



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

Present: Eric Abeles, Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle, Robert Davis, Marshall Newsome, Derek Pegram
Brian Petty

Absent: Bryon Stricklin

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Eugene Coleman, 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, November 8, 2021. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Approval of August 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the August 9, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Eric Abeles made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Micholas Credle seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of October 2021 Minutes

The minutes of the October 11, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Robert Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read and Micholas Credle seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Lee Tillery updated the Commission on the City Lake Bond project, stating that building and park renovations are staying on schedule. Lee showed updated photos of the job site. The renovations of the pool are behind schedule due to removal of the excess concrete, up to 40 inches in some areas. Delays are also caused by supply shortages, including the pool drains that are required.

Questions and Comments

Micholas Credle asked what the attendance of the old City Lake pool was during operation. Lee Tillery answered that on weekends the pool was near or sometimes at maximum capacity, and he can get Micholas the exact attendance numbers. Micholas also asked if the large field behind the gymnasium would become parking. Lee responded confirming that more parking will be built there. Micholas asked if pictures were being taken of the progress, Lee stated that the construction companies take pictures regularly, but Department staff are also taking pictures when they have meetings at the construction site.

Tracy Pegram showed a timelapse of the construction site progress.

Questions and Comments

Micholas Credle asked how long it took to tear down the old City Lake pool. Lee Tillery replied that it started in May and the demolition was completed in September.

Robert Davis asked if the pool will be brand new at the end of construction. Lee Tillery confirmed that yes, the pool will be brand new upon completion. Robert also asked if there would be concessions sold at the pool. Lee confirmed that concessions will be on the bottom level and there will still be concessions sold in the amusements area of the park. Micholas Credle asked how fees and charges are determined. Lee explained the City's process for recommending fees and the approval process starting with approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission and then the High Point City Council for final approval.

Eric Abeles asked if there are plans to build more pickleball courts or convert some tennis courts into pickleball courts. Lee Tillery responded saying that there are currently no plans to build additional courts. Currently pickleball is being offered at indoor recreation centers as well as Armstrong Park. Lauren Britton asked if it was possible to build dual courts that allow tennis and pickleball. Lee stated that the difference between the two would not allow it outdoors. Eugene Coleman stated that all recreation centers have the courts printed on the gym floors which allows pickleball play at any center.

New Business

Marshall Newsome announces that Jerry Archie will be replaced by Jennifer Mays in the upcoming City Council meeting. Jerry's term expired at the end of July. Marshall also announced that Brian Petty's term has expired. He will remain on the commission until he is replaced.

Lee Tillery announced that Marshall Newsome has been recognized for his services to the community at the recent North Carolina Recreation & Parks conference by being awarded the Raburn "Rip" Jackson Award. This award is given to an outstanding citizen board member. Marshall thanked the Parks & Recreation Commissioners and the Department citing that "no one wins alone" and thanked NCRPA for the recognition.

Questions and Comments

Robert Davis stated that High Point Pony thanks the Parks & Recreation Department. He said that High Point Pony has visitors across the state, and they are always impressed by the Department facilities.

Staff Reports

Staff Reports were discussed.

Special Facilities & Recreation Division – Tracy Pegram

The indoor courts at Oak Hollow Tennis Center have started taking reservations on October 14. The High Point Rowing Club hosted the Autumn Rowing Festival at Oak Hollow Festival Park on October 3. There were 600 rowers and approximately 2,600 people in attendance. The Piedmont Environmental Center held 9 programs in October with 441 participants.

Football is set to finish the weekend following the November Commission meeting. The 10U Broncos and 8U Broncos teams have finished as number one in their division. This year the Department partnered with Greensboro and Thomasville for the R.E.D. Zone football league. These partnerships allowed for High Point teams to visit different municipalities and teams from Greensboro and Thomasville to visit High Point. Tina Boston who worked at the Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center has retired. Halloween Hoopla was a success with 17 volunteer trunkers.

Questions and Comments

Micholas Credle asked if there the Department would be partnering with Thomasville and Greensboro for any winter programs. Tracy Pegram responding stating that the Department hosts a Bridging the Triad program with Greensboro and Kernersville. Basketball season is starting but the Department does not partner with other municipalities for basketball. ASPIRE frequently partners with other departments.

Parks/Maintenance – Eugene Coleman –

The Parks division is the support for large events. They provide staff and do setup and take-down. Parks staff helped with the Spooky Hoopla haunted trail and hayride. They estimate that 2,500 to 3,000 people attended the event. At Morehead Recreation Center the kitchen was renovated by maintenance crews. Parks division completed approximately 45 work orders.

Questions and Comments

Micholas Credle asked if High Point had an Adopt a Highway program or Adopt a Park program. Eugene Coleman answered stating that Parks & Recreation oversees an Adopt a Park program and Rebecca Coplin in the Facilities Department oversees Keep High Point Beautiful.

Marketing – Paige Moné – The Marketing team has announced the Department’s CAPRA accreditation through media coverage and social media. On October 1, Marketing worked the Piedmont Discovery App Scavenger Search. This mobile application allows users to search for different municipalities and facilities in the Triad area. The application has now expanded to include 6 new community partners. Filming for the Departmental video has continued, and footage has been obtained from the Piedmont Environmental Center, Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center and other High Point Parks & Recreation facilities. Additional filming is expected in the next few months and following that, footage will be evaluated and edited.

Questions and Comments

Marshall Newsome stated that the Piedmont Discovery App has improved in speed since its development. Marshall also asked about the annual Appreciation Dinner for employees. Lee Tillery stated that it was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID after Human Resources advised against large group gatherings but was not sure of the direction for 2021.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting:

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

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