



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of March 8, 2021**

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

Absent: Jerry Archie, Monica Peters

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Colten Marble, Eugene Coleman, Randy Little, 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, March 8, 2021. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Approval of February 8, 2021 Minutes

Minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting were presented for approval as corrected. Bob Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Gary Ollis seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes as corrected and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Lee Tillery discussed the bylaws and how they have not been updated since 2007. Any changes that are needed must be presented by the April meeting for a vote. Final approval of the bylaws then will go to City Council.

The Department is in the final stages of planning with City Lake Park renovations with construction documentation and these plans should be complete by April 5, 2021.

New Business

The High Point Parks & Recreation Greenway Masterplan was started three months ago with a great success with Alta. Lee Tillery introduced two representatives from Alta Design, Jason Reyes and Matt Hayes. The goal is to have the plan finalized in May. Matt Hayes stated they worked on the High Point Regional Bicycle Plan and Pedestrian Plan. The goals of the Greenway Masterplan is to expand the city-wide greenway network, improve health and wellness, increase economic vitality and provide residents access to nature. Jason discussed past plans, existing greenways and the data collection process for this plan. In the later part of 2020 Jason and Matt were able to go out and look at the existing greenway system and scout for potential connecting areas. There have been two virtual workshops and there is one more scheduled in March.

Questions and Comments

Lee Tillery added that he believed the online workshops worked even better for public input than if there could have been in-person workshops. Bryon Stricklin asked if it was considered to contract a visual artist to add public art to the trails of the comprehensive Greenway plan. In response to Bryon's question, Jason asked if there was an arts commission that the Department could contact. Lee answered by mentioning the Department has a process with regards to public artwork and brought up the Theater Art Galleries Community Group and that could be approached later.

Marshall Newsome asked where Jason and Matt received most of the community feedback. Jason stated that their goal was to get feedback from throughout the City of High Point and highlighted the work that the Department has done to and their consultant, P3, at large apartment complexes and churches. Jason also stated that during the workshops, participants were asked to write their zip codes on the comment cards.

Ed Price asked if it would be possible for high school art students to paint along the greenway. Jason said that this could be noted for future planning and that it would be great to provide youth awareness of the greenways.

Jason Reyes continued, and presented data gathered in the two virtual workshops. One data set showed that much of the public wants the Greenway System to connect to existing facilities and recreation centers, residential subdivisions and to Downtown High Point. A draft was made from the gathered information showing the recommended greenways.

Questions and Comments

Bryon Stricklin mentioned information that he had previously read in a report from US News & World, Durham was rated number 11 in Best Places to Live. He asked what had been done to make the Raleigh and Durham area a destination for music and art and what has made that area a preferred place to live. Jason Reyes stated, over 20 years ago in planning and development the trails system was made a priority to attract businesses, big corporations and their employees to the area. Matt Hayes continued what Jason stated and explained that Raleigh had a vision of a network of trails since the 1980s which was unheard of at the time. Because of this vision, there is about 130 miles of Greenway in Raleigh today.

Marshall Newsome asked if there was a connection to Thomasville, noting that Jason mentioned connecting the High Point Greenway to Archdale. Jason responded saying that they were fortunate to have previously worked on the High Point Regional Bike Plan and some connections identified would include building on to the Southwest Heritage Greenway and there is an old railroad corridor that can be expanded and could connect to Thomasville. There are also more undeveloped areas that could be made to connect. Jason Reyes made note of Marshall Newsome's ask to connect to Westchester Park.

Bryon Stricklin said that, like Ed Price mentioned, he wishes to incorporate youth from a visual arts perspective. High Point has a story that needs to be told and perhaps a section of the Greenway could be used to depict that story through visual arts. Jason responded saying that the designs could be different based on the different locations and neighborhoods.

With no further business to discuss, Marshall asked that the directors monthly reports be read by the commission members. He thanked everyone for their attendance and officially adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Submitted by: Jessi Heffner | Reviewed by: Lee Tillery | Approved by: Tracy Pegram