



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board
Minutes of August 8, 2022**

Present: Marshall Newsome, Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle, Robert Davis, Jennifer Mays, Nathan Morelli
Absent: Derek Pegram, Bryon Strickland, Monica Peters
Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Tyler Cole, Eugene Coleman, Colten Marble, 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 8, 2022. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

Approval of May 9, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the May 9, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Robert Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Micholas Credle seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of July 11, 2022 Minutes

The minutes of the July 11, 2022 meeting were presented for approval as corrected. Jennifer Mays made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Micholas Credle seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes as corrected and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Lee Tillery updated the Commissioners on the progress at City Lake Park. The estimated completion date is October 22. City Council approved a change order that encompasses the changes required for new Dual Racing slide. The new slide is larger and requires more stabilization and more footers than the original slide. The pedestrian bridge is complete.

Questions and Comments

Marshall asked about the impact the City Lake Park project has had on the budget. Lee answered stating that the project cost is \$23,000,000. At this time, the department does not know how much it will cost to operate and will not know until the park is open for an entire season. Marshall asked if Washington Terrace Pool had to close due to lifeguard shortages and if this will impact operations of the City Lake Pool. Lee stated that college students are going back earlier this year. This caused a staff shortage and may cause difficulties next. City Lake Pool will require 12 lifeguards on deck at a time.

Nathan Morelli asked how the department plans to utilize the indoor space in the winter and spring and what staffing will look like. Lee stated that the event space will be open all year, and that current staffing, as well as new part-time positions, will staff the facility. Lee mentioned that there are already events planned for spring. Nathan asked if people will be able to use the concession stands when they rent the event center. Colten Marble responded that the pool concession stand is operational only during pool hours in the summer, but the park concessions will be open. Tracy Pegram stated that there is a caterer's kitchen in the center. Marshall asked how the park hours will change to accommodate the new events center, citing in the past the park has been a "dawn-to-dusk" park. Tracy said the center will be open for events until midnight. Colten added that there will be a gate by the entrance that will close the park side off at the end of normal operating hours but will allow guest to still access the Meeting & Events Center.

Lee introduced the commission to Brian Starkey, a consultant with Withers-Ravenel, who is developing a site plan for Mohawk Park. The department is seeking to update Mohawk Park and fix erosion issues that the park is having. Mr. Starkey stated that Mohawk Park is in a floodplain, and the park's proximity to a stream has caused the erosion. He presented different options for the park update, including the possibility of reducing to one tennis court, moving the playground, and adding a picnic shelter. Lee stated that there is demand for outdoor pickleball courts in the area, but parking is not sufficient at Triangle Park. The park also does not have restrooms as it is a neighborhood park. The park is not currently an accessible park but will be when it is updated.

Questions and Comments

Jennifer asked if the park would have more variety for smaller kids. Lee said they have looked at the potential park and play areas. Marshall asked if the community gave feedback. Lee stated that the size of the park allows for limited options and that there isn't room for expansion. At this time the public has not been brought in. Jennifer asked if the tennis courts could also include Pickleball lines. Lee responded stating that pickleball requires more space than the tennis courts would provide. Nathan asked if a water fountain could be installed at the park. Eugene Coleman said that water fountains are unfortunately difficult to maintain and sanitize. Lauren Britton asked if the nature play option involves sensory activities. Brian said that there are options to have path lead to the stream where children can play. Marshall asked if the stream revision would prevent flooding. Lee stated that the area is still a floodplain so flooding would occur. Micholas asked if the department could do any work that could lower the cost. Lee stated that demolition can be done in house and the shelter can be constructed by the department.

Lee informed the Commissioners that the department had applied for a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Park Service and was one of nine to be awarded in the country. The technical assistance grant will help the department develop a blueway at the west fork of the Deep River. Dick Thomas at the Piedmont Environmental Center will help to plan the project.

Questions and Comments

Nathan asked when planning will begin. Lee replied stating that some areas have already been cleared.

Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 6:27 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next HPPR Commission Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12 at 5:30pm in the P&R Administration Office, 136 Northpoint Avenue.

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