

## **GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2006 – 6:00 pm**  
**Council Chambers – 300 W. Washington Street**

**PRESENT:** Marc Bush, Lori Galbreath, David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Judi Rossabi, Randy Scott, Palmer Smith McIntyre, Cheryl Wilson

**ABSENT:** Robert Douglas, III

**STAFF PRESENT:** Candice Bruton, Mark Bush, Jenny Caviness, Ed Deaton, Patrick Fulcher, Nate Halubka, John Hughes, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Tracy Pegram, Marcie Richardson, Claire Roberts, Teresa Small (Police), Chris Spencer (Transportation), Lou Spera, Laurie Thore, Heather Ulrich, Bernadette White, Chris Wilson

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the December 14, 2005 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

### **Recognition**

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation Employee of the Month for January, Claire Roberts.

Kuester also recognized the following Accreditation All-Stars:  
Nate Halubka, Patrick Fulcher, Chris Spencer (Transportation), Allison Staton, Teresa Small (Police)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **War Memorial Stadium Policy**

John Hughes, Division Manager, returned to the Commission seeking approval of the War Memorial Stadium Usage Policy that was presented at the December Commission meeting.

David Hoggard, Commissioner, inquired about the section in this policy that states no alcoholic beverages are allowed in the stadium or the surrounding area. The reason for this inquiry is that it is possible there may be uses of War Memorial Stadium other than amateur baseball. Hoggard continued stating that if this is already a departmental policy then why it must be stated in this policy. Hoggard suggested including the statement that alcoholic beverages are not allowed except by special permit.

Kuester stated that within the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations it states that there is an opportunity to apply for a permit to allow alcohol depending on the type of event. Kuester stated that the department would be more comfortable leaving the policy as is, and then if there comes an occasion where a plan is being made for an event wanting alcoholic beverages, the city will determine the best interest of that event and War Memorial Stadium.

Hughes replied stating that it is a policy that no alcoholic beverages are allowed at most of the Parks and Recreation facilities. Hughes suggested that those who request the use of alcohol in the stadium be reviewed case by case. Hughes also suggested removing the statement and posting a sign at War Memorial Stadium stating alcoholic beverages are prohibited, just as signs are posted at other Parks and Recreation facilities. Alcoholic beverages have been allowed at the stadium in the past, therefore it is included in this policy to make certain that those who utilize this facility are aware that alcoholic beverages are not allowed.

Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, stated that in the past alcohol was served at the stadium; therefore the policy may need to state that alcohol is not allowed.

Marc Bush, Commissioner, stated that he agrees with the policy.

Randy Scott, Commissioner, asked Hughes if he thought this policy would discourage potential users from reserving the stadium because alcohol is prohibited. Scott also recommended adding to the policy that the request for alcoholic beverages will be reviewed on a case by case basis and will be allowed in certain instances only by special permit.

Hughes replied stating that he does not believe this policy would discourage anyone from using the Stadium.

Cheryl Wilson, Commissioner, inquired about the section in the policy referring to the non-use of baseball events and does this mean no concert type of events will be held at War Memorial Stadium.

Hughes replied stating that the department does not want to have concerts that would take place on the field. If they use the area behind home plate and the audience sits in the stands then perhaps a concert could take place.

Kuester stated that because of the uniqueness of this particular stadium and some of the history in that there has been alcohol served there that we are trying to make the point that as we focus on youth sports clearly having alcoholic events was not the direction we want to go. Kuester stated that she believes that is in the departments best interest to leave the statement as is due to the type of programming we're promoting at the stadium; however to add a sentence that speaks to the possibility for certain events to have alcohol is an option, but there are concerns to totally remove the statement.

Hoggard stated that he agrees with amending the statement to say that no alcoholic beverages are allowed in the stadium or surrounding grounds except by special permit.

Kuester stated that the department can do that; however we will need to be very careful as we look at these particular types of events. For many reasons regarding the stadium and its atmosphere we would also have to be cognizant of the neighborhood.

#### **Action Taken**

**A motion was made by Randy Scott and seconded by Lori Galbreath to adopt the War Memorial Stadium Usage Policy with the recommended revision that allow alcoholic beverages will be allowed by special permit. A vote in favor was unanimous.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Bond Projects Update**

Dan Maxson, Division Manager, stated to the Commission that during 1997-98 the Parks and Recreation Department and citizens were developing a Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan in which citizens requested their needs. The Parks and Recreation Department compared these needs to other communities across the state and nation. As a result of the Master Plan these recommendations laid the foundation for the 2000 Bond Referendum. In 2000, the voters voted by a sixty-nine percent margin to approve a thirty-four point two million dollar (\$34,200,000) bond referendum for new Parks and Recreation facilities and improvements to existing facilities.

Maxson updated the Commission on the following 2000 Bond Referendum Projects:

- Simkins Indoor Sports Pavilion
  - Construction completed in fall 2004
  - 80,000 sq. feet clear-span structure
  - 8 indoor tennis courts, 4 combination basketball/volleyball courts, 40'x80' multipurpose room, restrooms/lockers
- Playground Equipment Replacement
  - 58 of 99 playgrounds have been replaced
  - Complete in 2006
- Carolyn S. Allen Park
  - Dedicated in fall 2004
  - 4 softball fields
  - Press box, concessions, restrooms, picnic shelters, practice soccer field, parking
- Northeast Community Walking Trail
  - Dedicated spring 2004
  - Multi-use trail with benches and landscaping, utilizing landfill buffer
- Southwest Recreation Center
  - 29 acres purchased in 2004 off of Hilltop Road
  - Master planning and designing to begin within 45 days with public input
- Keeley Park
  - Proposed 100+ acre community park in northeast Greensboro
  - Anticipate athletic fields, trails and picnic shelters
  - Master planning to begin spring 2006 with public input
- Barber Park
  - Master Plan Phase I implementation
  - Sprayground, playground, new picnic shelters, restrooms, concessions and improved parking
  - Construction to begin summer 2006
- City Trails
  - New trails under design
  - Including Southeast connector, Price Park/Robin Ridge connector and Carolyn S. Allen Park/Saddle Creek Neighborhood connector
- Recreation Centers
  - HVAC has been installed in 13 center gymnasiums
  - Replacement of floors and bleachers in 13 center gymnasiums to be complete in spring 2006
- Park Restrooms and Concessions
  - Peeler Center restroom/concession nears completion
  - Leonard Center restroom/concession design nears completion
  - Staff is working with Westerwood neighborhood on renovations
- Greensboro Sportsplex
  - Facility programs expanding (volleyball, basketball, concessions)
  - Fitness Center
- Gateway Garden
  - Located at the intersection of East Lee Street and Florida Street
  - Partnership with Greensboro Beautiful, Inc. and community

Judi Rossabi, Commissioner, stated that compliments regarding the Sportsplex are received across the state and that this facility is a great place to play volleyball and has made a big difference to the City of Greensboro.

Ponton commended staff on their efforts for pursuing the bond projects.

Maxson stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is interested in a 2006 Bond Referendum to take us further with the Master Plan and the revised Master Plan recommendations.

#### **PARTF Barber Park**

Candice Bruton, Planning Specialist, Parks and Recreation, stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is currently in the design development phase of the Barber Park Phase I project. The Parks and Recreation is applying for a five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000) Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant. PARTF is administered through the state of North Carolina and their division of Parks and Recreation. This grant would greatly help the department as we implement and expedite the Barber Park Master Plan Phase I. This grant does require a fifty percent match, which the department is prepared to match these funds. Bruton asked the Commission for their consideration to approve supporting this grant.

#### **Action Taken**

**A motion was made by Palmer Smith McIntyre and seconded by Randy Scott to endorse the PARTF grant for five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be used towards the Barber Park Master Plan. A vote in favor was unanimous.**

### **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Jim Rumley, Commissioner, Guilford County Parks and Recreation, stated to the Commission that the work of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department and the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission compliments the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Commission and commends city staff for their assistance.

### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Kuester informed the Commission that as part of the Accreditation process, the Accreditation Commission from National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has a visitation team that will visit our department in May 2006 that will involve the assessment of our department. The Parks and Recreation Commission will have the opportunity to meet with this visitation team. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners will be given an Accreditation education that will offer more information and details regarding Accreditation and the process involved.

Kuester also stated that within the department is an Athletic Advisory Board which is currently inactive. A sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission is needed to meet with the department for discussion of Athletic guidelines, how many board members should serve, etc. Appointment of the Advisory Board will need to be in place by the March 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Judi Rossabi** commended the bond project update report and that it is important to implement some of the bond projects ahead of schedule.

**Lori Galbreath** stated that she is looking forward to working diligently in 2006. Galbreath thanked Laurie Thore for featuring her in the Parks and Recreation Newsletter.

**Randy Scott** thanked John Hughes for his efforts regarding the equipment at Brown Recreation Center.

**Rose Marie Ponton** suggested that Parks and Recreation Commissioners tour Parks and Recreation facilities in the near future.

**Palmer Smith McIntyre** stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has phenomenal projects with phenomenal resources and commended the department staff with their efforts on leveraging local tax dollars.

**Marc Bush** stated that he had the opportunity to speak with an individual who stated that the Parks and Recreation park fees and athletic facility fees are fair. Bush stated that this was a good indication of the progress made and commended staff for these efforts.

**David Hoggard** stated to the Commission that the next War Memorial Stadium meeting will be held January 17, 2006. After this meeting concrete information should be in place to bring forth to the Commission and public.

With no further business, Hoggard adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant  
Greensboro Parks and Recreation