



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board Minutes of September 14, 2020**

Present: Marshall Newsome, Gary Ollis, Bob Davis, Ed Price, Brian Petty, Bryon Stricklin

Absent: Eric Ables, Lauren Britton, Monica Peters

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Colten Marble, Randy Little, Eugene Coleman, Paige Moné, Jessi Heffner



**Call to Order / Welcome**

The regular meeting of the HPPR Commission Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2020. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

**Approval of August 2020 Minutes**

Minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Gary Ollis made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Bob Davis seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Lee Tillery summarized that Phase 2.5 has been enacted by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and how Parks & Recreation responded. Playgrounds have been reopened; they had previously been closed. Outdoor basketball courts were reopened as well as shelter reservations for small gatherings. Phase 2.5 allows for recreation centers to be opened at 30% capacity and there are after school programs and activities at three recreation centers and Piedmont Environmental Center. The Governor’s order has allowed for the outdoor capacity limit to be increased from 25 to 50. Within athletics, and sports games, players are not counted towards that limit, which allows for 50 spectators. Indoor limits are now 25 people per room, so long as there is six foot of separation.

Ed Price asked Lee Tillery when wrestling would be brought back to Southside Recreation Center. Lee responded by stating that Parks & Recreation doesn’t anticipate starting wrestling back up anytime soon. Marshall Newsome posed the question of budget impact, and he asked if there has been a reduction or increase to budget as a result of the closed facilities. Lee responds stating the budget was severely reduced. He continued to say the sales tax took a hit, and the general fund is based on sales tax and revenue. There had been previous discussions about Morehead Recreation Center closing, thankfully Morehead can remain. Parks & Recreation were not asked to let any employees go; however, the City of High Point has

implemented a hiring freeze which could negatively impact the Department if employees were to transfer or leave throughout the course of the year. Lee Tillery says that revenue has seen a decrease due to change in operating hours, closings and City Lake Park, lost revenue due to no rentals and closures for repairs and renovations. The Department has seen an increase in use of facilities. Golf courses and Washington Terrace Park pool has seen major traffic.

Lee Tillery moved on to discuss the Comprehensive Greenway Master Plan. He states that Transportation Department is paying 80% of the cost of the 8-month plan where Parks and Recreation is paying for 20% of the cost. Regarding the City Lake design update, the City of High Point designated a \$9.5 million for the project. More decisions need to be made as far as budgeting and design in the next 10 to 11 weeks. The Department is hoping for the design phase to be done within a year, which Lee feels is still possible.

Tracy Pegram discussed conversations between the Department, Guilford County Schools and Say Yes Guilford. Both Guilford County Schools and Say Yes Guilford are working to bring tutors to the After-School Explorations Enrichment programs. This will aid students with the different subjects and keep students on track outside the classroom. Allen Jay Recreation Center is holding a Fitness and Cheer program. Oakview and Morehead Recreation Centers are holding a Sports Development Program and Deep River Recreation Center is holding a science, technologies, engineering, art and math program (STEAM). At the Piedmont Environmental Center there is an afterschool Environmental Education Academy which is following the school's science curriculum.

Marshall Newsome posed the question of expanding the use of Parks & Recreation facilities for voting in November. Lee Tillery replied that initially there were three locations for voting but this year there are now five locations. Washington Terrace, Deep River Recreation Center, Allen Jay Recreation Center, Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center and the Northpoint Administration Building.

Ed Price asked, with Guilford County Schools closing A.C.E.S. for the rest of the year, can the Parks and Recreation Department help parents with the student's instruction. Tracy Pegram stated that when school resumes normal schedule, the Department will revert to the traditional after-school program. The Boys and Girls Club that is run at Southside Recreation Center also takes children after school. Colten Marble added that the program at the Piedmont Environmental Center is scheduled until Friday, October 23, 2020.

Bryon Stricklin asked if there was any way of gauging the level of participation in the after-school program and the level of effectiveness. Tracy Pegram stated that the Department is tracking participation. Lee Tillery continued stating that there is Wi-Fi at all the Recreation Centers.

## **Staff Reports**

Parks/Maintenance – Eugene Coleman

- Restrooms are cleaned, serviced and sanitized in both the mornings and evenings.
- Within days of playgrounds opening the Maintenance group were able to clean all playgrounds.

### Special Facilities – Colten Marble

- The trails and greenways have seen high attendance. During the summer the Piedmont Environmental Center had been closed to the public, but restrooms were open. Phase 2.5 allows for the PEC to open. The focus has been on the after-school program.
- At the Oak Hollow Tennis Center, the outdoor clay courts have been open but now under Phase 2.5 the indoor facility can open at 30% capacity.
- At City Lake Park the amusements including the train and the carousel have not been allowed to reopen, however the Tour Boat has been operating at a reduced capacity. Also, shelter rentals have started up.
- The Department has started showing movies at the Oak Hollow Campground for patrons. Special Facilities is getting ready to expand that to the public.
- The Oak Hollow Golf Course has been open the entire time but with adjusted hours. For a while it had been closed on Mondays and on days where it was open, they would close early to allow for cleaning.
- In July 2020 there was more use of the Oak Hollow campgrounds than there had been July of 2019. At both Oak Hollow Marina and High Point City Lake there was an increase in non-powered boat launches and boat rentals. Bank fishing fees have been waived since the pandemic began and continue to be waived.
- Colten shared a spreadsheet showing how attendance was affected, or in a lot of cases, unaffected by the pandemic.

### Recreation – Randy Little

- There have been no youth competitions during the pandemic, but Adult League competitions have been happening. Fields rentals are taking place.
- Phase 2.5 allows the recreation centers to open back up for programming at a limited capacity.
- There have been virtual programs including the E-Sports league that has been launched. There have been drive-thru programs as well as the virtual programs.

### Marketing – Paige Mone’

- The Marketing team is continuing to update the public with posts on Facebook and in the newspaper. The pandemic affected what was promoted, focusing on getting information out concerning what is available and what is not.
- A highlight of the summer was the Special Populations drive-by parade over the summer. The Special Populations members were able to see Parks and Recreation staff in vehicles.
- The month of July was National Parks & Recreation Month and during that time there were posts on Facebook and Instagram focusing on staff, volunteers and special credentials.
- The Instagram page is a new addition to social media outlets used to market the Department.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2020 at 5:30pm via Zoom

**Submitted by: Jessica Heffner | Reviewed by: Tracy Pegram | Approved by: Tracy Pegram**