



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, June 10, 2015 – 4 pm
Lindley Community Recreation Center – 2907 Springwood Drive

PRESENT MEMBERS: Matthew “Matt” Lojko, Jr. (Chair), Decarlos Kinds (Vice-Chair), Carl Brower, Andrew Egbert, Robert Enochs, Kelly Gaines, Justin Washington

ABSENT MEMBERS: Brian Clarida, Tim Tsujii

STAFF PRESENT: Josh Benedict, Steve Branson, Bob Brooks, Phil Fleischmann, Brandon Free, Jeff Ferguson, Johnny Galbreath, Jayme Goodyear, Phil Hardin, Austin Homan, Charles Jackson, Vonda Martin, Nasha McCray, Mel Melton, Kim Porter, Wade Walcutt, Craig Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Lindley Community Recreation Center. Matt Lojko, Jr, Chair called the meeting to order at 4 pm.

WELCOME

Brandon Free, Lindley Community Recreation Center Director, offered brief remarks welcoming the Commissioners to the center and highlighted the history of the namesake of the facility, J. Van Lindley. Free also provided an overview of current programs offered at the center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lojko shared that Wade Walcutt has been named the new Parks and Recreation Director.

Lojko announced that there was a quorum was present.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 8 and May 13, 2015 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings were approved as submitted.

RECOGNITIONS

Volunteer Recognition

Jenny Caviness, Youth and Volunteer Services Division Manager, called on Phil Hardin, Assistant Athletics Director, to present the Volunteer of the Month award.

Hardin introduced Tom Peters, current youth baseball coach and former youth football coach where he has volunteered at Lewis Community Recreation Center for 16 years. Hardin stated that Peters has impacted many youth and has dedicated thousands of hours to teach fundamentals of the game and to ensure each child has a positive experience.

STAFF REPORTS

Summer Day Camps and ENERGY in the Park Program Update

Kim Porter, Recreation Centers Superintendent introduced herself and Jayme Goodyear, Greensboro Sportsplex General Manager.

As part of a powerpoint presentation (attached), Goodyear shared photos from summer camps held at the Greensboro Sportsplex. The All Stars Summer Day Camp is a full day camp held in-house at the Sportsplex similar to recreation center camps with the inclusion of more sporting activities. This camp is designed for kids who would like to participate in future sports. This camp allows kids to explore some of what the Sportsplex has to offer. Other camps include partnerships with Soccer Op, Piedmont Global Club, NC Basketball Academy. Through the partnership with NC Basketball Academy, the Harlem Globetrotters Basketball Camp has been made possible.

Porter continued the presentation by informing the Commission that the ENERGY (Education; Nutrition; Exercise; Recreation; Games; for Youth) in the Park program is set up just as last year at 6 neighborhood playgrounds full-time and 2 part-time. The part-time locations were launched last year. Attendance is higher around the lunch time hour. Meals are provided at all locations. Each part of "ENERGY" is incorporated each day by staff. This year staff is working with Work Force Development who is providing a youth at each site and works with the program site director. This gives youth the opportunity for work experience and skill set building opportunities. Meals are served Monday-Thursday at each site through a Guilford County Schools program.

The Summer Day Camp program held at all 11 community recreation centers gives kids the opportunity to attend field trips, participate in arts and crafts, and offers recreational activities. This program runs June 15-August 14 from 7:30 am – 6 pm. Children are provided lunch 5 days a week through another agency partnership. All Parks and Recreation camps offered serve 6,000-7,000 kids throughout the summer. Camp cost is \$70/week. In the past fee assistance was given to those children who qualify for a free or reduced lunch cost through Guilford County Schools. This school system now offers free lunch to every student. Staff then had to determine the criteria to use for those who may need assistance with camp fees. Once qualified for fee assistance the camp cost is reduced to half at \$35/week. In addition, the Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation will pay a portion of the already reduced rate with parents then paying approximately \$20/week. This still includes breakfast and lunch.

Porter added that City Arts has camps available at Caldcleugh Multicultural Center in addition to dance, drama, and music camps. Kindermusik camp is also offered.

Porter turned the presentation over to Goodyear to speak about the enhancements that have been made this year.

Goodyear reported that the Greensboro Sportsplex is excited to have another partnership with Cross Fit Greensboro, a new tenant where the RUSH was located inside of the Sportsplex. Other partnerships include TYLA (Triad Youth Lacrosse Association) and Greensboro tennis programs to offer additional activities not offered by the Sportsplex.

Staff researched training opportunities to assist in providing more consistent comprehensive programs for all roster and seasonal summer programming employees. A variety of information was gathered on all Parks and Recreation camps and programs. Each camp location was offering its own in house training. Staff wanted to offer a more global picture of what takes place in Parks and Recreation. These employees will be of more use providing information to the public and better serve customers and kids participating in programs. A series of trainings were developed with new manuals, emergency procedure guidebook, and a summer event staff handbook. A new contract is in place with the Red Woods group, a leading insurance provider offering staff an opportunity for online training with items that staff could not necessarily replicate very easily, which includes aquatic training. On-site trainings continue to take place with mandated CPR and First Aid Safety with summer youth programming roster employees.

Porter closed informing the Commission that each community recreation center is conducting a parent orientation. The orientation provides a handbook for parents where as in the past parents were given a one page information sheet. Transportation guidelines have been updated. Last year over 50,000 meals were served at summer camps with anticipation of an increase this year.

Brower inquired about the age range of youth who are working with the neighborhood playground program.

Porter responded that the majority of those working through Work Force Development are out of high school and up to age 21. They, too, must also attend summer camp training through Parks and Recreation.

Egbert asked if children are provided healthy meals and if there is an education component.

Porter replied that the meals are provided through Guilford County Schools and nutritional standards and certain guidelines must be met. Children are served the entire meal without the option of selecting or choosing what they would prefer to eat. A portion of a grant that was awarded last year included the Organ Wise Guys program which focuses on nutrition. This program will continue to be incorporated with the summer camp program for the next 5 years.

National Get Outdoors Day

Phil Fleischmann, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, invited Commission members to join in Saturday, June 13 for National Get Outdoors Day. Fleishmann then referred to a powerpoint (attached) that gave an overview of activities that will take place in celebration of this day. He stated that these activities are a good example of how programs are offered through Parks and Recreation impact and build better lives and better communities.

List of activities mentioned by Fleischmann:

- Xterra Sports Triathlon, Lake Brandt, Saturday 4:30 pm. This is the only day during the year that swimming is permitted at Lake Brandt.
- 2-Man Best Ball Golf Tournament, Gillespie Golf Course, Saturday and Sunday with free drinks and snacks. The fee is \$200/team.
- The department has strong relationship with the Out of the Garden Project, a nonprofit that works on feeding youth in Guilford County and also food redistribution so meals that are not consumed as part of school lunches can be packaged when safe to do so and

redistributed to children and families in need. The department will be working with this organization this fall in terms of providing some of the redistribution of food to participants in the after school program in recreation centers. Out of the Garden Project operates out of Folk Teen Center for their food pantry and summer camps. They have extended an invite to the Commission to their Community Appreciation Day at Folk Teen Center this Friday from 3-5 pm.

- National Night Out Kickoff Block Party, Police Headquarters - 320 Federal Place, Saturday 10 am-1 pm. Parks and Recreation staff will be providing games and activities. National Night Out will be held August 4.
- First weekend of regular summer operations at the 4 outdoor pools, Saturday and Sunday 1-5 pm.
- MUSEP (Music for Sunday Evening in the Park), Friendly Center, Sunday 6 pm
- National Fishing Week Celebration.
 - Locals vs. the Pro Bass Fishing Tournament, Lake Higgins, Friday 6 pm
 - Children's Fishing Clinic and Tournament, Lake Higgins, Saturday 9 am-noon with Sabrina Thompson, first African American female professional angler in the country, who will be leading the children's clinic. There is no charge for children in need as well as transportation.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Skate Park Update

Nasha McCray, Planning and Project Development Division Manager, reported on the progress of the Skate Park. McCray referred to a powerpoint (attached) presentation during the report.

McCray stated that this will be City of Greensboro's first outdoor skate park. In the 1998 Greensboro Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan a recommendation was to develop a skate park based on a survey and needs assessment. This request was again a result of the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. In 2006, a bond referendum was approved to fund a skate park. Due to project schedules and fund availabilities, this project was delayed; however funding is available this fiscal year to move forward with building a skate park. Multiple conversations have been held to determine the best location for this park. A skate park was included with the Griffin Community Recreation Center Master Plan; however Parks and Recreation was approached by City Council to research a more central location. This was an interesting process trying to locate available public land in or near the downtown area. It was then discussed that instead of researching one location on a large piece of property, which does not exist downtown, perhaps it should be viewed as something similar to the Greenway and how there is a network of trails throughout the city and establish a skate network. It was determined that this method would be the best use of funds available and would allow the opportunity to have multiple skate park locations that could be accessed throughout the city.

Other municipality skate parks were researched as to the best practices used in managing and operating their skate parks. The most overwhelming response received was to involve the skating community from the beginning of the planning process. With this suggestion, staff reached out to the skateboarding community and an advisory team was formed. This team included skate board

users, community partners, organizations and nonprofits as well as representation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The advisory team was charged with these objectives: evaluate locations; identify reputable design/builders; request for qualifications and evaluation criteria; advocacy.

McCray continued stating that there are multiple benefits in developing a skate park for users. They increase metabolism, improve balance, enhances coordination, and provides creative freedom. The benefits for developing a skate park in Greensboro is that it provides a safe environment for skateboarding and BMX users, reduces damage to property by providing a positive skate place, there are physical and mental health benefits, promotes healthy and active lifestyles and social support network, creates a youth to senior adult engagement, offers a diverse, non-traditional recreational activity, and it is virtually low maintenance.

There are different types of skate parks. Skate dots are the smallest in size, is a single structure, and can have 3-5 users at one time. Skate spots are 2,500-5,000 sq ft, have several structures with seating, and can have 5-8 users at one time. A skate park is 6,000-25,000 sq ft, offers a full spectrum of diverse elements (bowls, plazas, street terrain), has restrooms and seating and can have 10+ users.

The advisory team selected 19 city-wide locations. (McCray referred to the map in the powerpoint presentation as to the locations). The team also developed criteria to determine which of the locations would be the best fit. The criteria included: space (for a dot, spot or park), lighting, visibility (can you see it from the road), accessibility, nearby amenities (places to eat, other recreational opportunities), infrastructure (restrooms, shade), and social ability (will nearby areas be in support), "gut-feel" and comfort. The team visited each of the locations. The locations were also reviewed by other city departments in regards to storm water or any other issues. The top preferred location was Latham Park for skate park and Glenwood Community Recreation Center for a dot and spot park. Latham Park offers other recreational activities, is located along the Greenway, and located just outside of downtown and very accessible. There is a history of residents near Glenwood Center where there is support for skate boarding activity.

The request for qualification and the evaluation criteria of most importance to the advisory team is: design and build firms would have to previously created a skate park design and have construction experience, experience with collaborating with community and public agencies, have creativity of design and someone who can complete the project on time and within the budget. A local firm is preferred, however, if not local, how they would be prepared to travel to Greensboro. More criteria include warranty and quality assurance for an accurate build and a maintenance manual in order to keep the facility in working condition. Also include The Minority of Women Business participation on the design and construction team.

McCray requested the Commission their consideration of approval to approve the recommended skate park locations and criteria for evaluating and selecting qualified design and build firms as provided by staff and the Skate Park Advisory Team. If approved, this item will be taken before City Council this summer. Then the selection of a design and build team will be chosen. At the least, 3 public meetings will be held to receive feedback of the design concept. After this is complete, an update will be presented to the Commission to share the feedback that was received. Depending on the weather and the type of facility the construction process is expected to begin in spring of 2016. Anticipated completion of the project is spring or summer of 2016.

Gaines inquired about the exact location of the skate park in Latham Park.

McCray replied stating that Latham Park is a long park and located on both sides of Wendover Avenue. Flooding does occur on the north side of the park so this location is not an option. Flooding also occurs on the south side west of the creek. The location near the basketball courts is being considered. Staff would need to rely on the construction build team to make a recommendation on a preferred location.

Brower asked what the overall budget is for this project.

McCray stated that the approved cost for the project is approximately \$575k. The estimated cost for the dot and spot park is unknown at this time and will depend on the type of elements incorporated in the park.

Lojko stated that Kinds is serving on the Skate Park Advisory Team.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brower and seconded by Gaines to approve the recommended skate park locations and the criteria for evaluation and selecting qualified design/build firms as provided by staff and the Skate Park Advisory Team. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Hester Park Redevelopment Master Plan

Vonda Martin, Park Planner, came before the Commission to give an overview of the planning process, a timeline for the project, objectives and desired outcomes. A powerpoint (attached) was used to present a map and aerial view of the park.

Martin reported that Hester Park is an 87 acre regional park in District 5. On the site resides Trotter Community Recreation Center. There are 7 picnic shelters, a lake, fishing pier, 1.3 mile walking trail, volleyball court, athletic fields, tennis courts, and a maintenance area. There has never been a master plan for the park. Staff is working to give a comprehensive view to ensure the needs of the residents are met. The master plan will go before City Council. The Commission is being asked to consider a recommendation for City Council approval.

Other departments within the city were included in the planning process. Estimated completion is December 2015. The goal of the master plan process will be to give the park a long range vision to improve the park infrastructure.

Martin continued and informed the Commission that there will be a City Connection Team established made up of community stakeholders. This is in addition to a Staff Review Team.

Depending on the communities desired amenities this project may have to be broken down into phases.

Martin informed the Commission that public meetings will now be announced as "Community Conversations". Community Conversations helps to clarify to the public that the meetings are for two-way communications. These conversations are vital to any master planning process. The meetings will explain the planning process, the conceptual plan, and a master plan presentation.

Martin referred to the powerpoint for examples of conceptual ideas and components that will be used.

Kinds asked if the master plan will be developed entirely in-house.

Martin replied yes, with the exception of specialized items such as mapping. In-house would save money which could potentially be used for implanting some of the ideas.

Lojko asked that the District 5 Commissioner, Gaines, join the master plan task force. Gaines agreed to serve. Lojko asked members for any other nominations. There were none.

Action Taken

A vote in favor was unanimous for Kelly Gaines to serve on the Hester Park Redevelopment Master Plan Review Committee.

Nomination Committee for 2015-16 Commission Officers

Lojko announced that Washington will chair the nomination committee. Egbert and Gaines will serve on the committee. The committee will return to the next Commission meeting with a recommendation for a 2015-16 Chair and Vice-Chair.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Walcutt invited the Commission to attend the Griffin Community Recreation Center Community Conversation, scheduled for Thursday at 6pm. Walcutt also asked for Commissioners to consider locations where they would like to tour during the next meeting. Locations that had already been mentioned included Keeley Park, Bryan Park and Lake Townsend, and the Greensboro Science Center.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Gaines shared that she enjoyed finding the new trail off of Old Fox Dr. and looks forward to using it in the future. She indicated that she liked to see more development coming at Griffin Park.

Brower thanked the cemetery crew at Union Cemetery for the work that they have done to improve the property. He indicated that he liked Martin's presentation and the concept of a master plan for Hester Park. He shared that he had asked the question regarding summer youth employment during Porter's presentation due to comments that had been made at a recent City Council meeting, indicating an interest in developing youth employment opportunities.

Washington asked that the Greensboro Sportsplex be added as a potential tour site in July. Egbert passed.

Enochs announced that he will be resigning from the Commission due to scheduling conflicts and thanked his fellow Commissioners for their service to the community.

Kinds congratulated Walcutt for his appointment as Director. She shared how fortunate residents are to have a wide variety of amenities to enjoy.

Walcutt thanked Kinds, Brower and Lojko for speaking on behalf of Parks and Recreation during a recent City Council meeting.

Lojko thanked Brower for chairing the last Commission meeting and indicated that Kinds will chair the next two meetings.

With no further business, Lojko adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcie Metzger, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation