



High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of October 11, 2021

- Present: Eric Abeles, Micholas Credle, Marshall Newsome, Bryon Stricklin
Absent: Jerry Archie, Lauren Britton, Robert Davis, Derek Pegram, Brian Petty
Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, Colten Marble, Paige Moné, Jessi Heffner



Call to Order / Welcome

The regular meeting of the High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Recognition of Dennis Salgado, Park Ranger

Chief Chris Riewe presents Dennis Salgado with the Advanced Law Enforcement Officer's Professional Certificate. The certificate was awarded to Dennis by the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission on August 13, 2021.

Approval of August 2021 Minutes

Minutes of the August 2021 meeting were not presented for approval due to a lack of a quorum. The minutes will be reviewed at the November meeting.

Old Business

Tracy Pegram presented the update on CAPRA accreditation. The Department has officially been accredited through the Commission for Accreditation of Parks & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), which is part of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). On September 23rd the Department was featured in a Best of the Best presentation where Lee was featured speaking to what accreditation means to the department. Tracy showed the clip from the presentation where High Point Parks & Recreation was named. Tracy also mentioned the state recreation conference will be held in Winston-Salem where the Department will be recognized at a luncheon on Wednesday, October 27. Tracy invited the Commissioners to attend. On November 1, there will be a presentation to City Council.

Questions and Comments

Marshall asked what percentage of agencies across the nation have the accreditation. Tracy answered in saying that less than 1%, which is less than 200 agencies. Marshall explained that having this accreditation gives the Department more leverage for applying for grants, other funding, and partnerships with other agencies. Marshall asked how often re-certification is. Tracy answered, stating it is every five years.

Lee Tillery presented an update on the Department's bond projects. The Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center is no longer at the old location on North Hamilton Street. The Senior Center is now using space that the Department is leasing from High Point University at the Oak Hollow Mall. The lease for the current Senior Center location is for five years. Lee then discussed the City Lake Park renovation. Construction began in May and the Department had budgeted for contingencies. Some of this contingency money has been used for the removal of excess amounts of concrete. The original pool was built in the early 1930's. Over the years, when remodeling occurred, instead of removing old concrete, new pools were poured into the existing pool shell, resulting in areas with up to 40 inches of concrete to be removed. Demolition has been completed. Renovations include the pool, locker rooms, great lawn as well as turning the gymnasium into a multi-purpose building.

Questions and Comments

Micholas Credle asked if City Lake Park is the largest park in the city of High Point. Lee responded that no, City Lake Park is not the largest park in the city. He stated that the area of the Piedmont Environmental Center is the largest park. He added that the pool at City Lake Park is the largest of the Department's three pools. Micholas asked how much the whole project will cost. Lee said that they had budgeted for it to cost \$9 million but it is now upwards of \$21 million.

Marshall asked if the renovations included additional parking. Lee responded saying that the plan includes 215 parking spaces including additional accessible parking. Marshall also asked if the park would still have the same entrance and exit. Lee confirmed that the entrance and exit will be the same, unfortunately City Lake Park has difficulty with parking and the topography does not allow for much variance. Marshall asked if additional parking could be made where the old lodge used to be on Penny Road. The early plans of the project had a pedestrian bridge going across City Lake, but it was not included due to the increase in the project costs.

Micholas asked if the City Lake pool is an Olympic size pool was. Lee said that it is 50 meters across.

Lee mentioned in his presentation of the City Lake Park renovations that the plan was bring a unique feature to the pool at City Lake Park and that would be a standing slide, an addition to the slides already there. There are only two other slides like it in the United States. The Department was denied by the State Department of Health and Human Services. Mayor Wagner has asked the Department to talk to the City's Legislative Attorney to determine if the Department of Health and Human Services' ruling can be fought. If the denial cannot be overturned there is another option.

Questions and Comments

Marshall asked about Westchester Park being made to be a day park instead of a 24-hour passive park. Lee responded, commenting that he expects to have more discussions about the park in January 2022. Eric Abeles asked how much land is at Westchester Park. Lee confirmed that it is 43 acres, and it is a FEMA floodplain.

New Business

Leanne Lyons presented on the newly renamed ASPIRE section of the Department. ASPIRE stands for Adaptive Sports, Programs & Inclusive Recreation. The section was formerly called Special Populations but was changed to better reflect the types of programs they now offer and because special populations is an outdated term.

Questions and Comments

Eric asked if there were any plans to rename Special Olympics. Leanne explained that it is a discussion that needs to be made in the state level division of Special Olympics.

Leanne spoke on more of what ASPIRE offers as well as the upcoming ASPIRE Halloween Dance that is scheduled for October 28 at the Miracle League Field at the High Point Athletic Complex.

Questions and Comments

Micholas asked if there is anything ASPIRE needs from the Commission or if they need assistance from a higher level. Leanne asked for the Commission's support and noted that ASPIRE staff offers training for people who want to engage more with the program and learn more.

Staff Reports

Marshall asked that the monthly reports be read by the commission members.

Introduction of Micholas Credle, new Parks & Recreation Commissioner

Micholas introduced himself to the commission and to Department staff. He is from Newport, Rhode Island and a retired veteran. He is passionate about helping veterans, individuals with disabilities as well as elderly and older adults. He is interested in giving back to and building up the community of High Point.

Questions and Comments

Micholas asked if High Point had a bingo hall for seniors. Tracy answered by saying that bingo is offered at the Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center on Wednesdays, 1 – 3 p.m. Marshall commented that he is also a retired veteran and thanked Micholas for his service as well as welcomed him to the Parks & Recreation Commission Board.

Micholas asked if the meetings were done with call-ins. Marshall replied that during the height of the COVID pandemic, the monthly meetings had been held virtually but they have since been moved back to in-person. Eric also asked if meeting locations could alternate so that the Commissioners could visit locations and Parks & Recreation facilities that they may not have ever visited. Lee agreed that meetings could be held at other locations and stated that in previous years, tours had been given to new Commission members.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8 at 5:30pm in the P&R Administration Office, 136 Northpoint Avenue.

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