

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Wednesday, July 8, 2009 – 6:00pm
Central Library – 219 North Church Street**

PRESENT MEMBERS: Rose Marie Ponton (Chair), Carl Brower, Jr (Vice-Chair), Paul Brown, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, Bill Knight

ABSENT MEMBERS: Marc Bush, Steve Moore

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Branson, Sue Davis, John Hughes, Lynne Leonard, Dan Maxson, Brooks Mullane, Marcie Richardson, Dr. Anthony Wade, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Central Library. Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 10, 2009 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, stated that the Parks and Recreation 75th Anniversary Historical Display Grand Opening was held at the Central Library prior to the beginning of this Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- NONE -

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR – REQUEST TO SELL WINE AT FARMER’S MARKET

- NONE -

OLD BUSINESS

Request to Sell Wine at Greensboro Farmer’s Curb Market

Lynne Leonard, Greensboro Farmer’s Market Coordinator, stated that during the previous Commission meeting this item was brought before the Commission to request approval of selling wine at the Farmer’s Market with the question of allowing wine sampling. The Commission voted unanimously to allow a 30 day public input opportunity and time for staff to gather information regarding wine sampling. Leonard stated that the Commission received public responses, mostly in favor of wine selling and sampling. Leonard then read the following re-written staff recommendation.

Proposal and Parameters Provided at Previous Commission Meeting (June 10, 2009)

Given the growing wine industry in North Carolina, and the fact that some of these wines are sold at Farmers Markets throughout the state, and having met with staff of the City of Greensboro’s Legal Department, City staff is exploring the possibility of allowing North Carolina-produced wine to be sold and sampled at the Greensboro Farmers’ Curb Market. Preliminary guidelines include the following:

- *The vendor must have a direct connection with the winery; i.e., provides product used in the production of the wine, and/or is selling the wine as an employee of the winery (buying the wine for resale would be prohibited); and*
- *The vendor must obtain all necessary ABC permits issued by the State of North Carolina which are required to sell the wine; and*

- *The vendor must obtain all necessary ABC permits issued by the State of North Carolina which are required to provide samples of the wine; and*
- *The vendor must provide a copy of his/her liability insurance policy which specifically states that the Greensboro Farmers' Curb Market facility and the sale of wine and subsequent samples is covered by the policy; and*
- *The vendor must adhere to all guidelines regulating wine samples outlined in the NC ABC statutes.*

Additional Parameters Recommended by Staff

As with all Applications and Applications for Variance to Sell, applications to sell wine and/or applications for variance to sell wine will be reviewed annually on July 1.

The P&R Commission reserves the right to rescind the sale and sampling of wine at the Greensboro Farmers Curb Market following a one-year trial period ending June 30, 2010.

Bill Knight, Commission Member, inquired if the wineries and viticulturists are affiliated with the vendors.

Leonard replied stating that there is a permanent vendor at the Farmer's Market, Mike Faucette with Faucette Farms, who provides strawberries for a local winery to produce strawberry wine.

Ponton stated that this is a new subject to the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission and requested a one year trial period of selling and sampling wine.

Paul Brown, Commission Member, inquired if the Commission would have the opportunity after one year to review the selling and sampling activity and then perhaps decide to allow a continuance to selling wine.

Ponton replied stating yes.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Brower and seconded to approve the selling and sampling wine at the Farmer's Market for one year. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Carl Brower, Jr., Commission Vice-Chair, thanked Leonard for preparing the materials regarding this item prior to this Commission meeting in order for the Commission to be adequately prepared for this agenda item.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Liz Hill, American Tower Corporation, informed the Commission that representatives from American Tower Corporation recently met with Parks and Recreation staff to discuss possible park sites for cell phone towers. Hill stated that at this point it is her understanding that the Parks and Recreation Department has not been interested in locating wireless facilities at parks; however when talking to staff about what this company can offer to parks staff was interested in bringing this before the Commission to perhaps revisit the opportunity. Hill stated that staff had previously been presented with cell structures that look unlike traditional towers. Discussion took place regarding site design elements that would add an amenity to a park, for example, a cell tower that would look like a ball field light with operating lights or site improvements such as a picnic area, benches, etc. Hill stated that they would like the opportunity to work with staff and the Commission.

Dr. Wade stated that he previously had the opportunity to meet with Susan Stanzil with American Tower Corporation who originally approached the City Manager and with this new type of integrated approach into our natural surroundings that this request may be one that the Commission would perhaps be in favor.

Ponton requested that the Commission recommend staff to continue having dialogue with American Tower Corporation then report the results to the Commission.

Sharon Hightower, 6 Belles Court, requested updates on Gateway Gardens, specifically on how the construction is being monitored, Barber Park, and the aquatic center. Hightower expressed concern regarding the aquatic center since it is no longer a Parks and Recreation project. Hightower stated that she would like to see the aquatic center accessible to the entire community.

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens and Program Support Manager, informed Hightower that construction at Barber Park is on schedule with no additional issues and would perhaps be complete this fall. Wilson stated that someone will contact Hightower with detailed updated information and Eddie Pugh, Barber Park Manager, can be contacted with any questions or concerns.

Wilson continued stating that the Gateway Gardens construction is on schedule and will perhaps open this fall. A couple of project meetings have been held that included two volunteers from the surrounding community who seem to be pleased with the progress. Illegal dumping has taken place at the Gateway Gardens site and the person responsible has been served a citation. Wilson informed Hightower that Darryl Holsey will contact her with more information.

Dr. Wade stated that action regarding the aquatic center has been taken; however the Parks and Recreation Commission and Department are diligently pursuing the release of other Parks and Recreation bond monies for the maintenance and upgrading of Greensboro's community pools.

Hightower inquired where indoor pools are located.

John Hughes, Youth and Community Services Manager, replied stating Grimsley and Smith High Schools have indoor pools.

Ponton stated that Carl Brower, Vice-Chair, Dr. Wade, and herself attended a meeting with Matt Brown, Coliseum Director, and were able to express concerns and wants for the aquatic center, such as it being a location for children to learn to swim, open swim time for the public, therapeutic exercise opportunity, etc.

Brower, Jr. added that parking during coliseum events was also a concern that was expressed during the meeting. Since this meeting an advisory committee has been established. Brower, Jr. is a member of this committee.

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Dr. Wade commended staff on the 75th Anniversary Festival at Country Park. Dr. Wade reported that the recruitment process has begun for the Planning and Project Development Manager position formally occupied by Candice Bruton.

Ken Free, Commission Member, inquired if there are stimulus funds available for Parks and Recreation projects.

Maxson replied stating that staff has requested stimulus funding; however the Parks and Recreation Department has not been notified of any stimulus money at this point with the exception of youth employment this summer from JobLink.

Wilson added that stimulus money is going to be given to the Transportation Department. Parks and Recreation has had discussions with this department that if there was money already projected to be spent could perhaps alleviate funding assisting Parks and Recreation. Many of Parks and Recreation projects have a tendency to overlap into other departments. Staff is diligently pursuing the opportunity of what stimulus money comes to the City could perhaps benefit Parks and Recreation.

Hughes stated that with the energy stimulus funds from Housing and Community Development replacement of lights on the softball and baseball fields may take place.

Sue Davis, Watershed Parks Superintendent, reported that the Watershed Parks and Recreation Centers received a grant to be used for archery. A program has been established to offer archery to recreation center after school and summer camp participants. The Watershed Parks staff will conduct the archery program.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Bill Knight inquired why program participation has decreased from previous years.

Wilson replied stating that there were less organized events such as at Country Park; however there has been an increase in demand of services such as trail usage and other free services Parks and Recreation offers.

Ken Free thanked staff for assisting in the preparation of the Inner City Classic that will be held August 5-9, 2009.

Rose Marie Ponton appointed Ken Free to chair the Commission Officer Nominating Committee. This committee included Lori Galbreath and Bill Knight. Free will report the nominations at the next Commission meeting. Ponton requested recognition of the 75th Anniversary Committee Members for their efforts with the year celebrations. Ponton invited Members to attend the Citizen Board Member Forum in August.

With no further business Ponton adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation