

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Manchester Meadows

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Toy Rhea, Edwina Roseboro-Barnes, Perry Sutton
ABSENT: Matt Watson (e)
STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, Brian Jones, Amanda Helms, Kim Ozmon
GUEST: Antonio Mickel

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: None.

MINUTES: The May 4, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS:

Strategic Plan Update

- The majority of the FY2022 City Budget has been approved.
- The City continues to work with the Carolina Panthers organization. Program opportunities are continuing to develop.

Master Plan Update

- The contractor for the River Park Trail Connector is mobilized on site. The City received \$325,000 in funding to construct a trail through the Northside Center property connecting the existing trail to Annafrel Street.
- Completed construction projects include the Circle of Friends paver and drainage project at Glencairn Garden and the rebuild of the playground unit and fall surface at Southland Park.
- The Request for Proposals has been advertised for BMX Supercross Track enhancements which will utilize a \$191,000 Undiscovered SC Grant. Work continues at Miracle Park and at the Duke Energy Park on Lake Wylie.
- Staff continues to work with Habitat for Humanity regarding specifications and cost estimates for potential improvements at Carroll Park.
- Twelve May sports tourism events generated an estimated 40,000 attendees for an estimated monthly economic impact of \$5.7 million. The City will host 6 outdoor sports tourism events in June and multiple indoor events at the Sports and Event Center including NCAA visits from college coaches, USA Volleyball and three local high school graduations.
- The Johnsonville Cornhole Championships (national event) return to the Sports and Event Center August 2-8.

Budget FY2022 (attachment to official minutes)

- City Council and Management recognize the value of the PRT Department. All PRT staff upgrades and new position requests were approved at the first budget reading.
- The Tennis Center member fee proposal from the Commission to City Council did not receive enough support to pass. Council has requested a second recommendation to be presented at the June 14 budget reading for FY2022.
- Staff and commissioners discussed a variety of fee options as based on the current public tennis court market rate as well as potential impacts of fee increases. Commissioners expressed concerns over demographic or socio-economic labels being applied to sports and programs and the impact of such labels on the philosophies of public recreation.

- Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Rhea and seconded, the motion was unanimously approved to recommend the current market rates for public tennis facilities for all York County residents and a 50% increase over current market rates for Out-of-York County residents.

NEW

BUSINESS:

Advisory Committee Report

- Antonio Mickel, Emmett Scott Advisory Committee Chair, brought forward the concept of a community “victory” garden in the existing tennis court area. Grant funding sources are currently available. If, within 2-3 years, the garden plan does not work as intended, the area could easily be repurposed.
- Commissioners requested additional information including a written proposal. It was noted that written agreements require review by the City’s legal team.

Community Outreach Report

- Seasonal staff member Taylor Wingate offers free wheelchair tennis clinics at the Tennis Center for anyone interested in wheelchair tennis including staff and able-bodied individuals so that they can learn from this unique perspective. The center has 8 sports wheelchairs which may be shared for any sport across the department.

Partnership Report

- The City assisted York County with the re-opening of Ebenezer Park by providing a PRT shuttle bus and driver. York County made a financial donation to the Rock Hill Parks Foundation in appreciation of the assistance.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION:

A motion was made at 7:52 PM and seconded to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

The Executive Session ended at 8:12 PM. No action was taken.

ADDITIONAL

COMMENTS:

The next fundraiser for the Rock Hill Parks Foundation is being planned for May 2022.

Staff has worked throughout spring with the swimming pool vendor in preparation for the summer swim season. The City needs a minimum of 40-50 lifeguards to operate the four outdoor pools. Due to the lifeguard shortage, there are not enough lifeguards to open even one pool. For comparison, Mecklenburg County offers \$15 per hour with a \$500 signing bonus but are only able to open one-quarter of their pools. The vendor has approached local high school swim teams but has not been able to recruit lifeguards. Commissioner Perry recommended contacting local high school football coaches for potential recruitment and staff agreed to make the connection. As pools remain closed, the information has been communicated to the public via local news outlets, the City web site, and social media.

NEXT MEETING: Tentative July 6, 2021, 6 PM, Sports and Event Center

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms