

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 10, 2006 – 4:00 pm
Council Chambers – 300 W. Washington Street

PRESENT: Robert Douglas, III, Marc Bush, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Judi Rossabi, Randy Scott

ABSENT: Cheryl Wilson

STAFF PRESENT: Candice Bruton, Kathy Cates, Jenny Caviness, Kathy Chatfield, Cathy Davis, Sue Davis, Ed Deaton, Pat Falls, CJ Foster, Johnny Galbreath, Ken Gillis, Nate Halubka, Courtney Hemphill, Darryl Holsey, John Hughes, Darryl Kosciak, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, John Meeks, Brooks Mullane, Tracy Pegram, Weesie Person, Marcie Richardson, Claire Roberts, Tom Shalley, Mike Simpson, Laurie Thore, Heather Ulrich, Bernadette White, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the City Council Chambers. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 8, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Mike Simpson, Director, Lakes and Trails, recognized Summerfield Boy Scout Troop # 103 for planting six hundred fifty trees in an area that was previously a salvage lot located on Yanceyville Road. The goal was to re-forest the property by planting trees to improve the appearance, air quality and stabilize the soil. The planting was held on March 25, 2006.

Captain Jonathan Hale recognized and presented a plaque to the Greensboro Youth Council (GYC) for their efforts on collecting toys for Operation Santa during the 2005 holiday season. This toy drive provided toys for over three hundred children of National Guard members. GYC also participated in the Give Shoes, Give an Education program. Shoes collected were donated to Iraqi children as they are required to wear shoes in order to attend school.

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation Employee of the Month for April, Ken Gillis and Employee of the Month for May, John Meeks.

Kuester introduced the Accreditation Visitation Team, Bill Foelsch, Accreditation Visitation Team Chair, of New Jersey, Carolyn Burgeon of Virginia, and Jerry Lokken of Connecticut. This team consists of experts in Parks and Recreation organizations. This team is visiting to review one hundred sixty-four completed Accreditation Standards that are required to become a Parks and Recreation accredited agency.

OLD BUSINESS

Greenway Master Plan Draft

Chuck Flink, Greenways, Incorporated presented the Greenway Master Plan Draft. This plan includes a technical evaluation of the metropolitan system, public input, and a needs assessment. The vision of this plan is to interconnect systems of bike, pedestrian, and trail facilities. Conditions evaluated consist of socio-demographics of the metropolitan area, land use factors, trip attractors, current trails, current bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and surrounding cities and counties.

Approximately thirty public meetings have been held since fall of 2005.

Greenways, Incorporated investigated bike and pedestrian auto accident situations. Public safety is a concern resulting in focusing on to how improve public safety through the development of this planning process. This plan also offers suggestions on how intersections can be improved for pedestrian activity.

Once comments are received regarding this draft plan, the plan will go through a re-write, and then brought forth for approval and adoption.

2006 Bond Referendum

Dan Maxson, Division Manager, stated that the Commission was previously presented with a list of twenty-eight million dollars (\$28,000,000) worth of proposed bond projects. This list represented a wide range of needs across the entire city. During the last several months City Council has reviewed Parks and Recreation items for a potential bond, but is also looking at other projects throughout the city. The current amount City Council is discussing for Parks and Recreation totals ten million dollars (\$10,000,000). This amount addresses many needs throughout the community, but also keeps the city in a position in which it can fund necessary services, such as fire stations. Although the amount is significantly less, the Parks and Recreation Department sees the potential ten million dollar (\$10,000,000) bond referendum as a positive statement for the department and what the citizens want in our community.

The following is a list of proposed 2006 Recreation Bond Projects:

- Brightwood Neighborhood Park
 - Playground development, trails, improved access
- War Memorial Stadium Renovations
 - Restrooms, concessions, lockers and seating renovations for 2,500 spectators
- Greensboro Sportsplex
 - Expand existing restrooms, additional showers to accommodate evening/weekend use
- Southwest Recreation Center Improvements
 - Park improvements (may include multi-purpose fields), to be determined in public design process (spring 2006)
- Mini-Park Development
 - One-acre of land donated at Lee and Arlington Streets for beautification and park amenities
- Parks, Open Space, and Greenways Acquisition
 - Identified in Connections 2025, open space, parks, significant woodland sites, critical habitats
- Skateboard Park
 - Citizen request, seeking community partners
- Trail System Expansion
 - Expansion, per Master Plan recommendations

City Council will submit the City of Greensboro's grand bond total to the Local Government Commission by June 3, 2006.

Athletic Advisory Board (not on agenda)

Robert Douglas, III, Chair, asked those on the Commission who have not yet submitted an appointee to the Athletic Advisory Board to please do so.

NEW BUSINESS

Land for Tomorrow

Charles Brummitt, Executive Director, Piedmont Land Conservancy, stated that Land for Tomorrow is a partnership of organizations and North Carolinians working together to build

awareness of need for land conservation and historic preservation in North Carolina, and an advocate for funding to meet these needs. Some of North Carolina's most important industries depend on undeveloped land such as, agriculture, tourism, forest products, military bases, and fishing. Reasons for protecting land include public health, water quality, clean air, places for exercise to improve individual health, prevents loss of life and property from flooding (protected properties of wetlands along the coast and repairing of buffers), outdoor recreation, active recreation, hunting, bird watching, scenery enjoyment, and history education.

Brummitt stated that the population is growing and we are currently losing one million acres per decade.

Local current existing projects include Sutphin Mill, Glencoe Mill Village, Price Park, Gibson Park, Northeast Park and Haw River State Park.

Land for Tomorrow's five year protection goal includes protection of three hundred seventy-five thousand acres of land across North Carolina, six thousand miles of rivers and streams, building of trails and facilities for state and local parks, and restoration of three hundred fifty historic landmarks in public use areas. All of these will assist in providing job creation, community development activities that conserve land and historic places, and protect the heritage of land.

To achieve this goal two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) a year will be needed of additional state funding through general obligation and voter approved bonds. Specific information on Land for Tomorrow recommendations as to where these monies are to be applied is attached.

The success of obtaining these funds and applying them efficiently will benefit future generations of North Carolina and will help provide clean water and air, sustainable jobs, economic growth, farming, timbering, historic and ecological areas, places to enjoy the beauty of North Carolina, locations to exercise, hunt, and fish.

Brummitt asked the Commission for their approval of this resolution.

Douglas read to the Commission the proposed Land for Tomorrow Resolution (attached).

Action Taken

A motion was made by Rose Marie Ponton and seconded by Lori Galbreath to adopt the Land for Tomorrow Resolution. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Gateway Garden Icon

Pam Allen, Chair, Greensboro Beautiful Committee, stated that Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, is a former Chair the Greensboro Beautiful Committee. Allen stated that Ponton spearheaded Bicentennial Garden and thanked her for her efforts towards this garden.

Ponton stated that many people have contributed their time, money, and enthusiasm to our gardens and it has been a pleasure to work with Greensboro Beautiful and our city.

Allen stated that Greensboro Beautiful is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the City of Greensboro (Parks and Recreation Department). Greensboro Beautiful has been involved with the City of Greensboro for thirty-seven years.

Allen stated that three years ago the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the eleven acre Gateway Garden. Individual portions of the garden are currently being developed. The Gateway Garden Icon will be placed in the garden at the corner of Lee and Florida Streets. The icon will be thirty to forty feet high and will consist of a water feature that will cascade into a small pool. The Gates to enter the garden will be located on Lee Street. Frances Vega of Vega

Metals, Incorporated, from Durham, NC has been chosen to design the icon and gate. The gate and icon will be made of aluminum and bronze.

Allen informed the Commission that periodic updates will be given as to the status of the Gateway Garden.

Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation

Courtney Hemphill, Resource Development Coordinator, Parks and Recreation, informed the Commission that the Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of creating a non-profit foundation that will be named Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation. This foundation will create an outside source of funding and to augment city appropriations. This foundation will allow for Parks and Recreation to increase financial support for maintenance of our facilities and our programs, inclusion of donors with a long term commitment and accountability to the public.

Hemphill stated that an advisory board has been established for this foundation. Members of this board include Robert Douglas, III, Lori Galbreath, Courtney Hemphill, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Rose Marie Ponton, and Cheryl Wilson. This board will be responsible for creating by-laws as well as vision and planning development.

Douglas stated that this foundation should be successful in attracting funds for specific projects.

The Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation board members are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 4:30 pm.

The Hope Project

Darryl Kosciak, Coordinator, Youth First, distributed the Hope Project Plan Proposal to the Commission. This project is a community-wide collaboration of organizations throughout Guilford County to address youth gangs. The Hope Project has been meeting since April 2005 in an effort to address the community's gang issue. This project involvement began with approximately twenty organizations and now consists of nearly forty organizations.

The Hope Project has received a ten thousand dollar (\$10,000) grant from The Weaver Foundation to be used towards planning efforts for this project. Guilford County was awarded a grant from the State Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the amount of fifty to sixty thousand dollars (\$50,000-\$60,000) to be used towards starting this program.

Dasani Water Presentation

Mike Simpson, Director, Lakes and Trails, informed the Commission that the Lakes and Trails Division was nominated by the National Rails and Trails Conservancy and has been selected for the Dasani Blue Bikes Program. Dasani Water, affiliate of the Coca-Cola Corporation, the world's largest beverage distributor, has chosen Greensboro to be the mid-Atlantic representative for the Dasani Blue Bikes Program. The Dasani Blue Bikes Program consists of a donation of twenty bicycles, twenty lockers, a picnic shelter and maintenance funding. Other cities selected for this program are Dallas, TX, Pittsburgh, PA, Seattle, WA, and Baltimore, MD.

Bur-Mil Park has been selected to host the Dasani Blue Bikes Program. Bur-Mil Park is an outstanding facility that will complement this program. Trails and Greenways headquarters are located at Bur-Mil Park in the Frank Sharpe Wildlife Education Center.

The primary component of the program is the donation of twenty trek brand classic cruiser adult bicycles. The bicycles will be housed in bike lockers provided by Dasani. The bike lockers will be activated by a card swipe that can be obtained from the Frank Sharpe Wildlife Education Center at Bur-Mil Park. Once a card is secured bikes can be retrieved from the locker and used for a prescribed amount of time at no charge; however a security deposit will be required. Dasani will also contribute two thousand dollars (\$2,000) towards maintenance and maintenance

products. A new shelter and picnic table will also be installed along the Lake Brandt Greenway. The total Dasani donation is estimated at sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000).

The Dasani Blue Bike Program kick-off will be held at the 9th Annual Trails Day on Saturday, June 3, 2006 at Bur-Mil Park.

Naming the Fields at Jaycee Park

Tom Shalley, Assistant Athletics Director, returned to the Commission requesting to rename the Jaycee Park fields in honor of three long-term Parks and Recreation coaches. Shalley previously presented this request at the August 2005 Commission meeting. The names requested are Brantley Edwards, Jerry Stanley and Henry Bondurant.

Kuester stated that according to the Parks and Recreation Naming Facilities Policy these names are to be posted at the facility for thirty days with a notice stating that this request has been presented to the P&R Commission. This will give those who oppose the opportunity to present their opposition and concerns at the next Commission meeting.

Douglas excused himself at this time and turned the meeting over to David Hoggard

Fit Community

Candice Bruton, Planning Specialist, Parks and Recreation, informed the Commission that in February 2006 the Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Greensboro Transportation Department and the Guilford County Health Department, submitted an application to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund to become awarded as a fit community. The application information consisted of physical activities, nutrition and tobacco prevention efforts in Greensboro. Greensboro was one of eight out of forty communities selected as a fit community. Fit Community signs will be posted along Greensboro roadways.

Bruton stated that along with herself and other Parks and Recreation employees, Mayor Keith Holliday and Bonnie Kuester accepted the fit community designation from Lieutenant Governor, Beverly Perdue, today in Raleigh, North Carolina. This designation will also be presented at the upcoming City Council meeting.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Marc Bush, Commissioner, stated on behalf of David Wharton, that Wharton was present earlier during this meeting, and was attending to address the War Memorial Stadium bond referendum. Bush stated that once Wharton heard the bond referendum proposals during this meeting, he believes Wharton left pleased as to where this item stands in the bond referendum.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Kuester thanked organizations for their partnership and assistance within Greensboro and the Parks and Recreation Department. Best regards were also given to all the citizens for their amount of time and energy they have committed to the city and this department. Kuester congratulated Parks and Recreation employees for working diligently on the numerous opportunities we've had to bring awards, grants, partnerships, etc. to this city.

Kuester read the attached statement as requested by the retired Parks and Recreation Division Manager, Mark Bush.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Rose Marie Ponton informed the Commission that during a retirement luncheon in honor of Mark Bush, she had the pleasure of presenting a plaque, on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commission, to Mark Bush for his years of dedication and service to the Parks and Recreation Department and the City of Greensboro. Ponton stated that she attended the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Commission and Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission joint outing. There, presentations were given regarding parks in Northeast Guilford County and a new Southwest Park.

Lori Galbreath welcomed the Accreditation Visitation Team to Greensboro and hopes that their findings are on the positive side for Parks and Recreation. Galbreath stated that she attended and enjoyed the GYC Carnival.

Judi Rossabi stated that due to the increase of population there are increasing safety hazards on our roads. Public awareness will be important in making drivers aware.

David Hoggard commended Darryl Kosciak on the Hope Project presentation and stated that if passion and excitement is going to carry a program forward, Darryl Kosciak is the person for job.

With no further business, Hoggard adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation