made various repairs at facilities and fields. Staff laid out 17 soccer fields for the different age groups in preparation for Spring Future Stars.
- D) Parks Planner, Mark Nottingham
- 1) The draft Comprehensive Master Plan was received by staff and edits were sent back to Kimley-Horn.
  - 2) The Welcome Center at Wildwood Park is almost completed and just waiting on the water line. The playground is being installed and construction should take an additional two weeks.
  - 3) The Pump Track and Bicycle Skills Course should be done later this month.
  - 4) The Chris Smith Mountain Trails will be completed in the summer and have six miles of trails available for the community.
  - 5) APRA funded projects:
    - (a) The Dream Park design is ongoing and looking at a fall completion for the designs and bidding it out for construction later this year.
    - (b) Greenfield Terrace design should kick off in May. The parking lot will be paved, and playground equipment will be upgraded.
    - (c) Town Common Bulkhead design concepts have been provided and will be shared at the next Commission meeting. This is just the first phase of the project and the construction cost might not be covered with ARPA funding but staff is looking at state and federal grants for this project.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

## **VII. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- A) Commissioner Sheppard: Great meeting tonight and congrats Dontrell and thank you Nicole for the work you have done.
- B) Commissioner Gainer: Great to be back and thank you Nicole for everything you have done.

- C) Commissioner White: Congrats Nicole and thank you for everything you have done for South Greenville. I love the ideas that come out of these meetings and even though the department is short staffed everyone is doing amazing. Thank you for both councilmembers for attending these meetings.
- D) Commissioner Darragh: Great job and always amazed at the programs and projects happening. Thank you, Nicole, for your work and excited for your future.
- E) Commissioner Bishop: Refreshing to be a part of the commission and see everything the department is doing.
- F) Commissioner Sweeney: Congrats Nicole and great to see how you grew with the department and your impact on south Greenville. Great to see some issues that were brought to the meetings a few months ago are now resolved. Look forward to hearing the great things to come.
- G) Councilmember Daniels: Congrats to Nicole and the work you do and have done coming from your heart and the impact you have made to the community. Thank you for staff and all of the great work they are doing.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

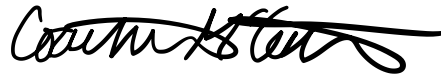
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Motion: Darin White

Second: Deborah Sheppard

Motion carried unanimously among those present.

Respectfully Submitted,



Courtnee McGrath  
Administrative Assistant  
Recreation and Parks Department