



GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 10, 2016 – 4 pm
Trotter Recreation Center
District 4

PRESENT MEMBERS

Carl Brower, Jr. (Chair), Justin Washington (Vice-Chair), Matt Lojko, Bob Kollar,

STAFF PRESENT

Nasha McCray, Phil Fleischmann, Steve Branson, Thelma Blount, Michael Romano, Tanner Deisch, Liz Lennon, Joshua Sherrick, Edwin Hathaway, Donald Neville, Thomas Pugh, Mark Hayes

OTHERS PRESENT

None

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Trotter Recreation Center. Carl Brower, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

WELCOME

Mark Hayes, Trotter Recreation Center Supervisor, welcomed everyone to the facility. Hayes provided brief historical information about Trotter Recreation Center, a brief summary of programs offered, and shared the importance of maintaining the facility for the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brower stated anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should see Phil Fleischmann for the signup sheet.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 2016 meeting were approved as submitted with a motion from Commissioner Matt Lojko and Commissioner Justin Washington seconded. All approved.

RECOGNITIONS

New Employee Recognition

Phil Fleischmann, Community Recreation Services Manager, introduced former part-time employee and now new full time employee Michael Romano. Michael is the new Environmental Education and Lakes Supervisor. He has a Bachelors Degree in Biology and Pre-Veterinary Science and a Masters Degree in Parks & Recreation Management. He was a Park Ranger at Haw River State Park and for the past two years he has been working part-time with the department as Mr. Eco Bus. He travelled to many community events with live animals, doing

environmental education outreach. He has a passion for organizing and providing environmental education for all audiences and he really loves the animals.

Fleischmann next introduced Tanner Deisch as the new Facilities Coordinator. Deisch oversees several recreation centers and four outdoor pools. Tanner holds a Bachelors Degree in Sports and Recreation along with a Masters Degree in Recreation Administration. He was the Aquatics Director at Georgia Southern University and 4 years ago he was an aquatics intern for the department. He is the current chair of the Aquatics Branch of the National Recreation Park Association and an instructor trainer with the American Red Cross. His strengths are in Facility Management, Aquatics Programming and staff training.

Fleischmann then introduced Mary (Liz) Lennon as the new supervisor at Brown Community Recreation Center. Liz has worked at Lewis Community Recreation Center over the past 13-14 years in an administrative capacity. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and a Masters Degree in Public Administration. She has a strong passion for programming and community outreach, along with very strong organization skills.

Fleischmann **lastly** introduced Joshua Sherrick as the new Arts and Events Superintendent. For the past 6 years Josh has served as the Special Events Manager for the city, handling all of the permitting for special events. He is a large part of the reason why Greensboro is host to the National Folk Festival. He is a graduate of the city sponsored Leadership Edge which is an internal leadership program offered by the organization. His strengths are special events management, attracting different programs & events to the city and community relations.

Steven Branson, Interim Park Management & Operations Division Manager, introduced Ethan King, a new crew member of the Cemeteries Section. Ethan is an Army Veteran that started as a seasonal employee. After a brief employment period with Field Operations, he was able to return to Cemeteries in a full-time capacity. Branson expressed excitement to have Ethan back with the department.

Retiree Recognition

Phil Fleischmann, Community Recreation Services Manager, introduced Donald (Donnie) Neville and Edwin (Ed) Hathaway as retirees from the Community Recreation Services Division. Donnie has served over 34 years, handling the Athletic Field Maintenance and early in his career he handled maintenance at the Bryan Park Golf Course. His supervisor, Pat Falls described Donnie as someone who knows everything about P&R ball fields and knows how to fix just about anything that might go wrong at any of them. Fleischmann went on to say how the fields would not look as good as they do without his involvement, how he has been an extremely hard and dedicated worker for the city and he appreciates his time and service.

Neville has enjoyed his employment with the city, and appreciates everyone he has met along the way. A lot of good friends have come and gone that makes up the city of Greensboro and he is thankful to have been a part of it.

Edwin (Ed) Hathaway has worked with the city for over 13 years; since the beginning of the city's involvement with the Greensboro Sportsplex. He was the Inline Roller Hockey Director at the Sportsplex for many years and currently serves as the assistant manager. Ed has also been an extremely dedicated member of the P&R Team. He makes the Sportsplex run during busy odd hours that others don't work. On Friday evenings, for example when most of us are at home, Ed

is working and making sure the complex is running. He has been an invaluable member of our team at the Sportsplex, and an invaluable part of roller hockey & inline hockey. He will be greatly missed.

Hathaway thanked everyone who touched his life and expressed it has been an incredible journey. He will deeply miss it.

Steven Branson, Interim Park Management & Operations Division Manager, introduced Thomas (Eddie) Pugh, Barber Park Manager as a retiree. Eddie has held many positions and began his career with the department in 1979 in the tennis program. Due to the outsourcing of the tennis program, Eddie was transferred to Regional Parks where he became the assistant manager of Barber Park under Ms. Jean Jackson. He served in this capacity for approximately 3 years and oversaw the vast majority of the maintenance aspects of the park, Penn-Wright Stadium and the bubble that was over the Simkins Indoor Pavilion.

Eddie was next promoted to Barber Park Manager and served in this capacity for nearly 20 years. He was instrumental in the design, development and construction of Barber Park Phase I, which included the redesign of the picnic shelter area and the addition of the spray ground. This design has proven to be extremely popular and has increased public participation greatly. His influence has been equally important to the design, development and construction of Barber Park Phase II which just began. This will include improved access from the Florida Street area, a community building which will provide much needed rental space for large gatherings and a beautiful rotunda that will be a memorial to the women of Greensboro. Eddie has been a tremendous leader for the many individuals that worked or played at Barber Park and a seasoned manager with over 38 years of service to the city. He continuously works to encourage his team, coworkers, and supervisor to do their very best and to provide the very best services to their patrons. Branson thanked Eddie for all his contributions, his time with the city and wished him well in retirement.

Eddie thanked everyone in the department for the great opportunity to work. He is going to miss it and it has been a great run.

Ednasha McCray, Deputy Director, introduced Steven Branson, Interim Park Management & Operations Division Manager as a retiree. Steve began his career at Lake Brandt and Lake Higgins as Lake Warden. Two years later he moved to Hagan-Stone Park as the Assistant Park Manager and in 1998 was promoted to Park Manager. There he oversaw 400 acres of wildlife and recreation including Camp Joy and the campground facilities at the park until his next career move to Regional Park Superintendent. He continued in that role along with serving as the department's Interim PMO Division Manager. After 33 years of service to the city, Steve plans to enjoy his love of fishing and remodeling homes.

Steve thanked everyone for the opportunity to work in Regional Parks and the PMO Division.

Volunteer Recognition

Alex Zaleski, Volunteer Coordinator, and Anna Hoy, Youth First Program Specialist recognized the following summer Counselor in Training (CIT) participants:

- Keshaun Walker, assisted at Brown Recreation Center
- Zach Marshall, assisted at Camp Joy

- Karen Cruz, assisted at Craft Recreation Center
- Jesika McDaniel, assisted at Glenwood Recreation Center
- Randy Perez Dominguez, assisted at Glenwood Recreation Center
- Ronnie Garrou, assisted at Griffin Recreation Center
- Courtney Thomas, assisted at Leonard Recreation Center
- Jordan Graham, assisted at Leonard Recreation Center
- Micayla Jordan, assisted at Lewis Recreation Center
- Breanna Richardson, assisted at Lindley Recreation Center
- Ashton Miller, assisted at Trotter Recreation Center
- Jakara Jordan, assisted at Warnersville Recreation Center
- Justin Winters, assisted at Windsor Recreation Center
- Evonne Marsh, assisted at Windsor Recreation Center
- Marquita Parker, assisted at Windsor Recreation Center

Commission Term Expiration

Ednasha McCray, Deputy Director, announced the term expiration of Matthew Lojko Jr., from the Parks & Recreation Commission. He has served for the past 6 years and has been a tremendous advocate of the P&R department. In the past, he has served in the role of chair & co-chair, as well as, on several special sub-committees. He has supported the department at many events, different programs and everyone has really enjoyed working with him.

Chairman Lojko expressed how wonderful the past 6 years has been.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Month Update

Madeleine Carey, Trails Planner, provided an update on the celebration of Parks & Recreation month held in July 2016. This celebration was a joint effort between the department and the National Recreation & Parks Association (NRPA). The in-house marketing team worked extremely hard to provide the best P&R month long experience ever.

Madeleine acknowledged the following marketing team members:

- Remy Epps
- Michelle Gill-Moffat
- Jennifer Hance
- Austin Homan
- Anna Hoy
- Jeff Shaver
- Doug Tanis

The team opted to forgo participation in the annual Fun 4th Parade and instead decided to have a booth at the Fun 4th Festival. The goal was to reach a great number of people attending the event through giveaways, and photo opportunities with employees dressed as characters. They did a very large social media campaign which proved to be very popular. One in particular was called “Meet us Mondays”. Posted on the department’s Facebook Page, it was designed to introduce the community to different departmental employees. Other activities provided was the Greensboro Youth Leadership (GYC) Service Learning Camp, which was designed to focus on food

insecurity and Summer Night Lights, where many different departments come together to interact with the community. The team quickly capitalized on the Pokemon Go craze by presenting a video of which parks kids could capture Pokemon. They posted “Where’s Wade” videos on Wednesdays which kept the public interested. Every Thursday staff was asked to wear a special t-shirt promoting Parks & Recreation. Barber Park hosted concert series which was well received by the public. Triad Hike-It-Baby heard about the departments’ superhero theme and a group of moms decided to have a superhero themed hike on one of our trails at Price Park.

They also held a ribbon cutting at the Keeley Park Pump Track which was very well attended, during the month long celebration. Employees dressed as superhero’s attended the council meeting to remind everyone how important Parks & Recreation is to quality of life, health & wellness, nature conservation, the environment and creating an economic benefit for the city of Greensboro. They ended the month with the first ever Parks & Recreation Fest to celebrate Gillespie Golf

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request to remane the Peninsula Trail

Request to Rename the Gymnasium at Lindley Recreation

SPEAKER FROM THE FLOOR

None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

COMMISSION COMMENTS

With no further business, Chair Brower adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.

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