

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Tuesday, November 2, 2021**

**Sports & Event Center**

**6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Perry Sutton, Matt Watson  
**ABSENT:** Toy Rhea (e), Edwina Roseboro-Barnes  
**STAFF:** John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, Brian Jones, David Linder, Amanda Helms, Lisa Nasekos, Bill Berry, Kevin Lynch

**CITIZEN**

**COMMENTS:** None.

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHT:** Lisa Nasekos moved to Rock Hill in 2011 and joined the City in 2020. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching (Physical Education), taught high school, and most recently worked with the York County Regional Chamber of Commerce before joining PRT. Her PRT job entails supporting PRT in sports, sales, and hospitality, and serving on the 2024 BMX World Championship organizing team.

**MINUTES:** The October 5, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:**

Strategic Plan Update

- The Strategic Plan quarterly report for July-September was e-mailed to commissioners.

Master Plan Update (attachment to official minutes)

- Tech Park bridge #3 order is delayed due to material supply challenges; BMX track and pump track renovation is completed, and the grant reimbursement request has been submitted; the swimming area construction at the new park on Lake Wylie is underway; the Fountain Park restroom project is underway; and swings for Glencairn Garden are ready for installation.
- The Sonar Arch playground equipment at Miracle Park has the technology to measure use. Of the 700 units world-wide, Rock Hill has had the most usage of all over the past month.
- Outdoor sports tourism facilities hosted 10 events in October with a \$2.7 million direct economic impact. The Sports & Event Center hosted 5 events in October with a \$700k direct economic impact. The “No Room for Racism” basketball tournament is planned for December 10-12 with an ESPN broadcast on the last day of play.
- Regional skatepark research was reviewed. A search for skatepark grants was unsuccessful. A caveat of the Tony Hawk grant is the exemption of a helmet requirement. Commissioners requested further research regarding the length of time the noted regional facilities have been in existence, the experience encountered by each agency and if interest in the facilities has remained strong.
- PRT staff have completed a swimming pool assessment. To open four pools to serve the community in 2022 if parts are available, a minimum investment of \$45k will be required to meet basic state pool inspections. Soon, each pool and bathhouse will require significant investment (minimum \$300k each) to remain operational.
- Staff provided a recap of pool operations over the past three years.
  - In 2019, four pools were open to the public for a 10-week season at a \$119,000 contracted pool management cost (water quality, lifeguards) plus general maintenance costs. The total

pool participation count for the season was 8,904 which included 286 free swim lesson participants (2,294 uses).

- In 2020, all pools were closed due to the Covid pandemic.
- In 2021, Emmett Scott pool was open for approximately five weeks on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons due to the shortage of lifeguards.
- The City is faced with a major business decision regarding pools. Options include continuing with a pool management contract (limited vendors); taking back over pool operations and lifeguard recruitment, training, and management; closing pools with higher maintenance needs; or pursuing a different business model to provide aquatic services.
- Commissioners requested staff reach out to existing community agencies to explore joint use for free swim lessons.
- Commissioner Watson made a motion to approve the maintenance of all four pools at a cost of \$45,000, bring a pool management recommendation at the December meeting, and start developing a long-term plan for a pool/aquatic solution. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## **NEW**

### **BUSINESS:**

Advisory Committee Report (attachment to official minutes)

- Nominations for 16 advisory committees were presented to the commission. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Watson and seconded, the nominations were approved as presented for one-year appointments.
- Commissioner Watson gave liaison reports from the Baseball and Outdoors/Trails & Greenways Advisory Committees. Coach's Pitch Baseball will undergo some changes to improve the sport. Trail assessments are underway within River Park for mountain bike trails as development continues in Riverwalk.
- Director Taylor noted that Trails & Greenways descriptions will remove sidewalks from the trail system master plan.

Community Outreach Report

- A volunteer event at Carroll Park on October 21 drew at least 135 volunteers who assisted with building bleachers, vegetation cutback and conservation efforts, and general park clean-up and spruce-up. Thanks to all commissioners who played a role in making the day successful.
- PRT has spent almost \$300k in Carroll Park over the past 20 years. The influx of the \$100k grant in 2021 will provide continued dynamic change to the facility.

Partnership Report

- The improvements at Carroll Park are made possible through a large partnership consisting of the City (Council, Management, PRT, Stormwater, EUD), Clinton ConNEXTion, Republic Services and Habitat for Humanity.

## **EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION:** None.

## **ADDITIONAL**

**COMMENTS:** None.

**NEXT MEETING:** To Be Determined due to SCRPA Conference date conflict

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amanda Helms*