



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

Present: Marshall Newsome, Robert Davis, Gloria Halstead, Brian Petty

Absent: Gary Ollis, Jerry Archie, Bryon Stricklin, Monica Peters, Ed Price

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, Randy Little, Paige Mone, Adriene Heffner; Kirk Williams



Call to Order / Welcome

The regular meeting of the HPPR Commission was called to order at 5:32 p.m. on Monday, February 10th. Marshall Newsome welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for being present.

Approval of January 2020 Minutes

Minutes of the January 2020 meeting were not presented for approval due to a lack of a quorum. The minutes will be reviewed at the March meeting.

Old/New Business

Lee Tillery discussed details regarding the General Obligation Bond projects including the construction of the new Senior Center and renovations at City Lake Park. He stated that a site has not yet been chosen for the new Senior Center. Site selection criteria includes accessibility and proximity to a transportation route. If an urban location is chosen, the new center will be built up instead of out. He estimated that, once a site is selected, the planning process should take approximately 10 to 12 months and the building process should take a year. Lee also discussed the City Lake Park project stating that there are a lot of unknowns due to the age of the facility. The goal is to create a park that becomes a regional attraction. Lee estimated that the planning phase should take 15-18 months and construction should begin around 2021. It will be a lengthy project with a lot of moving parts. The goal is to minimize the seasonal impact and hopefully only close the pool for one summer. All projects will be aligned with the Master Plan and the findings of the report.

Questions and Comments

Gloria Halstead asked if the department is considering building an aquatic center at the new Senior Center. Lee Tillery responded that the cost is prohibitive and that the department does not want to compete with other facilities that already have indoor pool facilities.

Gloria Halstead asked if the Alexander Martin monument at City Lake Park will be disturbed or relocated. Lee Tillery responded that the department will be certain to take care of the monument and cause it no damage or harm.

Marshall Newsome asked about the amount of acreage that that new Senior Center will require. Lee Tillery responded that there is no set acreage amount but that the department hopes to build a center with at least 30,000 square feet of useable indoor space.

Staff Reports

Director's Report: Lee Tillery stated that the department is currently working on budgeting and planning. The goal is to have budgets ready to present to the city manager who will then present them to city council for approval. He stated that staff retention is good and that employees are staying with the department longer. While this is a good thing, it does lead to rising salaries and higher benefits costs. The goal is to find ways to offset these costs using a variety of cost recovery methods. Right now, the average rate of cost recovery is approximately 24%. Lee also reminded the commissioners of some important dates. The dedication of a second Declan Donoghue Foundation playground will take place on March 8 at 2 p.m. The opening ceremony for the Kiwanis accessible playground at Washington Terrace Park will happen on May 16 with times to be announced. The 2020 Volunteer Appreciation Cookout will take place at Festival Park on June 8.

Parks Maintenance: Eugene Coleman said the rain and winds have been impeding progress on several projects. The maintenance crew was able to replace the memorial benches at Triangle Park and begin the renovations at Deep River fields. Approximately 450 tons of infield mix has been added to the fields and the bases will be reinstalled soon. Renovations on the restrooms at Armstrong Park have also begun. The lighting was replaced and new doors were installed.

Recreation – Randy Little mentioned that Jordan Cager has been promoted to supervisor at Deep River Recreation Center. He also mentioned that several Special Olympics athletes competed in a skiing event in the mountains. The Allstar cheerleaders won first place in their division and will be getting banners that can be hung for all to see.

Marketing – Paige Mone said that the marketing team has been reviewing the previous year's efforts and has started planning for the coming year. Paige hopes to grow the department's social media presence. Paige said that she has seen success with newspapers mentions and other print media this year and will continue those efforts. Website traffic is up and the department has also received good news coverage. The team is working on promotions for the spring.

Questions and Comments

Robert Davis invited the marketing team to set up an information booth or table at the family day event for High Point Pony League. The event takes place on May 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Currently, there are 385 players registered for the league.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting officially adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will take place on Monday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Administration Office at 136 Northpoint Avenue.

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