

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021**

**ZOOM**

**6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Toy Rhea, Edwina Roseboro-Barnes, Perry Sutton

**ABSENT:** Rene Brannan (e), Matt Watson (e)

**STAFF:** John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Jesse Holliman, David Linder, Brian Jones, Amanda Helms

**CITIZEN**

**COMMENTS:** None.

**MINUTES:** The March 2, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:**

Strategic Plan Update

- PRT has been working with Economic and Urban Development (EUD) to find additional funding beyond the \$100,000 grant for Carroll Park as previously discussed. Staff is attempting to work with the community to narrow down amenity/improvement ideas.
- The Clinton ConNEXTion initiative, focusing on southern Rock Hill, may be an opportunity to center on Emmett Scott Recreation Center.
- Commissioners discussed both projects and the need for consistent messages from each group in order to develop the best plan for south Rock Hill communities. Staff will reach out to both groups in order to establish opportunities for direct discussion. Then, streamlined ideas may be presented to the commission for consideration and recommendation regarding PRT facilities to City Council.
- Director Taylor noted the importance of considering all needs in order to plan for the best use of City funding and any grants.

Master Plan Update

- Tech Park Bridge #3 is in planning phase in anticipation of funding in Fiscal Year 2022. The River Park Trail Connector project contract has been awarded with construction forthcoming. SC Trails Grant and Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) applications have been submitted for the River Park Trail Restroom Building.
- Tennis Center court resurfacing was completed April 3, opening all 11 courts back for use. The Tennis Center new storage building is nearing completion. Work is in process at Miracle Park on the playground, playground restroom building and Miracle field. Playground improvements are in process at Emmett Scott, Southland Park and Hargett Park.
- The Sports & Event Center hosted 4 tournaments in March with 490 teams, 5,800 players and 19,000 in attendance for a \$3.9 million economic impact.
- Outdoor sports venues hosted 4 tournaments including 1,798 riders at the USA BMX Carolina Nationals, the biggest national event in USA BMX history.

Budget FY2022

- The first City Council Budget Workshop is planned for April 29.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS:**

Advisory Committee Report

- Commissioner Rhea reported on the Rock Hill Parks Foundation funded projects and Sports & Event Center activities for the associated advisory committee.

Spring Sports Report

- Traditional team sports registration showed a small drop but was higher than in 2019.
- BMX programming registration has seen consistent growth. In January to March comparisons, registration has more than doubled since 2019.

Community Outreach

- Emmett Scott Recreation Center has partnered with Rapid Reliable Testing to provide free testing for Covid on site.

Partnership Report

- In a time of need due heavy rains impacting unpaved parking areas during the USA BMX Carolina National, Elevation Church helped alleviate parking challenges by allowing the event to utilize its parking lots on Friday and Saturday of the 3-day event.
- The weather at all events is continuously monitored and protocols are put into place for evacuation/sheltering as needed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Rhea at 6:48 PM, seconded and approved to go into Executive Session to discuss privileged information.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Coleman at 6:57 PM, seconded and approved to leave Executive Session.
- No actions were taken during Executive Session.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

- PRT tournaments, supported by City Council and the City, have been recognized as the catalyst for Rock Hill that created jobs, kept people employed and hotels operating during the pandemic which contributed to maintaining a stream of local hospitality tax revenue.
- Updates to the Phase 3 Re-Opening Plan will be shared with Commission when available.
- Commissioner Sutton gave a shout out to Rhea Faris for quickly resolving basketball court needs for neighborhood youth.

**NEXT MEETING:** May 4, 2021, 6 PM, In-Person with location to be determined

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amanda Helms*