



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board  
Minutes of May 10, 2021**

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

Absent: Jerry Archie

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, Randy Little, Colten Marble, 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, May 10, 2021. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the April 12, 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 and the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

Lee Tillery welcomed back Jason Reyes from Alta to this month's meeting. The Greenway Masterplan is close to being finished. A draft has been reviewed by the Steering Committee. The draft is now available for public viewing and will be taken to City Council for approval in June.

Jason Reyes reviewed the previous presentation on the draft plan. The goal in High Point is to build trails and connect them to expand connectivity, enhance health and economic vitality. The plan maps have been updated since the March Commission meeting after additional community outreach with citizens, neighborhood leaders, and the Parks & Recreation Commissioners. Lee invited the Commissioners to the public meeting on May 18.

**Questions and Comments**

Monica Peters asked when the draft would be presented to City Council and if the Department will be making a recommendation for the 2021-2022 budget. Lee answered saying that it may be too late to recommend it be added to the budget of next year. Monica asked if the Department is prioritizing the downtown connection at Montileu to the Southwest Heritage Greenway. Lee answered saying that the connection to the downtown and Southwest Heritage Greenway are priorities.

Bob Davis stated he thinks it is very good.

Marshall Newsome expressed concern for the Southwest corner of High Point and wishes to campaign for sidewalks to be added. Jason responded that if an opportunity arises, the plan doesn't have to be implemented in the order of priority. Having an adopted plan in place will help the City with funding. Monica Peters announced that the Burton Street sidewalks is in the existing and 2021-2022 budget. The Westchester Park is scheduled for 2025. Both are becoming prioritized.

Second order of business was Lee Tillery's presentation on City Lake Phase 1. On Monday, May 3 the Department presented a project update of the City Lake Park Renovation to City Council. All design work has been completed and a construction manager at risk was chosen. City Council approved a contract with Samet Corporation to start the project. This contract includes site work, equipment, and demo while we work on the budget for the rest of the project. Samet should be on site within the next two weeks. The renovation of City Lake Park includes renovations to the pool, gym and locker rooms and also includes a great lawn, additional ADA compliant sidewalks and a pedestrian bridge leading to the greenway. The goal is to complete the renovation project by Memorial Day of 2022 to have the pool open for the public.

### **Questions and Comments**

Eric Abeles asked how long the pedestrian bridge would be that will cross the lake and connect to the greenway. Lee Tillery answered stating it will be just over 500 feet.

Bryon Stricklin asked if there would be an opportunity to speak with Debbie from the Arts Council regarding the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Day in the Park and what spaces would be available.

### **Staff Reports**

Lee Tillery stated that the budget has been submitted to City Council for consideration. The new fiscal year starts on July 1. The application for CAPRA accreditation was submitted on April 12 and the virtual visitation will be starting later in June. The hope is to announce accreditation in the National Conference in September.

Morehead Recreation Center had been utilized in April and May as another COVID-19 vaccination site, along with the Senior Center. At Morehead, Guilford County had been administering the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine but when information came to light about that vaccine, Morehead stopped. Vaccinations are still available at the Senior Center through the end of June.

With Governor Cooper lessening restrictions, recreation centers have been able to open again and slowly have more programs indoors. Attendance numbers have picked back up. Planning for Uncle Sam Jam has begun. There were early indications that in July, restrictions will be eliminated or greatly reduced. The Uncle Sam Jam will follow any State guidelines that are in place at that time.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

Marshall Newsome stated he will send out a survey to the Commissioners to poll whether they are comfortable meeting in person on June 14, 2021 or another virtual meeting via Zoom.

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