



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – 5 pm

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Kim Alexander-Henderson, Vice Chair Jeff Smith, Susan Henshall, Emily Linden, Blake Odum, Scott Neely

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Kobe Riley, Ron McMillan, Charles Jackson, Shawna Tillery, Haley Wilson, Jennifer Hance, Kristen Herndon, Mel Melton, Vernon Johnson, Chamreece Diggs, Douglas Williams, Phil Hardin, Laura May

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilmember Sharon Hightower, District 1; Chief Brian James, Greensboro Police Department

WELCOME

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

Nasha McCray, Director, welcomed the Commission and attendees, as well as, City Council District 1 Representative Sharon Hightower, Chief Brian James, and our newest Commissioner, Scott Neely, to the June Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Scott was appointed by Councilmember Justin Outling and will be representing District 3.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes from the April Commission Meeting- Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the April 2021 meeting minutes and Commissioner Linden seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

RECOGNITIONS

- A. Retirements- Nasha McCray, Director, recognized and congratulated Vernon Johnson on his retirement with the City after 34 years of service. Vernon Johnson has held many positions within Parks and Recreation over the past 30+ years, predominately in our Aquatics section, but also within recreation centers, athletics, and regional parks. He will be presented with a plaque in recognition of his service at a special reception later this month.
- B. Recognition of New Hires and Promotions- Charles Jackson, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, recognized Douglas Williams as the new Center Supervisor

at Griffin Community Recreation Center. Douglas come to us from Guilford College, where he was the Athletics Facility Manager. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Elon University in Sport and Event Management. Douglas is looking forward to creating new programs for the community and being a part of the Greensboro Park and Recreation team. Charles Jackson, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, also recognized Phil Hardin for serving as the Department's interim Athletics Superintendent.

- C. Staff Acknowledgements- Charles Jackson, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, recognized Laura May, Leonard Community Recreation Center Supervisor, on receiving her Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) certification.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Parks and Recreation Month Preview- Jennifer Hance, Community Engagement Coordinator, provided an overview of the activities and events that the Department has planned to celebrate and promote July as National Parks and Recreation month. This year's theme for Parks and Recreation Month is "Our Park and Recreation Story," of which the Department will highlight the stories of how the Greensboro community is more strong, vibrant and resilient because of parks and recreation. Hance encouraged Commission to visit the Department's Facebook page and Greensboro Online for more details on various events, programs, and activities from the Department for the summer and for Parks and Recreation Month.
- B. Plan2Play Strategic Plan Update- Shawna Tillery, Planning and Project Division Manager, and Nasha McCray, Director, provided an overview of the Department's strategic planning implementation efforts and accomplishments since the formal adoption of Plan2Play in 2019. Tillery explained the "Enhance. Expand. Connect." tagline that the Department utilizes and how it ties in to the chosen objectives. Key accomplishments from the strategic plan so far include: completed maintenance building at Barber Park; sign standards for neighborhood, community, and regional parks adopted; finalized marketing plan; launched several programs in parks, trails, and lakes for ages 0-10; finalized invasive species removal procedure; and the development of a model for identifying vulnerability communities and app for capturing park ADA/inclusive play data.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Acceptance of the Donation and Construction of Safety Town at Barber Park- Nasha McCray, Director, and Brian James, Chief, Greensboro Police Department, presented a request for approval of a donation of a turn-key construction and installation of a second Safety Town Site at Barber Park. The City's first and only Safety Town is currently located at Lewis Community Recreation Center and operates as a summer program for 5-

6 year olds, in partnership between the Greensboro Police Department, the Nat Greene Kiwanis Club of Greensboro, and other community partners and volunteers. In 2015, a second Safety Town, along with other improvements and enhancements at Barber Park, were included as part of Barber Park's approved updated master plan; however, lack of funding prevented the project from moving forward at that time. In 2020, private organizations and foundations raised funds to support the construction and operation of a second Safety Town at Barber Park.

Commissioner Linden asked a question about the donation and that the quality of the Safety Town Site and Chief James assured her that the quality of the Safety Town Site will be top notch. Commissioner Odum asked if transportation for children to attend Safety Town would be in the works. Chief James answered that there will be planned transportation opportunities for children to attend summer Safety Town sessions.

City Councilmember Hightower stated that this will teach important traffic and transportation safety to the youth of District 1 and that she looks forward to making this happen and get started on the program. Commission Chair Alexander-Henderson agreed that this will be a great thing for the eastern part of Greensboro. Commissioner Henshall stated that her children were able to participate in the Lewis Recreation Center Safety Town Site and how beneficial it was for them and that she is pleased that a second site will be taken place in another District.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the approval and donation and installation of Safety Town at Barber Park. Commissioner Odum, seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor of accepting the donation and installation and formal acceptance will be considered by City Council at its June 15, 2021 meeting.

- B. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Calendar for Remainder of 2021- Haley Wilson, Executive Assistant, requested the Parks and Recreation Commission determine if the remainder of meetings for 2021 would remain virtual or be in-person starting in August. Historically, these meetings have been held at various recreational facilities in each City Council District. Due to COVID-19 and public health and social distancing considerations, staff recommended continuation of virtual meetings through June 2021 and that the Commission determine if the remainder of meetings for 2021 be virtual or in-person at the June 2021 Commission meeting. The attending Commissioners voted to wait and make a decision on the meeting calendar until the entire Commission had a chance to give input and cast a vote via email. ***As an addendum, the Parks and Recreation Commission has voted via email in favor of keeping the remainder of 2021's Parks and Recreation Commission meetings virtual, which includes the postponement of July's Parks and Recreation Facility tour.***

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nasha McCray, Director, gave an update on past and upcoming summer programs, highlighting the City's Juneteenth's calendar of events.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Alexander-Henderson: Stated that this is best Commission the City has to offer and thanked everyone for a great meeting.

Neely: Is super excited to join the Commission and is a huge advocate for Parks and Recreation and utilizes our facilities as much as he can.

Henshall: Enjoyed absorbing so much information at this meeting from the projects presentation to the Safety Town site.

Linden: Welcomed Scott Neely to the Commission and thanked staff for being thoughtful for how we approach programs and initiative like Safety Town.

Odum: Very excited about the Safety Town Site in District 1 and how this can be a tool to help community building with the Greensboro Police Department.

Smith: Thanked everyone for a great meeting and is excited about the Safety Town site.

With no further business, Commission Chair Alexander-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

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