

## **GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2009 – 4:00pm**

**Lindley Recreation Center – 2907 Springwood Drive**

**PRESENT MEMBERS:** Rose Marie Ponton (Chair), Carl Brower, Jr (Vice-Chair), Paul Brown, Marc Bush, Bill Knight (arrived 4:10, excused 5:12), Steve Moore

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Ken Free, Lori Galbreath

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Larry Barham, Steve Branson, Roger Brown (Guilford County), Kathy Cates, Jenny Caviness, Casey Chesson, Ed Hathaway, John Hughes, Jean Jackson, Lynne Leonard, Dan Maxson, Lane Newsome, Darious Oliver, Eddie Pugh, Marcie Richardson, Elizabeth Sapp, Laurie Thore, Don Tilley, Mary Vigue (Budget and Evaluation), Dr. Anthony Wade, Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Lindley Recreation Center. Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 8, 2009 and May 13, 2009 Commission Meetings were approved as submitted.

### **Recognition**

Dr. Anthony Wade, Interim Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation May Employee of the Month, Elizabeth Sapp.

Steve Branson, Regional Parks Superintendent, recognized Cole Logar for his Eagle Scout project of developing benches that are placed along the city trail system.

Jenny Caviness, Greensboro Youth Council (GYC) Coordinator, recognized the GYC Executive Board, Kristopher Rawls (Chair), Richard Sosa, Sierra Lloyd, Hilary Chan, Devin Jones, Cherri Miller, Cyera Clegg, and Adrienne White.

Caviness reported that GYC participants volunteered over 13,000 hours in the community this past year which is over \$280,000 dollars in addition to making approximately \$70,000 at the GYC Carnival. GYC received approximately \$50,000 in grants, sponsorships and in-kind donations. This is a total contribution to the city of approximately \$390,000.

### **Facility Presentation**

Casey Chesson, Lindley Recreation Center, presented the Commission with history of the center and events and programs currently held at the center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Levette Field Flag Installation**

Don Tilley, Assistant Athletics Director, informed the Commission that Woodmen of the World will be sponsoring a 9-10 year old baseball team. This team will play in the Hillsdale Park area where there has not been a team in the last 3 years. Woodmen of the World will also donate an American flag and flag pole to Greensboro Parks & Recreation to be placed at Levette Field in Nocho Park. A flag dedication will be held at Levette Field Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:30. Tilley then recognized Gregg Erickson and Doug Fulling with Woodman of the World. Woodmen of the World have donated over 3 million flags. A plaque will be mounted near the flag pole stating this contribution was given by Woodmen of the World in 2009.

### **Gateway Gardens Japanese Gate Request**

Peg Moore, Public Gardens Artwork Committee Chair, informed the Commission that Greensboro Beautiful formed a subcommittee last year to create a policy in order to have a formal process of accepting artwork to be displayed in public gardens. The policy was adopted by Greensboro Beautiful in January 2009 which closely follows the city's guidelines of accepting public artwork. The committee consists of 3 Greensboro Beautiful members, 1 public artist, and 2 community art supporters who rotate on and off the committee in an organized manner. When a donor calls offering a piece of artwork to be placed in one of the public gardens they are asked to complete an approval form. The committee reviews the proposal then makes a recommendation to the Public Garden Committee and if approved it is then brought before the Commission for approval.

Moore continued stating that a proposal from Jeff Sartain has been submitted for a Japanese Gate to be placed at the Gateway Gardens. The committee would like to place this public artwork in the Gateway Gardens as it will have a future Japanese Garden as part of the Phase II project. The committee recommends that the gate be placed during Phase I to draw patrons' eyes to lead them to the future entrance of the Japanese Garden. The committee hopes to use the gate as a promotional opportunity to raise money for the Japanese Garden.

Commission Members were given a photo of the Japanese Gate. The gate is made of steel, weighs approximately 600lbs., and is 10ft. by 11ft. Maintenance will not be required.

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, stated that this particular piece would fall under the category of an amenity as opposed to naming a facility. Due to construction beginning at Gateway Gardens this could be adopted as part of Phase I even though it will eventually lead into Phase II. The Commission does have the opportunity to accept the request or give a 30 day grace period allowing for public comment.

### **Action Taken**

**A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded to allow the Japanese Gate to be placed in the Gateway Gardens. A vote in favor was unanimous.**

### **Request to Sell Wine at Farmer's Curb Market**

Michael Faucette, Faucette Farms, presented the Commission with a map representing Farmer Markets in NC that allow wine to be sold and allow sampling of wine. Faucette requested that the Commission allow the Farmer's Market to sell wine as well as sample wine. Faucette stated that the Greensboro Coliseum and downtown Greensboro hosts events where wines are sampled and sold. Faucette believes that it would be an asset to sell wine at the Farmer's Market. This would allow for a more diversified customer base and higher clientele. Faucette presented the Commission with 253 signatures from the previous Saturdays Farmer's Market listing customers and vendors in support of the Market selling wine.

Wilson informed the Commission that staff met with the city's legal department to look into the necessary ABC permitting to see if this would indeed be feasible. Wilson then turned the presentation over to Lynne Leonard, Farmer's Market Coordinator.

Leonard stated that giving the growing wine industry in NC, the fact that some wines are sold at Farmer's Markets throughout the state and having met with staff with Greensboro's Legal Department, city staff feels that the Greensboro Farmer's Market can allow NC produced wine provided that the vendor have a direct connection with the winery. The vendor must obtain all necessary licenses issued by the state required to sell wine. The vendor would need to provide a copy of his/her liability insurance which specifically states that the sell of wine is covered by that policy, and that the vendor does not serve the wine or provide samples of the wine and that all bottles must be sealed. These requirements were based on discussions with the legal department and the Vendor Advisory Committee. The Vendor Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Commission that NC produced wine is allowed to be sold at the Farmer's Market. Further guidelines may need to be written and included in the vendor participation guidelines.

Max Lloyd, Guilford County viticulturist, stated that his organization sells wine to the Rockingham County Farmer's Market in Reidsville and Moore's Square Farmer's Market in Raleigh. Both Markets allow wine sampling. Lloyd stated that last month the area between Greensboro and Durham known as the Haw River Valley was recognized by the federal government. This area is known for quality grown grapes that allows for marketing advantages. The only metropolitan area that touches this location is Greensboro. NC sampling guidelines state that samples must be ½ oz. Lloyd stated that not having wine sampling would significantly hurt wine sales.

Wilson stated that if the Commission desires, staff will discuss the sampling wine item with the city's legal department and report back at the next Commission meeting.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that in such cases there is a 30 day period for public comment.

Wilson stated that the proposal of selling wine with the possible option of wine sampling will be posted at the Farmer's Market for 30 days.

Steve Moore, Commission Member, inquired if there was a location concern or discussions with the Legal Department of selling alcohol beverages in the vicinity of a school, etc.

Wilson replied stating that the zoning for the Farmer's Market would allow the selling of alcohol.

Bill Knight, Commission Member, inquired who is responsible for making sure and verifying that all permits, insurance, etc. are in place.

Leonard responded saying that the vendor would have to provide copies of all necessary items.

### **Action Taken**

**A motion was made by Carl Brower, Jr. and seconded to allow 30 days to acquire wine sampling information and giving a 30 day opportunity for the public to comment. A vote in favor was unanimous.**

### **Barber Park Splashpad Fee Proposal**

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, stated that during the previous Commission meeting there was discussion and concern regarding the operation and fee structure of the sprayground at Barber Park. As part of the budget process this year the city anticipates revenue associated with the sprayground as well as expenses.

Wilson stated that a sprayground is maintained much like a pool in such that it is chemically automated and a licensed operator must be on site. This sprayground is a stand alone facility and was difficult to find similar facilities during the market research. Wilson stated that Keeley Park will also have a sprayground and for the Commission to keep in mind that any determination made will be looked at another facility in the future.

Wilson reported information regarding the following sprayground facilities:

Pepsi Sprayground, Kinston, NC: very similar, spray features consisting of water cannons, spray features shooting water from the ground, buckets of water dumping on users. This facility is open Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm, and Sunday 1pm-6pm with a cost of \$1 per person.

Charlotte, NC: few features, unsupervised, motion activated, free admission, open Memorial Day-Labor Day, sunrise-sunset

New Bern, NC: Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, 11am-7pm, \$1.00 per person, low income admission program

Woods Sprayground, Lincoln NE: very much like sprayground at Barber Park, open Memorial Day - Labor Day, daily 1pm-5pm, supervised, \$3.00 per person

Wilson stated that Barber Park sprayground features include shower tunnel, water cannon, donut spray, bozzle spray, magic mist, fumbling five, ground geyser, magic touch bollard, misty arch, and a water wheel.

Wilson continued stating that the splashpad located at Bur-Mil Park is very popular and is in addition to an aquatic facility which reached maximum capacity this past Saturday at 11:00am with a line of people waiting until 4:00pm. The Barber Park sprayground will have more features than the one located at Bur-Mil Park.

Wilson reported that the estimated cost of operation for the sprayground is approximately \$90,000. This facility will have a 2,000 gallon tank that is under the surface that constantly re-circulates water at a rate of 354 gallons per minute. It is chemically automated and has a computer monitoring on how the water is treated. The water is treated just like a swimming pool. The chemical used to treat the water cost approximately \$100 for 50 gallons. The sprayground would be required to have a certified pool operator, someone that is licensed per Guilford County's health regulations. There will be a concession stand, restrooms and changing area which means janitorial supplies will be needed. A user fee is not unusual to contribute to the overall operating expense.

Wilson stated that it is recommended that the Barber Park sprayground be open Memorial Day – Labor Day, weekends only when school is in session, otherwise daily 11am-6pm. The Commission is being requested to consider a minimal fee associated with the sprayground to recover some operating expenses. The fees requested consist of a \$2.00 charge for 13 years and older and a \$1.00 charge for children 3-12 years. Children 2 years and under would be free. This fee structure is consistent with Greensboro city pools. To make sure everyone has the opportunity to utilize the sprayground programs such as Pool Pals may be subsidized.

Marc Bush, Commission Member, inquired if the fee charge is for an all day use even for those who exit and return.

Wilson replied stating yes. Also, the fire marshal would assist with determining the capacity limit.

Ponton inquired what would happen if there are those waiting to enter but unable to do so because capacity has been reached.

Wilson responded stating that in the past large groups would come at one time which caused a capacity issue; therefore a designated time was established for groups, such as for day care groups. This is new terrain for Parks & Recreation and staff would use their observations to come up with a solution so that everyone has an opportunity to use the sprayground.

Paul Brown inquired if toddlers would be required to wear swimsuits.

Wilson replied stating that swim suits would be a requirement for everyone and that diapers would not be allowed because when saturated they can explode and get into the filtration system and act as a blocking agent.

Steve Moore, Commission Member, inquired if staff has an estimate of how many people may utilize the sprayground and what is the average capacity at the Bur-Mil Park aquatic facility. Moore calculated an estimate of \$1,000 per day for operating cost during a 3 month time span.

Wilson replied stating that a figure is unknown and staff at this time can only use information gathered from other sprayground facilities. Wilson stated that he believes Bur-Mil Park had over 1,000 people this past weekend; however it was a holiday weekend so the attendance figure may not be like those of a non-holiday weekend.

Bill Knight, Commissioner, inquired if parents accompanying children would be charged.

Wilson replied stating that there would be a gate fee and it is recommended that parents be charged upon entry as it is difficult to regulate whether someone gets wet or not or perhaps someone may have no interest in getting wet upon entry; however may change their mind.

Brower inquired what the capacity limit will be at the Barber Park sprayground and would there be a designated time seniors could utilize the facility.

Wilson replied stating the capacity limit has yet to be determined and that the capacity limit at Bur-Mil is slightly over 400. Bur-Mil also has a pool; therefore the occupancy at the Barber Park sprayground will be less. Senior utilization is something staff will look into.

Branson added that staff will also look into the possibility of private rentals.

Wilson stated that if construction continues at its current rate there is a possibility that there may be a partial opening of the sprayground this year.

Ponton stated that if it is the Commission's desire the fees can be posted for 30 days to allow public comment.

Brower stated that since the proposed fees are consistent with the current city pools fee structure he believes the fees be approved and posted on the sprayground site; however public comments will be welcome the next 30 days.

### **Action Taken**

**A motion was made by Carl Brower, Jr. and seconded to approve the Barber Park sprayground fees and to move forward with posting the fees on site. A vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

Bernadette White, Program Coordinator, invited the Commission to ride the Parks & Recreation float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The parade will be Saturday, July 4, 2009. White informed the Commission that a historical display of the department will be located at the Central Library from July 8 – October 31, 2009. The historical display grand opening will be held July 8, 2009 at 5:00 before the next scheduled Commission meeting. White also invited the Commission to attend the Greensboro Grasshopper's baseball game on July 24, 2009. This will be the final event in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Dr. Wade will throw out the first pitch.

Caviness and Larry Barham, Country Park Manager, invited the Commission to attend the Parks and Recreation 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival at Country Park on June 27, 2009 from 10:00am-4:00pm with MUSEP beginning at 6:00pm. This celebration is also in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Country Park as this park was Greensboro's first regional park.

### **Marketing Plan for Simkins Pavilion**

Lane Newsome, Sportsplex and Simkins Pavilion Manager, came before the Commission with an update on marketing efforts for the Simkins Pavilion. The community is welcome to utilize the Pavilion during operating hours when open space is available. The Sportsplex/Simkins Pavilion website is now up and running. Newsome distributed a packet to the Commission that was also distributed to residents within a 1 mile radius of the Pavilion. Newsome then turned the presentation over to Ed Hathaway, Sportsplex employee who has been working on the website.

Hathaway presented the Commission with a live version of the Sportsplex/Simkins Pavilion website. The website promotes the midnight basketball program, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, summer camps, etc. The website can be translated into 14 different languages, can produce the weather, and shows the operating hours of the facility. The website offers online registration through a secure site. Hathaway stated that the Sportsplex website had its one millionth visitor through this past fiscal year.

Brower stated that he believes it would be helpful for the website to show dates and times of when camps are being held at the Pavilion.

Newsome informed the Commission that the Simkins Pavilion does not have a marketing budget; however marketing efforts have been made by including Pavilion advertising with Sportsplex advertisements.

### **Pomona Baseball Field**

Jean Jackson, Athletics Director, stated that approximately 3 years ago the Parks & Recreation Athletics Division was approached by Brandt Taylor, Boy Scout. Taylor made a request of converting Pomona Baseball Field to an all accessible field as his Eagle Scout project. This field is now complete and a dedication was held on May 9, 2009. Jackson informed the Commission that during the dedication Parks and Recreation received an award from ARC of Greensboro. Jackson formally brought the award forward to the Commission and Dr. Wade.

### **Bond Project Update**

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, informed the Commission that this agenda was prompted due to an ongoing discussion of the overall City of Greensboro budget, but specifically the Commission's request that City Council accelerate some of the 2000, 2006, and 2008 Parks and Recreation bond projects. Maxson stated that on behalf of the Commission Ponton went before City Council at their previous meeting formally requesting to move forward on the bond projects.

The following bond project updates were given:

- Barber Park Phase I: sprayground currently under construction, funded by a 2000 bond (\$2,407,000), anticipated completion is fall 2009.
- Barber Park Phase II: to include a Community Center and Maintenance Building, would begin with a public input process, funded by a 2008 bond, (\$3,000,000).
- Gateway Gardens Phase I: partnership with Greensboro Beautiful, Inc., construction underway to include infrastructure, heritage Garden, Children's Garden, and Rain Garden, funded by 2000 bond (\$2,460,400) and a PARTF grant (\$500,000).
- Gateway Gardens Phase II: continue Garden construction to perhaps include a restroom facility, funded from the 2008 bond (\$1,000,000).
- Brightwood Neighborhood Project: adjacent to Cover Creek Gardens off of Summit Ave, development of a new passive neighborhood park, funded from the 2000 bond (\$100,000).
- Ole Asheboro Neighborhood Park: development of a 1.3 acre site, donated to Parks & Recreation, public design process currently in progress, funded by a 2000 bond (\$125,000) and the Neighborhood Small Project Program (\$24,000).
- Neighborhood Park Renovations: various park improvements to Steelman, Heath, and Sussman Parks, funding from the 2008 bond (\$310,575).
- Westerwood Restroom Project: partnership with the neighborhood association, project complete, funding provided by the 2000 bond paired with grant funding from the Neighborhood Small Project Program (\$227,000).
- War Memorial Stadium: recommended renovation options to be submitted to Council, alternative funding options currently sought.
- Land Acquisition: land acquisition for future park development, to be utilized in areas of Greensboro experiencing growth, funded by the 2006 bond (\$2,414,000), pending future bond sale.
- Trail System Expansion: implements recommendations made by the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenways Master Plan, neighborhood and public facilities connectors, funding from the 2006 bond (\$1,178,000), pending future bond sale.
- Skate Park: development and construction of first skate park, Jaycee Park site selection, collaborating with interested parties, funding from 2006 bond (\$575,000), hopeful to begin public input process soon, pending future bond sale.
- Southwest Park Improvement: parkland development to include trails, multipurpose fields, and playground, funding from the 2006 bond (\$375,000), need to proceed with bids as soon as possible to take advantage of low bids being submitted for construction, pending future bond sale.
- Southwest Recreation Center: new 15,000 square foot recreation center to serve the Adams Farm area, property acquired, design complete, project pending future bond sale from 2000 bond.

- Turf Installation at Hester Park: creates 3 artificial turf fields, increase capacity by 50%, reduces maintenance costs, funding from 2008 bond (\$2,640,000), pending future bond sale.
- Smith Senior Center: paved gravel parking lot, provides ADA access, paved trail, funded by 2008 bond (\$200,000), pending future bond sale.
- Restroom at Gillespie Golf Course: provides on-course restrooms, adapt existing design to site to speed installation, funding from 2008 bond (\$200,000), pending future bond sale.
- Keeley Park Phase I: sprayground, playground complex, community garden, pond improvements, trails and picnic shelters, Community Garden node anticipated to begin early fall 2009, funded by 2000 bond (\$2,032,571) and a PARTF grant (\$500,000). This grant must be spent and the park open in 2010 or an extension will need to be requested for the grant which given the state's budget issues they would be reluctant to issue an extension if Parks and Recreation doesn't proceed with the sprayground and community garden. The guidelines for an extension could be granted if the conditions were beyond control, such as weather. It is believed that Greensboro would not be looked at favorably if a request for extension is submitted and could jeopardize future PARTF grant awards.
- Pool Repairs and Grimsley Upgrade: repairs to neighborhood pools, chemical feeders, decking, fencing, pipes, and valves, Grimsley Pool upgrade, keeps pools operational, funded by 2008 bond (\$649,425).
- Aquatic Center: aquatic center to be located at coliseum, funded by 2008 bond (\$12,000,000). City Council and the coliseum are moving forward with project.

Dr. Wade informed the Commission that he and Maxson attended a budget meeting the day before and was unable to address Parks and Recreation due to other items; however another meeting will be held to give an opportunity for Parks and Recreation to be heard. The results of this meeting will be communicated with the Commission.

Maxson distributed a list of bond projects to the Commission that was submitted to the City Manager's Office. The projects were divided in 3 different levels of priority.

Ponton stated that land acquisition bond funds should be used to acquire land for Southwest Park. Ponton informed the Commission that she, Brower, and Dr. Wade attended an aquatic center meeting to hear the coliseum plans for the aquatic center and for coliseum staff to hear the items of importance to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Those items include public swimming, opportunity for seniors to swim for therapeutics, and the admission and parking cost.

Maxson informed the Commission that Parks and Recreation requested approximately 19 million dollars worth of stimulus funds. To date this effort has been unsuccessful; however staff continues to work with the City Managers Office with this request.

### **SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

- NONE -

### **INTERIM DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Wade stated that the aquatic center bond funds will be utilized. The remaining funds needed to achieve the aquatic center are approximately 18-19 million dollars. Wade then requested Mary Vigue, Budget and Evaluation, to speak as to what Council needs to complete before addressing Parks and Recreation.

Vigue stated that Council has been addressing Transportation projects. City Council will focus on projects with a minimal operating impact.

Dr. Wade informed the Commission that City Council will be requested at their next Council meeting to accept a gift from the Ruth Wicker estate which is estimated at \$900,000. The funds are to be used for a facility designed by John Wicker and built as a memorial to women of Greensboro. Staff is currently looking into suitable locations.

### **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**Marc Bush** stated that he will be out of the country and will be unable to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival and the next Commission meeting. Bush suggested that the Commission attend a presentation given by Laurie Thore, Marketing Director, when possible as it is an educational opportunity for the Commission to learn about the department.

**Carl Brower, Jr.** stated that the second Ole Asheboro Park public meeting was held and looks forward to attending the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival.

**Paul Brown** informed the Commission that June 27, 2009 will be designated as Playful City USA play day. Brown inquired the status of the new Parks and Recreation Director search.

Dr. Wade stated that the new director search is being conducted by Alice Burkholder, Human Resources Consultant. Burkholder has a list of stakeholders in which she would like to receive feedback. The Commission is included as part of the stakeholder group as well as Parks and Recreation employees. Feedback will be used to assist with designing questions for the selection process. Human Resources is partnering with a consulting firm for the new director search. Human Resources is also searching for a City Manager and Transportation Director.

**Rose Marie Ponton** informed the Commission that she attended the GYC Awards Banquet and the Youth First Banquet and commended staff on their efforts with these events.

With no further business Ponton adjourned the meeting at 6:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant  
Greensboro Parks and Recreation