



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 6 pm
Smith Senior Center – 2401 Fairview St

PRESENT MEMBERS

Carl Brower, Justin Washington, Kelly Gaines, Matthew Lojko, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Wade Walcutt, Steve Branson, Phil Fleischmann, Rosina Whitfield, Jeffrey Ferguson, Antwoinette Byrd, Jennie Matkins

OTHERS PRESENT

None

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

WELCOME

Teania Jackson, Smith Senior Center Director, welcomed everyone to the Mabel D. Smith Senior Center. Jackson provided historical information on former Parks and Recreation employee Mabel D. Smith and how the facility came to be named after her. Jackson gave details about Smith's career and all the programs she developed for teenagers, seniors, special populations, visual and performing arts. Jackson also spoke about the various programs currently offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Branson, Interim Park Management Operations Division Manager, introduced Evan Clark as a new Trails Division crew member. Evan is an avid trails person, a member of the Tidewater Jeep Club and wants to make sure trails are there for future generations. He will be a perfect fit in our trails section.

Branson next introduced Derrick Phillipie, a new employee working in the trails section with David Andrews and Mike Simpson. Derrick has experience overseeing day-to-day duties of landscaping and mowing operations with his previous employer. He brings lots of knowledge to the SPS Division.

Branson presented Jeffrey Ferguson as the newly promoted Assistant Manager at Hester Park. Ferguson brings energy and expertise to the position. His leadership will be essential as the department moves forward with Hester Park Phase II.

Phil Fleischmann, Community Recreation Services Division Manager, introduced Antwoinette "Toni" Byrd as the newly promoted Assistant Athletic Director. Toni brings a strong passion for

Parks & Recreation, sports, and also a commitment to a high level of customer service that we're really looking forward to having in our Athletics section.

Wade Walcutt, Director, asked Toni to provide a brief explanation of how she first heard about the department, why she became involved with us, and how she got to where she is today. Byrd explained how she and her young nephew moved to Greensboro from New Jersey. At the time, he was active in sports and she needed to keep him active after the move. She visited Trotter Recreation Center to see what they offered and signed him up for their some of their programs. The center director as the time was Ben Free and he was looking for someone to work the afterschool program. She agreed to help him and shortly thereafter realized she loved it and doesn't see herself doing anything else. Byrd spoke of all the programs offered by Greensboro Parks & Recreation that were not offered back in New Jersey. And it wasn't until she started working in Parks & Recreation Administration that she learned of all the other programs offered by the department. She hopes to do a good job for the department in her new role.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 2016 meeting were approved as submitted with a motion from Commissioner Mathew Lojko, Jr. and a second from Kelley Gaines. All approved.

RECOGNITIONS

Volunteer Recognition

Brittany Carroll, Interim Volunteer Coordinator, introduced Lisa Henninger, from VF Corporation who worked with Rosina Whitfield, Program Specialist with City Arts Drama Section, on a project to organize the costume shop. Lisa and her staff of approximately 25 volunteers helped with folding, hanging items, moving bins, labeling, sorting, categorizing, putting things away, sweeping and removing trash. Upon completion, the shop looked like a different place. Carroll thanked Lisa and presented her with a certificate of appreciation along with one for Dana Owens, also with VF Corporation, who could not be present. Commissioner Brower thanked everyone.

STAFF REPORTS

Smith Senior Center

Jennifer Matkins, Facility Coordinator for the Mabel D. Smith Senior Recreation Center, gave a presentation about Rejuvenating Health & Wellness for Seniors. Matkins began by explaining May is Older Americans Month and how the re-authorization of the Older Americans Act, which was signed by the President, has had a positive impact on the facility. Federal funding from the program is distributed to the states, more specifically the State of North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. Next the funds are dispersed to Area Agencies on Aging and finally funneled to Senior Centers. The Mable D. Smith Senior Recreation Center benefits from general purpose monies which allow the funds to be spent on whatever the facility needs. In conjunction with their N.C. Senior Center of Excellence Certification, the fund allotment tripled to \$15,000.00 per year, which allowed for the installation of new restroom floors.

Matkins then went on to outline the three main programs, currently operating at the center; Aquatics (indoor pool), Senior Center, and Senior Programming. Each offers a multitude of classes to participants at any fitness level. Wellness Opportunities, Hiking Club and Senior Games are newly offered services for the participants.

No Questions.

Summer Teen Opportunities

Jasia Stevenson, GYC Director, and Michelle Gill-Moffat, Youth Development Director, presented their Summer 2016 Teen Programming. Gill-Moffat spoke first about a new partnership with the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club offering a Teen Camp at Peeler Recreation Center. Open to teens ages 13 through 18 years old.

Stevenson then spoke about Greensboro Youth Council's Service Learning Camp for teens ages 15 – 18. Their focus will be the community wide issue of food disparity. The weeklong camp will be held at the end of July and provide educational information sessions and volunteer activities for the participants. This year's camp is a pilot program, offered on a small scale. Depending on the feedback and participation, hopefully it will grow and continue to expand over the next year.

Gill-Moffat next spoke about the Summer Night Lights which provides free activities during the summer through community partnerships. This year the participants will be offered new programs:

- **Kitchenology with Chef N'Gai Dickerson**
 - A series of 6 healthy food cooking classes offered in partnership with the Greensboro Library.
- **Be.U.T.youthFul**
 - A Girls Empowerment is a 10 week program designed to improve a girls' wellness, social and emotional needs. They will discuss inner and outer beauty along with inspiring them to be the best they can be. It is being offered at Griffin Recreation Center.
- **GYC training and orientations**
 - Will assist with everything offered to promote participation in the GYC program
- **Group workouts and training**
 - A personal trainer will teach youth ages 13 and older how to properly use the equipment in the fitness center at Warnersville Recreation Center.
- **Divas and Dudes**
 - A bi-monthly conversation with you about things they are dealing with on a daily basis will be offered at Glenwood Recreation Center.
- **Counselors in Training**
 - A program offered to high school students ages 15 and up to serve as Junior Counselors at various recreation centers.

No Questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

SPEAKER FROM THE FLOOR

None

COMMISSION COMMENTS

- Lojko: stated how wonderful it is to be in Greensboro and he is proud to be a part of it. He thanked everyone for their efforts.
- Gaines: Dittoed Lojkos' comments.
- Washington: Very happy with everything.
- Brower: No further comments

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Walcutt suggested the P&R Commission summer tour the LeBauer Park, Van Dyke Performance Space, Ole Asheboro Park and possibly the Farmers Curb Market. The commission members responded positively to the idea. Walcutt asked Vonda Martin, Planner to present highlights on Ole Asheboro Park. Martin explained how the Master Plan for Ole Asheboro Park included a nature play and learning area. The department submitted a proposal to the Kiwanis Club of Greensboro for their annual giving project and they were approved for \$30,000.00 in funding. They will be partnering with the College of Design at NC State to put together a plan for that area. The play structures will be more of a natural element; trees and rocks. Commissioner Brower asked will there be a plant identification section along with the learning initiative in the park? Martin stated there will be a stakeholders meeting when they come to town and they would love to have something that appeals to all 5 senses. Brower thanked everyone for their work. No further Questions.

With no further business, Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nora Gardner, Administrative Support Specialist
Greensboro Parks and Recreation