



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of August 9, 2021**

Present: Eric Abeles, Robert Davis, Marshall Newsome, Derek Pegram, Monica Peters, Brian Petty

Absent: Jerry Archie, Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle, Bryon Stricklin

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, 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, August 9, 2021. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting. Next, he introduced the new Commissioner for Ward 5, Derek Pegram.

Ed Price Farewell

Lee Tillery and Marshall Newsome recognized and thanked Ed Price for his service to the citizens of High Point through the Parks & Recreation Commission. Newsome noted Price's advocacy for youth, schools and local sports as he ends his term on the Parks & Recreation Commission after serving since 2005.

Approval of June 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Eric Abeles made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Robert Davis seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Lee Tillery updated the Commission on the Greenway Master Plan. The plan was approved by City Council on July 19 after being endorsed by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Regarding the City Lake Park renovations, construction has started, and the Samet Corporation has made good progress. The project's budget came in higher than anticipated. The pedestrian bridge that goes from City Lake Park to the Piedmont Environmental Center has been removed due to cost, but the Department has applied for three grants, one being the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund for \$500,000. If the Department receives one of those grants, the bridge may be put back into the project.

Questions and Comments

Eric Abeles asked how much the pedestrian bridge would cost. Lee Tillery answered that it would cost approximately \$900,000 dollars however there are some additional auxiliary costs that would be determined by any lighting or other needs it may require. Monica Peters asked how the concrete is removed from the job

site. Lee answered saying that the concrete is picked up and carried away, however it does take a long time because of how heavy the material is. Tracy Pegram added that on the Parks & Recreation website there is live footage of the progress on the City Lake Park renovations featuring four camera angles.

Tracy Pegram presented an update on the CAPRA accreditation. In April the Department finished the accreditation self-assessment, which consisted of 154 national standards of best practices. Of the 154 standards, the Department had to meet 32 fundamental at least 112 of the non-fundamental. At the end of June there was a virtual visitation with parks and recreation professionals from across the country. At the end of the visitation the Department was told that it had met all 154 standards. The next step to accreditation is for Lee and Tracy to attend a hearing before the CAPRA Executive Board on September 8. On September 24, there will be a Best of the Best ceremony at the National Recreation and Parks Conference in Nashville, Tennessee where the Department will be recognized. The hope is that in October the Department will be able to present the award to the Commission. Lee Tillery followed and stated that less than 200 Parks and Recreation agencies are accredited in the United States and North Carolina is tied for third place in having the most accredited agencies.

New Business

The Commissioners were presented with the current Parks & Recreation Commission Roster. Lee Tillery asked that they ensure all information is correct and to mark anything that needs to be changed. Lee also stated that if a member's term is ending the roster will say if they are eligible for reappointment. Until someone is appointed in the member's position that Commissioner will continue to serve if they are willing and able.

Lee continued with regards to the Department budget, stating that the 2021-2022 budget was passed by City Council in June and the City's budget is back to pre-pandemic numbers in both expenses and expected revenue. The Department will be receiving funds from the American Rescue Act Fund, but it is still being determined what the Department can and cannot use them for. Most likely the funds will be used towards infrastructure needs such as parking facilities, painting, etc. With the upcoming budget there is no expected loss of services and no personnel changes and the hope is that the Department can get back to pre-pandemic visitation and program numbers.

Vice-Chairman Election

Marshall Newsome stated that the next order of business was to elect a vice-chairman according to the Commission by-laws. Eric Abeles nominated himself and Marshall nominated Robert Davis. The motion was put to a vote and tallied by Jessi Heffner. The results were four votes in favor of Eric Abeles and one vote in favor of Robert Davis.

Staff Reports

Directors Report – Lee Tillery - This year's Uncle Sam Jam was held Sunday, July 4 and was a huge success. The Department saw attendance comparable to what we had in 2019.

Special Facilities – Colten Marble - Washington Terrace Pool season is ending at the end of the day on Sunday, August 22. The amusements at City Lake Park move to weekend-only operations on August 15 and will close for the season on October 10. Oak Hollow Marina hosted its first "Learn to Sail Camp" on July 26 – 30, and the program was created in partnership with the Oak Hollow Sailing Club.

Parks/Maintenance – Eugene Coleman - Regarding Washington Terrace Pool moving to weekend operations, there had been mechanical issues the Friday before the Commission meeting. The goal was to have a new part by Tuesday, August 10. The Department now has three certified playground inspectors.

Questions and Comments

Eric Abeles asked how much Washington Terrace Pool is used by the public. Colten Marble responded that in the last few years the Department has seen an increase in attendance because the pool at City Lake Park is closed for renovations. Colten stated that Washington Terrace Pool averages 300 attendees a day. Marshall

Newsome asked if there was any possibility of the Recreation Manager position being filled once more. The position was previously held by Randy Little who has left the Department. Tracy Pegram answered that interviews have not started for that position, but the Department has received several applications.

Recreation – Tracy Pegram - The splashpad at Southside Recreation Center is also available to anyone looking for a chance to cool off. Morehead Recreation Center held a program called the Summer Soulstice with over 12,000 people in attendance. In partnership with WRLP and Oak Street Health, they gave away 350 bookbags and had over 30 vendors. There were bounce houses and food and it was overall a great event. The Roy B. Culler Senior Center had been a vaccination site until the end of June and the center is now open for business and regular programming. The Senior Center is working with Morehead Staff to host pickleball and other Senior Games events. The recreation centers are open as well and summer camp is wrapping up. After the conclusion of summer camp, the afterschool program will begin.

Questions and Comments

Eric Ables asked if the City plans on going back to mask restrictions. As of August 9, there has been no direction given by the City but there have been discussions. We follow guidance from the CDC, NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Governor’s office. Currently the Department’s youth camps require participants wear masks.

Marketing – Paige Moné - July was National Parks & Recreation Month and the theme for this year was “Our Parks & Rec Story.” The marketing team were able to profile employees, facilities and parks on social media. The posts received a great response from the public and it shows that they want to hear more about the people behind the scenes. The marketing team has been working on a Departmental video and has filmed at Washington Terrace Pool, summer camps and the High Point City Lake Park carousel. The Special Populations section is transitioning to a new name ASPIRE which is more reflective of what they do for the Department. ASPIRE stands for Adaptive Sports, Programs and Inclusive Recreation. The Piedmont Discovery App is expanding its partnership to include six other communities and are having a Media Launch in Greensboro on October 1 to announce that expansion.

Questions and Comments

Robert Davis asked if High Point Pony could share the link to the Piedmont Discovery App with players who are visiting High Point for tournaments. Lee Tillery said he believed that a link would be great for outreach and getting information out to the public. Lee would like to continue talk regarding the promotion of High Point.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 5:30pm in the P&R Administration Office, 136 Northpoint Avenue.

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