



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 5 pm

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Vice Chair Jeff Smith, Marsha Glazman, Cheskesha Cunningham-Dockery, Susan Henshall, Emily Linden, Blake Odum

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Kobe Riley, Ron McMillan, Shawna Tillery, Haley Wilson, Jennifer Hance, Chamreece Diggs, Kim Porter, Austin Homan, Kristen Herndon, Vonda Martin, Tony Royal, Paula Barger, Marsha Fearington, Elyse Tishuk

OTHERS PRESENT

None

WELCOME

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held virtually. Commission Vice Chair Jeff Smith called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Nasha McCray, Director, welcomed the Commission and attendees to the meeting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes from the March Commission Meeting- Commissioner Cunningham Dockery made a motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes and Commissioner Odum seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of New Hires and Promotions - Ron McMillan, Park Operations Division Manager, recognized Tony Royal on his promotion to the new role of Park Services Superintendent, effective April 16, 2021. This position strengthens the Department's commitment to the care and construction of our parks as it signals a realignment of resources to better respond the needs of our neighborhood and regional parks. The new position will manage the workgroups of the former Regional Parks and Specialized Park Services sections as they merge to become one section. Paula Barger, Development and Engagement Administrator, recognized two new hires: Marsha Fearington is a native of Alamance County and has worked for the City of Greensboro Water Resources Department since 2017. Marsha holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Phoenix and a Master's Degree from Grand Canyon University in Mental Health & Wellness with an emphasis on Family Dynamics. In addition, Marsha obtained a Life Coaching Certificate in August of 2018 from New Skills Academy. Marsha will

serve as the Administrative Support Specialist in the City Beautiful section. Paula Barger also recognized Elyse Tishuk, who has served as the part-time Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for the Greensboro Parks and Recreation for the last three years. Elyse has been dedicated to progressing the Parks and Recreation's marketing, social media, and documentation for programs and events through photography and video. Her work can be seen within the performance and rapid growth of the department's social media, refining printed and digital media to create strong department branding and identity, and her work on Discover Greensboro, which is the seasonal publication of programs and events that has drastically expanded the department's community reach efforts. Elyse has now accepted a full time position as Marketing Coordinator with Greensboro Parks and Recreation. In this new role, she will have the time and resources to continue her marketing efforts, and create new, innovative ways to better serve our community and the department.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Athletics Section Update- Austin Homan, Athletics Superintendent gave an Athletics Section update focusing on related programming, facilities, and operations for the Spring sports season, with established guidelines and protocols to promote a safe Return to Play. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person athletic programs and facilities have been limited and/or utilized at reduced capacity. During this time, certain facilities have been busier than ever, while others have remained closed to the public for health and safety reasons. The Department's Athletics Section has developed plans to offer modified spring sports, with established guidelines and protocols to promote a safe Return to Play. Return to Play guidelines include: reduced total number of games played, reduced number of fields used, reduced roster sizes in adult sports, increased amount of time between games to allow proper cleaning/sanitizing, prep participation screenings, the 3 W's (Wait, Wear, Wash), and requiring face coverings to be worn at all times.

Commission Vice Chair Smith asked if someone were to show up to a ball field without a mask, would there be masks available to them. Homan stated yes, the Parks and Recreation Department has both adult and youth size masks on site to pass out to any participate or spectator for them to put on if they don't have their own mask and would like to stay on site.

- B. DEI Grant Case Study- Vonda Martin, Park Planner; Chamreece Diggs, Facilities Coordinator; and Kristen Herndon, Facilities Coordinator gave a presentation that summarized the implementation and outcomes of the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association (NCRPA) Diversity Equity and Inclusion Grant awarded to the department in June of 2020. The objective of the grant funding was to further diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in North Carolina's park and recreation organizations and their communities. The Department hosted the "Discover Your Park Scavenger Hunt" as a way to introduce communities of color to parks within a 10 minute walk of their home. At the conclusion of the project, a case study was completed that included recommendations for future projects and initiatives working towards diversity and inclusion in our park spaces.

Vice Chair Smith applauded the DEI case study and asked if there is talk of more funding for these types of programs for diversity and inclusion work within the Parks and Recreation department.

Director McCray stated that there is not specific funding allocated in the budget for DEI work, but that through this case study and through Plan2Play, it is a priority for staff to improve marketing and engagement efforts across diverse demographics. McCray said that staff finds creative ways within the budget and through sponsorships, partnerships, and other ways to leverage the budget for these types of projects and programs.

McCray also stated that as a City, diversity and inclusion is a high priority and that she is a member of the city's cohort team for Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government agencies working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. The City is also conducting trainings and developing strategies through the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office to educate city employees to help them develop foundational understanding that can be incorporated programmatically, in policies, and through other means.

Commissioner Cunningham-Dockery asked if there were any plans to do this type of case study again.

Chamreece Diggs, Facility Coordinator, stated that when they applied for the grant and planned the case study, the intention was that it could be replicable and scalable so that the foundation is there to do the case study again in the future and that the information that they learned from this process was extremely valuable.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program- Shawna Tillery, Planning and Project Development Division Manager, provided a brief overview of the CIP planning process and an update of the unfunded and funded projects included in the adopted FY 2021-2030 CIP. After approved by the Commission, the Department's CIP will be submitted to City's Budget and Evaluation Department for further review and to City Council for consideration and inclusion in the City's FY 2021-22 Annual Operating Budget.

Commissioner Glazman made a motion to approve and submit the Department's CIP to the City's Budget and Evaluation Department. Commissioner Cunningham-Dockery seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nasha McCray, Director, gave an update on past and upcoming programs, and thanked staff who are working on diversity and inclusion initiatives within the department to help us reach out to the a broad range of residents in our community.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Glazman: Appreciated the review of the bond projects and all the hard work staff puts in.

Henshall: Complimented the DEI grant case study and how it was a great learning activity for staff.

Linden: Loved doing the Parks Passport and completed it with her family, was such a fun way to visit Parks and Recreation facilities.

Cunningham-Dockery: Congratulated staff that are new hires and promotions and thanked Athletics for their return to play guidelines.

Odum: Great information shared at tonight's meeting and it is a pleasure to serve

Smith: Echoed compliments on the DEI grant case study

With no further business, Commission Vice Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

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