



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:00 pm

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Emily Linden, Susan Henshall, Scott Neely, Marsha Glazman, Jeff Smith, Walter Johnson

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Kobe Riley, Charles Jackson, Shawna Tillery, Haley Wilson, Tony Royal,
Jennie Matkins, Mark Hayes, Vonda Martin, Matt Felts

OTHERS PRESENT

Greensboro residents, Mr. Chuck Rhoades and Mr. Buzz Sharpe

WELCOME

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Trotter Active Adult Center on Wednesday, May 11th. Commission Chair Emily Linden called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

Mark Hayes, Trotter Active Adult Center Supervisor, welcomed the Commission and meeting attendees and provided an update on the history of the Center, as well as, daily activities and upcoming events.

Nasha McCray, Director, also welcomed our new Commissioner representing District 2, Walter Johnson III.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes from the April Commission Meeting- Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes and Commissioner Neely seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONS

- A. New Hires and Promotions- Kobe Riley, Deputy Director, introduced new Risk and Safety Administrator, Robert “Matt” Felts. Matt has been with the City of Greensboro since 2017, working with Parks and Recreation before transitioning to the Office of Workforce Development in 2019, where he has worked with local companies and organizations seeking advanced training for their employees. While with Parks and Recreation, he assisted with the planning and implementation of various special events. Before joining the City, Matt earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and his Master of Education in Training and Development from North Carolina State University. Some of his risk and safety experience occurred as a Healthcare Specialist in the United States Army, where he led emergency medical response training for new soldiers, as well as,

managing safety planning efforts for large scale military exercises. While in the military, he also managed the BLORA Lake Parks aquatics facility for the Moral, Welfare, and Recreation programs.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Active Adults Update- Jennie Matkins, Active Adults Program Coordinator, presented a staff report highlighting May as Older Americans month and Active Adults programs and activities offered by the Department, ranging from line dancing, cardio, hula hooping, table tennis, hiking club, and more. Jennie shared that “AHOY” (Adding Health to Our Years) aerobics classes will be returning to Brown, Griffin, Leonard, Lewis and Lindley beginning on May 16th.
- B. Parks and Recreation Month Preview- Jennifer Hance, Community Engagement Coordinator, highlighted Parks and Recreation Month events and activities that will be occurring during July. July is National Parks and Recreation Month and has been celebrated by the National Recreation and Parks Association since 1985. This year’s theme for Park and Recreation Month is “We Rise Up for Park and Recreation” and there will be a Fundraising Campaign through the Greensboro Parks Foundation. Upcoming events include: Tie Dye the 4th of July at Lindley Pool on June 30th, Adult Recess at Barber Park on July 8th, Glow Golf at Gillespie Golf Course on July 23rd, and a Movie Night at the Lake at Lake Townsend on July 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Greensboro Parks Foundation Board Member Nomination- Nasha McCray, Director, requested a nomination of a Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission member to join the Greensboro Parks Foundation nonprofit Board. The Greensboro Parks Foundation is a federal 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to supporting a broad base of programs, services, and facilities that enrich the lives of Greensboro and Guilford County residents by strengthening financial and volunteer resources for the City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. Per the Greensboro Parks Foundation by-laws, the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission has the ability to approve a member to serve on the Greensboro Parks Foundation Board. The purpose of this agenda item is to solicit nominations for consideration and approval of a Commissioner to serve as a member of the Greensboro Parks Foundation Board. Commissioner Smith stated interest in joining the board and Commissioner Henshall made a motion to nominate Smith. Commissioner Glazman seconded the nomination and a motion was unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Greensboro residents and avid disc golfers, Mr. Chuck Rhoades and Mr. Buzz Sharpe, spoke to the Commission asking for the Barber Park Disc Golf Redesign to remain an 18-hole Disc Golf Course instead of a 9-hole Disc Golf Course. Mr. Rhoades and Mr. Sharpe shared a petition signed by disc golfers in support of the course remaining an 18-hole course and expressed concerns about the new design, including safety, level and difficulty of play, feasibility, and location.

Shawna Tillery, Project and Planning Division Manager shared that the Barber Park Master Plan, approved by City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, has been the guide for park development since 2003. As additional facilities and amenities have been developed per the master plan, along with the relocation of the basketball court named for Ken Free. Sr. and changes to the South Buffalo Creek floodplain development requirements, many of the existing disc golf holes that were originally part of the 18 hole development were displaced.

Staff are aware of the multiple course layouts that did not take into consideration other park users (walkers) and decreasing development in the floodplain along South Buffalo Creek, located behind Simkins and the previous maintenance building. Staff also received other renderings from residents with suggestions for the course and the Department ultimately decided to contract with disc golf course designer, East Coast Disc Golf (ECDG), to offer the best option that incorporated safety, maintenance, topography, and available space at the park to support a course. Public input supported the challenger/beginners course to complement the tournament level courses at Keeley Park and Triad Park (Forsyth & Guilford counties).

Parks and Recreation and other users are excited about the selected redesign and to be able to provide an improved amenity that takes the existing development and site constraints into consideration, as well as, a facility to encourage and support play by beginners, those new to the sport, and/or those with limited access to other disc golf courses in the region. We look forward to completion of construction of the design completed by East Coast Disc Golf, which is anticipated to occur in June 2022.

Nasha McCray, Director, suggested that since Barber Park will be a 9 hole course, that Mr. Chuck Rhoades and Mr. Buzz Sharpe's ideas regarding Disc Golf Course designs and conversations about the potential for an 18 hole disc golf course can be brought to the master plan process for Bryan Park North and told the residents that we would get them in contact with team in charge of that master plan so they can be added to stakeholder list.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nasha McCray, Director, gave an update on upcoming programs and events. Two events of note: The JustOne Foundation will be having a Memorial Day ceremony at

Maplewood cemetery (235 Bingham Street) on Monday May 30th at 10:00 am. Maplewood is a Historic African American Cemetery with its own veteran section. JustOne Foundation works hand in hand with VFW Post 2087 and the Boy Scouts of Bethel Church for this Ceremony. This year they have the aeronautical engineers from North Carolina A&T presenting an air display.

An invitation to the Battleground Parks District Phase 1 Grand Opening which will be held Friday, June 17 at 10 am was placed in the Commissioners' meeting packets. A new picnic shelter, boardwalk, and zip line will be unveiled to the public. We hope to see the Commissioners at the Grand Opening for a fun day.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Neely: Appreciated the speakers from the floor and is excited for the BPD Grand Opening in June.

Henshall: It was nice to be back in person, and thanked the speakers from the floor for coming.

Linden: Excited for the upcoming events and thanked to the speakers from the floor for coming to the meeting

Johnson: Happy to be part of the Commission, always looking for ways to help the programs.

Smith: Thank you to Jennie Matkins for the Active Adults Presentation

Glazman: Nice to be back and to see everyone, great meeting, and thanked staff for their hard work.

With no further business, Commission Chair Linden adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Haley Wilson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department