



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board  
Minutes of March 14, 2022**

Present: Jennifer Mays, Nathan Morelli, Marshall Newsome, Derek Pegram

Absent: Eric Abeles, Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle, Robert Davis, Bryon Stricklin

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Tyler Cole, 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, March 14, 2022. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

A quorum was not present so the meeting minutes from January will need to be approved next month.

**Old Business**

Lee Tillery updated the Commissioners on the progress of the City Lake Park renovations. The schedule has been revised and the pool will no longer be opening on Memorial Day weekend of 2022. Even with the delays, the project is going smoothly and under budget. The Department has involved many community members in the curating of pictures and stories for the history wall that will be featured in the new meeting and event center. The State of North Carolina denied the Department's request to have a slipstream stand-up slide. The new slide will be a dual racer, which will allow two people to race each other.

The Department received a \$500,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant from the State of North Carolina. With the grant, the Department can now fund the pedestrian bridge that will connect High Point City Lake Park to the High Point Greenway and Bicentennial Greenway. Pool construction is expected to be completed in the week of June 29, the exterior improvements should be completed the week of July 21 and the event center and locker rooms are expected to be finished the week of July 27. The new water slide is expected to be completed in August and the pedestrian bridge is expected to be completed in September. With this schedule, the pool at City Lake Park will not be opening in 2022 but is expected to open for the summer in 2023. However, the Meeting & Events Center will open sooner.

**Questions and Comments**

Marshall Newsome asked if the decision to postpone opening was because of difficulties finding lifeguards that late in the season. Lee Tillery answered in stating that it is difficult finding lifeguards and being competitive in a market where lifeguards are being paid \$15 - \$20 an hour. Nathan Morelli asked what the capacity will be for the conference room. Colten Marble stated that the room can hold between 110 and 120 people. Jennifer Mays asked if the pedestrian bridge will impact the water usage. The Department conferred

with the Fire Department and Police Department to ensure that their boats can travel between the bridge pillars. Most boats for recreational use are smaller and will be able to travel through the pillars as well. Marshall Newsome asked if there was anything missing overall with the City Lake renovation project. Lee stated that parking will continue to be an issue but there is an overflow parking lot near the front entrance to the park. Marshall Newsome also asked if City Lake Park will still be a “dawn to dusk” park. Lee Tillery confirmed that the park would be, but the event center would have extended hours.

### **New Business**

The City of High Point received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, related to the pandemic. The Department received close to \$1,000,000. Much of the funds were used for needed infrastructure improvements and deferred maintenance projects. In the week of the meeting the repaving of the Oak Hollow Campground was finished, and old docks were replaced at Oak Hollow Marina. Funds will also be used to replace the roofs of Morehead Recreation Center and Oakview Recreation Center. The heating and air conditioning system will also be replaced at Southside Recreation Center.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Special Facilities – Colten Marble

The wood docks at Oak Hollow Marina were replaced with floating docks and makes it consistent with the floating docks at Sailboat Point and at Festival Park. The construction was complete the previous week. The paving at Oak Hollow Campground was done by Ruston Paving Co. which required that the campground be closed for 5 – 6 weeks. While the campground was closed Eugene Coleman and the Maintenance Division worked on renovating and upgrading the electrical infrastructure. In the week of the meeting the plaster and tile were being replaced at Washington Terrace Pool and while that is being replaced issues with water flow are also being addressed.

#### Parks/Maintenance – Eugene Coleman

The Maintenance Division added a new community garden Morehead Recreation Center and added new sections to the community garden at Oakview Recreation Center. Maintenance also converted the lights at Blair Park Golf Course to LED lights. New Cat 5 cable antennas were installed at Washington Terrace Community Center to improve Wi-Fi connectivity. The Maintenance Division is also preparing for the upcoming Furniture Market.

#### Recreation – Tyler Cole

In February the recreation centers held several Valentine’s Day themed programs including the ASPIRE Valentine’s Dance that was held at the Roy B. Culler, Jr. Senior Center. ASPIRE is also wrapping up the Big 3 Challenger Basketball program, which was a partnership between the Department and Kernersville and Greensboro Parks & Recreation Departments. After School programs are in-progress at Allen Jay, Deep River and Oakview Recreation Centers. The after school programs are collaborating with the library and other High Point Departments. The Culler Senior Center is hosting the Senior Games. The Recreation Division is preparing for summer camps and looking to hire camp counselors. The athletic field rentals have picked up and local schools have booked the fields through the remainder of spring for practices.

#### Marketing – Paige Moné

In February the Marketing team have worked on promoting the Easter Eggstravaganza event as well as Senior Games. The team continues marketing programs at the recreation centers and the Piedmont Environmental Center. Marketing is working with the City Lake Park History Wall project and interviewing people at the library.

### **Questions and Comments**

Jennifer Mays asked about the credit card machines at the Oak Hollow Tennis Center. Tracy Pegram stated that the issues aren't the credit card machines themselves, but an issue related to the eTrak, the reservation software the Department uses. The Department is moving to a new reservation software called SmartRec. Marshall Newsome asked if the Department is back to normal operations. Lee Tillery stated that the City of High Point and the Department follow what the Governor mandates, for example the recommendation that program participants wear masks has been lifted. Marshall also asked if the Department budget is impacted by increase in gas and diesel costs. Lee confirmed that the budget will accommodate those changes in cost. Nathan Morelli asked if the Department is seeing an increase in program attendance numbers. Lee confirmed that in 2021 the Department saw the highest attendance at the Golf Courses and the Oak Hollow Tennis Center. The trails and greenways attendance and usage has never been higher.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the P&R Administration Office, 136 Northpoint Avenue.

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