



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

Present: Marshall Newsome, Gary Ollis, Brian Petty, Bryon Stricklin, Jerry Archie, Ed Price, Gloria Halstead

Absent: Monica Peters, Robert Davis

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, Randy Little, Colten Marble, Paige Mone, Adriene Heffner, Chris Riewe, Nick Anders, Dennis Salgado, Thomas Roehm, Sunny Mode



Call to Order / Welcome

The regular meeting of the HPPR Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020. 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 presented for approval. Gary Ollis made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Brian Petty seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of February 2020 Minutes

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

New Business

Lee Tillery introduced Greg Ferguson, the new Assistant City Manager. He oversees Parks & Recreation.

Lee Tillery introduced Nicole Donoghue. Nicole gave a presentation about the Declan Donoghue Foundation. Declan Donoghue lived a short life of only two years due to a rare immune genetic disorder. He loved to play, and the foundation continues to honor Declan

through play by dedicating playgrounds and offering camp scholarships in his honor. The foundation has already dedicated six playgrounds in the Triad area.

Ed Price asked if the foundation has ever considered helping to upgrade or renovate playgrounds located at or attached to schools. Lee Tillery explained how they used the Department's prioritization list for playground replacement to determine this location. He also stated that all of the playgrounds next to schools have already been replaced or upgraded. Nicole added that they always search to find playgrounds that are open and available to the general public.

Lee Tillery introduced Chris Riewe, Chief Park Ranger. Lee commended the Park Rangers for doing a great job and helping to keep the parks and greenways safe for all residents. Chris Riewe introduced each of the Park Rangers - Nick Anders, Dennis Salgado, Thomas Roehm and Sunny Mode. Chris recognized Sunny's long time service to the city and her recently achieved Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. He presented her with the framed certificate.

Ed Price asked who patrols the greenways. Chris Riewe responded that both High Point police and Park Rangers patrol the areas together. Both groups coordinate and work as a team to keep the areas safe. Marshall Newsome added that he has had many good experiences and positive interactions with the Park Rangers and thanked them for their service.

Lee Tillery announced that the dedication of the new Declan Donoghue Foundation playground at Deep River Park will be held on March 15 at 2 p.m., weather permitting. The dedication was postponed from March 8 due to the weather preventing the project to be completed.

Next, Lee discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with Piedmont Soccer Alliance. He mentioned that the current agreement needs to be reevaluated and updated. The department does the maintenance and upkeep at the fields while the Soccer Alliance runs the sports leagues and manages players and teams. The agreement with Piedmont Soccer Alliance started in 2005 and was originally designed to be a 20-year agreement. He mentioned that we have similar agreements with Pony Baseball and Macedonia Baseball.

Bryon Stricklin asked about what went into the vetting process of the soccer agreement. Lee responded that we looked at our available facilities and what the soccer alliance wanted to do. We compared both to the goals of the Master Plan at the time and created a way to make it work for both parties. Marshall Newsome asked if there are other entities vying for the use of Phillips Park. Lee responded that the North Carolina Fusion group may want to use it for training camps and there were a few other adult leagues who showed an interest, but there was nobody else who wanted to enter into a detailed agreement yet. Marshall Newsome asked if there is any storage at the site. Lee Tillery responded that there is a building on site that the Piedmont Soccer Alliance manages.

Lee mentioned the Kiwanis' 100 Year Project and the new playground at Washington Terrace Park. Construction should start in a few weeks. It should be ready and open for use by the summer season. The dedication ceremony will take place in May.

Lee mentioned the Great American Cleanup event taking place in April. This year the department will focus on cleaning up Blair Park Golf Course and are looking to volunteers and staff to help.

Staff Reports

Colten Marble stated that the new dock at Festival Park is 90% complete. HPU Rowing Team has already started moving in their supplies. Colten mentioned that the Oak Hollow golf course has been aerified, fishing and golf tournaments will be coming soon and the department is preparing for a busy spring season. He also spoke about the new Movies in the Park series that starts in April at the High Point Athletic Complex. The mobile screen and projector will travel to different parks for four free family events.

Eugene Coleman stated that Fields 1 and 2 at Deep River have been renovated but still need to have bases put down. Allen Jay Field 2 got a facelift. The renovations on the bathroom building at Armstrong Park are complete. New, automated door locks have been installed and the other park restrooms will open for the season within the next two weeks depending on the weather.

Randy Little said that basketball, cheerleading and Special Populations events were all successful and well attended during the past month. The Youth Council offered a public speaking training for the students to help prepare them for college and the job market.

Paige Mone both she and Hana Miller attended the NCRPA statewide Marketing Summit in Kannapolis. Work continues on the next edition of the Leisure Guide.

Marshall Newsome asked how the department is preparing for the corona virus. Gloria Halstead also asked what actions the city has taken along these same lines. Lee Tillery responded saying that the Department is following the City's lead and we are working with Public Safety and Health has issued information on how to take precautions such as handwashing and using hand sanitizer. The Parks & Recreation Department will follow the city's guidelines.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting officially adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will take place on Monday, April 13 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