



High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of November 9, 2020

Present: Marshall Newsome, Brian Petty, Ed Price, Bryon Stricklin, Lauren Britton, Gary Ollis, Eric Abeles, Robert Davis, Monica Peters

Absent: Jerry Archie

Staff: Lee Tiller, Tracy Pegram, Randy Little, Colten Marble, 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, November 9, 2020. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Approval of September 14, 2020 Minutes

Minutes of the September 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Ed Price made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Gary Ollis seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of October 12, 2020 Minutes

Minutes of the October 2020 meeting were presented for approval. Ed Price made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Bryon Stricklin seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Assistant Director Tracy Pegram presented on the Department's goal of national accreditation. Accreditation is an official recognition that the Department meets standards based on the best practices in the Parks & Recreation field. Marshall Newsome asked if there are advantages in securing funding with accreditation. Tracy Pegram said yes, being accredited will give the department an advantage to securing grants and sponsorships in the future. Bryon Stricklin asked how COVID-19 is impacting the visitation from the accreditation team. Tracy Pegram answered that they held virtual visitations this past spring. She stated a virtual visitation may be an option for the department in 2021. Marshall Newsome asked about the cost of accreditation. Tracy Pegram stated the application fee was \$130. There will be fees during the visitation, if it is in-person there will be the cost of the hotel as well as other fees.

Tony Graham was a guest to the Commission Meeting, representing the Legacy Committee of Concerned Citizens. Tony Graham was joined by guests Pastor Lovelle McMichael, Shelly Skeen and Bradford Lilley, also members of the Legacy Committee. Two other members of the Legacy Committee were not in attendance, Phillis Bridges and Hank Wall.

Randy Little discussed the results of the Morehead Recreation Center public survey. A virtual community forum was held September 17. The Morehead Survey had 381 total responses, 263 of those responses lived in High Point and 118 responses lived outside of High Point. Morehead was impacted by COVID-19 like the rest of the Department. The facility closed March 16 and has hosted 3 COVID testing days as well as food giveaways. However, several programs that had been planned for 2020 were cancelled, including adult basketball leagues for Spring 2020. Cheerleading Camp, Gymnastics Camp. Future program plans for Morehead include afterschool programs for middle schoolers, adult basketball sports leagues, cultural arts programs in African American dance and theatre arts, as well as athletic summer camps.

Staff Reports

Directors Report - Lee Tillery thanked the commission as well as guests for the dedication to the city and to Morehead Recreation Center. The pandemic had slowed the Department down and decreased the number of programs that could be held. That number is slowly on the rise as the state is slowly opening, allowing some more programming. The community input is exactly what the Department was seeking, and we look forward to continuing further communications.

The week before the November commission meeting, information was presented to City Council regarding the sale of the Roy B. Culler Jr. Senior Center at 600 Hamilton St. The Department would then enter into a lease with High Point University for a location in the Oak Hollow Mall. The sale of the Senior Center was initiated by the Children's Museum regarding purchasing the land. The construction of the new Senior Center was part of the 2019 General Obligation Bond Referendum. The lease at the Oak Hollow Community Center is a 5-year lease which allows us to still hold senior programs while the Department looks for a permanent location.

Lee Tillery continued by mentioning the new playground at Washington Terrace Park which was dedicated at the Kiwanis Club 100th anniversary celebration.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

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