



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of July 11, 2022**

Present: Jennifer Mays, Nathan Morelli, Marshall Newsome, Bryon Stricklin

Absent: Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle, Robert Davis, Derek Pegram, Monica Peters

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Tyler Cole, Eugene Coleman, Jessi Heffner, Colten Marble, Paige Moné

Guest: Patrick Harmon



Call to Order / Welcome

The regular meeting of the HPPR Commission Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2022. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Old Business

Lee Tillery updated the Commissioners on the progress at City Lake Park. The new timeline shows that several sections will be completed in September and the full project will be completed by the end of October. The pedestrian bridge over water has been completed. The building has air conditioning allowing for more to be completed inside. The Department will benefit from the bond proceed sales, which resulted in an additional \$900,000. These funds will be used for the retaining wall for the new racing slide, restoring the existing slides as well as purchasing a new pontoon boat and replacing the playground. (corrected 8-8-2)

Questions and Comments

Marshall Newsome asked how staffing will be affected once the project is completed. Lee Tillery answered that two part-time positions and one full-time position has been added to the 2022 – 2023 budget for City Lake Park. Nathan Morelli asked if the update to the project jeopardizes the spring opening. Lee answered that the contractors are very motivated to finish on schedule. Nathan also asked when the playground will be replaced. Lee stated that the waterslide restoration and boat purchase will be addressed first, and the playground project will happen near the end of 2023. Nathan also asked what the pontoon boat is used for. Colten Marble answered, stating that they host fall leaf tours, boat tours as well as corporate events on the boat.

Jennifer Mays asked if the Department could subcontract with pool companies for temporary staffing. Lee Tillery stated that those companies are also facing the same staff shortages that the Department is facing. Tracy Pegram informed the Commission that the starting pay for the Department lifeguards is \$17 an hour with free training. Bryon Stricklin asked what the minimum age requirement is to be hired as a lifeguard. Tracy Pegram stated that they must be at least 15 years old.

New Business

The Department is renovating Mohawk Park due to erosion on the stream bank and aging infrastructure. Underneath the tennis court at Mohawk Park, the ground is wearing away. The plan addresses these flood and weathering issues as well as make the playground more accessible. The plan also includes adding a small picnic shelter, renovate the tennis court, and create a path into a nature scape.

Questions and Comments

Nathan Morelli asked if there was any thought to build a hybrid tennis/basketball court. Lee Tillery stated that we have done these in the past at other parks, but the idea had not been considered for the Mohawk Park renovation due to lack of space and parking. Marshall Newsome asked if this was a part of the Master Plan or a general maintenance plan. Lee stated that it is a site plan, a culmination of deferred maintenance issues. Bryon Stricklin asked if there was an estimate on how much the project would cost. Lee stated that the estimate was close to \$1,000,000. The Department has talented employees who can handle the demolition and build the new shelter. Having a list of what needs to be done allows the Department to do things as money is available. Some parts of the project, such as stream bank stabilization, will have to be contracted.

The Department was very fortunate to receive a technical assistance grant through the National Parks Service with the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The grant money will be used to create the first blueway in High Point that will be on the west fork of the Deep River.

Questions and Comments

Marshall Newsome asked about restrooms being added to the Hedgecock Dog Park. Lee Tillery stated that two park locations were identified as needing restroom facilities, Johnson Street Disc Golf Course and the Hedgecock Dog Park. Due to infrastructure issues at Johnson Street Disc Golf, we selected Hedgecock Dog Park to install first.

Lee Tillery also mentioned that the attendance at Uncle Sam Jam on July 4 were back to pre-COVID levels.

Patrick Harmon suggested that we do some pop up events in the community.

Questions and Comments

Bryon Stricklin gave appreciation for the collaboration with Parks & Recreation, along with the High Point Police Department, Communities Against Violence, parents, participants and other groups for the Midnight Basketball program.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2022, 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