PRESENT MEMBERS

Carl Brower (Chair), Justin Washington (Vice –Chair), Kelly Gaines, Jeff Smith, (Marsha Glazman- arrived at 6:31 pm)

STAFF PRESENT

Wade Walcutt, Nasha McCray, Austin Homan, Charles Jackson, Kim Porter, Phil Fleischmann, Shawna Tillery, Melvin Melton, Tanner Deisch, Steve Averette (IT), Vonda Martin, Kathy Cates, Cliff Greeson, Alex Zaleski, Liz Lennon, David Robinette, Matti Carey, Haley Wilson, Sue Congolosi, April Harris (GSO Beautiful).

OTHERS PRESENT

none

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Brown Recreation Center. Carl Brower, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

WELCOME

Liz Lennon, Brown Recreation Center, offered brief remarks welcoming the Commissioners to the Brown Recreation Center. She provided an overview of the facility and information about programs and activities offered. Lennon also gave an update on future projects.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the September and October meetings were approved as submitted with a motion from Commissioner Gaines and a second from Commissioner Washington.

RECOGNITIONS

A. New Hires and Promotions- Phil Fleischmann, Community Recreation Services Division Manager announced that Michelle Gill-Moffat was recently promoted to Youth Services Superintendent with Parks and Recreation. She will oversee the Youth Development office, the Greensboro Youth Council, as well as teen programming city wide.

Nasha McCray, Deputy Director announced David Robinette, has been promoted to interim regional park assistant manager for Keeley Park. Nasha also announced that Cliff Greeson has been promoted as the new regional park manager at Barber Park and that Susan Congelosi has been hired as the new regional park manager at Country Park. Susan brings over 20 years of experience in the park management and maintenance field. Nasha then announced that Shawna
Tillery has been hired as the new Planning and Project Development Project Manager with Parks and Recreation. She will oversee all strategic and long range planning, park land acquisitions, and master plans, etc. and so forth.

B. Volunteer Recognition- Alex Zaleski, Volunteer Coordinator introduced Mira Buzov as the volunteer of the month. Mira Buzov is a junior at UNC Greensboro, double majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies and Geography. She eagerly volunteered to become a 4-H field trip guide at both of our botanical garden facilities offering guided field trips - Gateway Gardens and Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden/Bog Garden. In partnership with the Guilford County Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development division, they are able to offer experiential learning from award-winning environmental education programs that align with NC Essential Standards curriculum. Field trip guides (staff and volunteers) lead small groups of elementary-aged children on a three-hour journey through our gardens. After going through a brief orientation, she was so willing to jump in and give it a go. Their very first field trip on October 25 at Gateway Gardens was a big test – the first time they offered the program and with a group of students, many of which have learning and attention challenges. When the groups tested her patience, she stayed calm and came up with strategies to hook them back in. We can only imagine the 8 families who got to hear about how cool Ms. Mira was and what Ms. Mira let their kid do – running through the woods, making a mask with fancy ears, digging for bugs, and racing through the maze.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Regional Park Locator- Madeline Carey, Trails Planner and Steve Averett, Greensboro IT Department, GIS Division. This project is a partnership between High Point Parks and Recreation, Guilford County GIS Division, Greensboro Parks and Recreation, and Greensboro GIS Division. Steve Averett explained that this is a mobile application to help people find the type of park that they are interested in and what those parks have to offer. For example: Dog parks, hiking trails, picnic shelters. Madeline Carey explained the importance of a regional park locator by giving people the option to explore the greenways and areas that connect Greensboro, Guilford County, and High Point. It helps bring these local amenities together without having to navigate multiple websites. You would have turn by turn directions and information at your fingertips. The goal is to have a big impact on how people find local parks by partnering with neighboring communities. The timeline has reached the point where the data is being input and a launch is scheduled for late spring.

B. Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. Update- Kathy Cates, City Beautiful Director introduced April Harris, Chair, Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. and April proceeded to give an update on Greensboro Beautiful, Inc.’s fall happenings. In August, Greensboro Beautiful had their annual meeting and awards reception where they recognize the contributions of people, volunteers, companies, and civic originations. In September, they had a big litter pick up with 700 volunteers that collected three quarters of a ton of trash and recyclables. This project was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greensboro with support from the City of Greensboro’s Parks and Recreation Department and Field Operations Department. Almost every project has an aspect of non-profit contributions. They then had their annual fundraiser, Goodnight Moon Gala, that was held at Gateway Gardens on
September 17th. There was a silent auction, great food, aerial artists, fire pits, and stargazing. It was a great success. The proceeds of the event went to the completion of the Gateway Garden’s Visitor Center. Greensboro Beautiful will help supplement the funds needed to complete the project. Their next event was Art in the Arboretum, which is an annual event that was held on October 2nd that had arts and crafts for sale, food trucks, and fun things for kids to make and do. There were in total 54 artists represented. As of last week, on Arbor Day, trees were planted at Honda Aircraft Company. In addition, under construction at the Bicentennial Garden is the Old Mill and Mill Pond. Greensboro Beautiful raised $135,500 for this project. It is an overhead structure that looks like an original mill from the 1800’s with a free standing waterwheel. Then on December 4th, the 35th annual Holiday Greenery festival at Lewis recreation Center where they will sell wreaths, poinsettias, garland, and Christmas balls. There will also a Holiday Silent Auction available from Dec. 1st through Dec 12th. Coming up in 2017, the two most important things they will focus on is the 50th anniversary of Greensboro Beautiful and continuous fundraising.

C. GDPI/LeBauer Park update- Denise Caruso, Executive Director GDPI gave an update on LeBauer Park. She explained that GDPI reports to a board of directors. The board provides governance and helps to define policies and how the organization is operated. The board members are nominated based on skills and needs of GDPI. They can have up to 25 people on the board. People are either city or Community Appointed. GDPI is funded by many sources including: City of Greensboro, income from the cafes, food trucks, park rentals, events and sponsorships. The Park is activated through programing. In September, the park hosted 79 activations which are partner activities like art classes, fitness classes, or kid’s story time with the public library; or park produced events like Cinema under the stars, Sunday Jazz picnic, or Kids Klub. Stats on Park use: Sep Attendance - 13,500 people— 10K adults and 3,500 kids (not including Folk Fest). They saw about 20k people over the Folk Fest weekend. Movie nights see about 2,000 people on average. Holidays: They are working with DGI to create activities for Downtown in Dec. Events including: Festival of Lights and the tree lighting, WFMY News 2 Winterfest, a Food and Gift Fare after the holiday Parade, Nightly snow, Brunch with Santa, and a Gingerbread decorating event. Denise ended her presentation by saying that she is very proud that LeBauer Park has become a melting pot for people of all ages to come and enjoy the park.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Sponsorship Policy Update- Nasha McCray, Deputy Director stated that at the September 16th Commission meeting, Staff proposed some changes to the current sponsorship policy. The intent of the update was to create a more efficient and more streamline approval process for sponsorships, and to help better define our sponsorship policy and our facility naming policy. At the Commission’s request there has been a change to the definition section that highlights the differences between what a facility is and what an amenity is. The policy now also has more refined parameters for department head approval of sponsorships and created more specific monetary thresholds and timelines, which helps eliminate some ambiguity. The requested action was to approve.
Motion was approved by Commissioner Washington and seconded by Commissioner Gaines.

B. Community Request to Name Basketball Court at Lindley Community Recreation Center. Kim Porter, Recreation Center Superintendent provided an update on the action item to request a new naming of the basketball court at Lindley Recreation Center to the “House of Payne” after a long time volunteer coach, Judge C. Payne. At the August meeting, Commission voted to accept the naming application and petition. The next step was to give the public the opportunity to give any input, which were all positive and included in this month’s Commission Packet. This is the second meeting of three, the action item is to vote to proceed to the third meeting for the basketball court to be named “House of Payne”.

Chair Brower, questions about how long the basketball court would be named “House of Payne”. After looking at the facility naming policy, Phil Fleishmann, notes that policy is not specific to an amenity within a facility but with a facility the minimum amount of years would be 40 years.

Motion to table the action until the next meeting for the naming of Basketball Court at Lindley Community Recreation Center. Commissioner Washington made the motion and Commissioner Gaines seconded it.

The decision is to make an amendment to this policy, provide a recommendation and by next month’s meeting, make a decision.

NEW BUSINESS

None

SPEAKER FROM THE FLOOR

None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Wade Walcutt, Director gave a few updates. Next month’s Commission meeting will be on December 14th at 4 pm at the Cone Building. There will be a list of recommended meeting locations for 2017 at that meeting for Commission to approve. Wade Walcutt would like to thank Commissioner Washington for coming to be a judge at our Parks and Recreation’s Halloween Costume Contest. Walcutt expressed the theme of tonight’s Commission meeting being partnerships, collaborations, and relationships as we had great presentations and staff reports showing just that. He commented on how great it was to see how the Community responded the Bonds passing the way that they did.
COMMISSION COMMENTS

- Commissioner Gaines- It was so fun to work on a project that is the Parks and Recreation Bond. Congratulations.
- Commissioner Smith- Very impressed with the partnerships coming out of Parks and Recreation and is excited to serve.
- Commissioner Washington- Congratulations to all the new hires and promotions.
- Commissioner Glazman- Excited to be part of the commission and is looking forward to working with us all.
- Chair Brower- Congratulations to the new hires and promotions and welcome to our new commission members. Good victory with the bonds.

With no further business, Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

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