



**High Point Parks & Recreation Commission Board  
Minutes of September 12, 2022**

Present: Marshall Newsome, Robert Davis, Jennifer Mays, Nathan Morelli, Derek Pegram, Monica Peters, Bryon Stricklin

Absent: Lauren Britton, Micholas Credle

Staff: Lee Tillery, Tracy Pegram, Tyler Cole, 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, September 12, 2022. The Chair, Marshall Newsome, welcomed all to the meeting.

**Approval of August 8, 2022 Minutes**

The minutes of the August 8, 2022 meeting were presented for approval. Robert Davis made a motion that the minutes be accepted, Nathan Morelli seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes and the motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

Lee Tillery announced that the City Lake Park ribbon cutting ceremony has been scheduled for Saturday, November 5. Despite delays and supply chain issues, a majority the project is estimated to be completed in October, in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony. The City Council retreat will be held in the assembly room November 3-4.

In the August Commission Meeting, Brian Starkey from Withers-Ravenel presented a site plan for the Mohawk Park revisions. A vote of confidence for the site plan will be made at the next meeting in October. Lee reiterated that the plan seeks to improve the infrastructure of Mohawk Park, including an impaired stream, limited parking and adding green space.

**Questions and Comments**

Nathan asked what the estimated cost of the project will be with the internal resources. Lee stated that the Department can do most demolition, paving of the parking lots, and fencing as well as working directly with construction companies. Monica Peters asked if pickleball could be added to Mohawk Park. Lee responded that pickleball would draw more participants and there are no restrooms and not enough parking for the traffic that pickleball would bring.

We are looking to complete a site plan for Festival Park. The park is used to host large events including the Coltrane Jazz Festival, two rowing regattas a year, as well as the Department's Uncle Sam Jam festival. High Point University announced that they will have a Division One Women's Rowing Team in the next four years, and they wish to use Oak Hollow Lake. The site plan will look at all the potential uses and will include at least one public meeting.

#### **Questions and Comments**

Bryon Stricklin asked if a concern for the Festival Park site plan was relocating the Coltrane Festival. Lee responded that at this time, there are no plans to relocate the festival. The Department is hoping that the plan could better serve the large events such as the Coltrane Festival and the Department's Uncle Sam Jam Festival. This year's Uncle Sam Jam had the highest attendance in the past 5 years, exceeding pre-COVID attendance numbers. Nathan asked what High Point University is requesting. Lee responded they would like to have a boat house and indoor storage for the rowing equipment. Jennifer Mays asked if the rowing regattas bring money into the city. Lee noted that people visiting High Point for the regattas come from across the country and often stay for three days or longer which has an economic impact on the City.

#### **Staff Reports**

Staff Reports were discussed.

#### **Questions and Comments**

Bryon is looking forward to the Unity Fest on September 24, being held at Washington Terrace Park. This year will be the 12<sup>th</sup> annual event and it is now a city sponsored event. Jennifer asked if there were going to be tennis lessons at the event, and Bryon confirmed that there would be lessons. He also noted that Phyllis Bridges will be unveiling a historical marker at Washington Terrace Park at 11:30 a.m. on September 24.

Robert said that the High Point Pony tournament went smoothly, and they had teams coming from as far away as New Hampshire. He stated that their biggest problem was hotels because Junior Olympics was also taking place.

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, October 10, 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**