



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 5 pm

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Kim Alexander-Henderson, Vice Chair Jeff Smith, Susan Henshall, Blake Odum, Scott Neely, ChesKesha Cunningham-Dockery, Marsha Glazman

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Kobe Riley, Charles Jackson, Shawna Tillery, Haley Wilson, Kristen Herndon, Mel Melton, Chamreece Diggs, Trey Godette, Phil Hardin, Kim Porter, Roderick Jones

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Overman, Executive Director of Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc.

WELCOME

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held virtually. Commission Chair Alexander-Henderson called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Nasha McCray, Director, welcomed the Commission and attendees.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

RECOGNITIONS

- A. Recognition of New Hires and Promotions- Kobe Riley, Deputy Director, announced the hiring of the department's new Risk and Safety Administrator, Roderick (Rod) Jones. Rod has been a public servant for over twenty years with experience in several municipalities including Orange County, Town of Hillsboro, and Guilford County. Riley also announced Mitzi Dew's promotion as the new Human Resource Assistant (she previously served as Park Operations Administrative Support Assistant) and David Andrews's promotion as Country Park's new Assistant Park Manager (he previously served as Trail & Greenway Maintenance Supervisor).

- B. Staff Acknowledgements- Charles Jackson, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, recognized Chamreece Diggs, Facilities Coordinator, and Joseph "Trey" Godette, General Manager of the Greensboro Sportsplex, for being selected by the

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to receive 2021 Diversity Scholarship Awards. Jackson also recognized Kristen Herndon, Facilities & Aquatics Coordinator, for being selected by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to receive a 2021 Young Professional Fellowship Award, as well as the American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administration's Externship. All three staff members, because of their scholarships, will get to attend the National Recreation and Parks Conference held in Nashville, TN this September, and will gain access to other professional members and leaders across the country to grow their network and leadership skills.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc. (GDPI) Update- Rob Overman, Executive Director of Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc. provided an overview of GDPI and an update on the programming and events at the parks, as well as, an overview of the Board of Directors. GDPI is a private non-profit organization that, in partnership with the City of Greensboro, manages and operates Center City and LeBauer Parks on the City's behalf. The mission of GDPI is to serve as the executive management of Greensboro's downtown parks, focusing on public activation, maintenance, financial well-being and overall vitality.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc. Board Appointment Nomination- Kim Alexander-Henderson, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair recommended a nomination of a Parks and Recreation Commission member for appointment to the Greensboro Downtown Parks, Inc. Board. Commissioner Scott Neely volunteered. Commission Chair Alexander Henderson made a motion to appoint Neely and Commissioner Odum seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor.
- B. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2021-2022 Local Government Grant Program for Mayer Park Renovation Project- Shawna Tillery, Planning and Project Development Division Manager presented and recommended approval of the Mayer Park renovation project and submission of the LWCF 2021-22 Local Government Grant Program grant application. The grant, if awarded, would leverage existing funds to make significant renovations and improvements to Mayer Park. At the March 10, 2021 meeting, the Park and Recreation Commission approved the master plan for Mayer Park and City Council followed on March 16, 2021. To begin implementation of the master plan, the Parks and Recreation Department will use the \$73,510 from the sale of adjacent property towards a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Local Government matching grant, which has an application deadline of October 1, 2021. City Council approval is required to apply for a matching grant; therefore, the request, if approved by the Commission, will be presented to City Council on August 17, 2021. If the grant is awarded, the funding will be utilized to renovate the existing park amenities as recommended by the master plan to include accessible entry and connective walkways, a

grill and chill zone, a fitness and play area, and a dog park. Since Mayer Park was originally funded by LWCF in the mid-70's, the Local Government grant can either be used to acquire new park properties or renovate/replace amenities at existing LWCF-funded parks. Local governments can request a maximum of \$500,000 with each application and must match the grant dollar for dollar. LWCF supports the protection of public lands and waters – including local, state, and national parks and recreation areas. A key feature of the program is that all LWCF assisted areas must be maintained and open, in perpetuity, as public outdoor recreation areas. The program is administered through the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) within the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) in North Carolina.

Planning and Project Development Division Manager, Shawn Tillery, presented the Mayer Park LWCF project and received a motion of support for the project from Commissioner Smith and Commission Chair Alexander-Henderson seconded. All Commissioners voted in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nasha McCray, Director, gave an update on past and upcoming programs including registration for After School at Brown, Craft, Griffin, Leonard, Lewis, Windsor, and Warnersville Recreation Centers; Park Cleanup Day at Murchie Street Park; and upcoming Greensboro Mountain Biking Experiences: Youth Edition at Keeley Park Pump Track and Country Park.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Alexander-Henderson: Thanked everyone for another great meeting and stated that Greensboro is a very unique and beautiful place from our parks to our neighbors.

Neely: Is looking forward to representing the Parks and Recreation Commission on the GDPI Board. Plans to attend the park clean up happening tomorrow.

Henshall: Thanked staff for all the work that they do and stated how she enjoyed learning about GDPI.

Odum: Congratulated staff who received awards and promotions. Has been making a point to get out in the parks to exercise lately.

Smith: No comment.

Cunningham-Dockery: Congratulated new hires and thanked Commissioner Neely for joining the GDPI Board. She learns something new every time we have a meeting.

With no further business, Commission Chair Alexander-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

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