

Parks & Recreation Department

Administration Office



High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board Minutes of August 10, 2020

Present: Marshall Newsome, Eric Ables, Lauren Britton, Robert Davis, Gary Ollis, Ed Price,

Absent: Jerry Archie, Brian Petty, Bryon Strickland

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Randy Little, Colten Marble, Paige Mone, Jessi Heffner



Call to Order / Welcome

The regular meeting of the HPPR Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2020. Marshall Newsome welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for being present.

Approval of March 2020 Minutes

Minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Bob Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read, Gary Ollis seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Lee Tillery introduced Lauren Britton, a newly appointed Commission member. Lauren is filling the vacant Ward 4 position, previously held by Todd Nyfong. Lee introduced Eric Ables. Eric is replacing Gloria Halstead's at-large seat. Lee also introduced Jessi Heffner, the new Parks & Recreation Administrative Associate.

Lee Tillery summarized Parks & Recreation COVID-19 response. All recreation centers are closed, as well as Piedmont Environmental Center, Washington Terrace Community Center, and Senior Center. They have been closed since March following Governor Cooper's Executive Orders for Phase 1 and Phase 2. Playgrounds are closed. All outdoor basketball courts are closed. Washington Terrace pool and Oak Hollow Campground pool opened in June. Washington Terrace pool season ended on August 9. Oak Hollow Campground pool will remain open until the end of September. This pool is typically not staffed, but to keep capacity at 50% and clean according to the recommended guidelines, we added lifeguards there this summer.

Colten Marble discussed attendance at Washing Terrace pool. Pool hours of operation were adjusted, opened earlier in the day allowing more attendees spread over additional swim “waves” periods. Attendance at Washington Terrace Pool was comparable to the attendance last year.

Lee Tillery stated golf courses, marinas, parks and greenways remained open this whole time. There have been adjustments such as switching to online pay and cashless payments. Public restrooms were left open and cleaned twice daily. Trails and greenways remained open. Indoor summer camps were able to run with limited capacities and recreation centers opened exclusively for the summer camps.

Marshall Newsome asked if there were any employees who have been diagnosed or tested for COVID-19. Lee said he didn’t know if he could answer that but assured Commissioners that Parks & Recreation is working closely with Guilford County Health Department and is continuing to follow CDC guidelines.

Ed Price asked if the Miracle League would open. Lee Tillery responded that all Special Populations activities were cancelled through the Fall. Parks & Recreation looking to have them back in Spring 2021.

Lee Tillery discussed the budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. Revenues were affected by the pandemic, Department and City wide. Budget cuts occurred in travel and training. A hiring freeze within the City is affecting the Department. The initial budget called for Morehead Recreation Center to close. Community outreach to City Council allowed for a revision and Morehead was fully funded.

Lee Tillery announced that Alta Planning & Design has been selected to do an updated Greenways Master Plan. The project was funded through the Transportation Department and the High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at 80%, with Parks and Recreation funding 20%. The project and will be recommended at the City Council meeting on August 17.

Next, Tracy Pegram continued with Department promotions. Gerard Harvey is promoting to Morehead Center as the Recreation Center Supervisor. Tanya Work is being promoted to the Allen Jay Recreation Center Supervisor. Dean Benbow is promoting to Assistant Center Supervisor at Allen Jay. Caitlen Jarrell is promoting to Assistant Center Supervisor at Oakview. Tracy continued with additional internal changes and promotions – Tyler Cole is promoting to Recreation Supervisor and Julie Luecht will move to Administration as the Technology and Training Coordinator. All changes go into effect on August 30, 2020.

Next Meeting:

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will take place on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Jessi Heffner | Reviewed by Tracy Pegram | Approved by Tracy Pegram