

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Sports & Event Center

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Benny Evans, Jacqueline Jones, Perry Sutton, Toy Rhea
ABSENT: Rene Brannan (ex), Larry Erwin (ex), Matt Watson
STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, Brian Jones, David Linder, Amanda Helms

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: Jennifer Gregg, USTA SC Executive Director
The Rock Hill Tennis Center (RHTC) is one of many tennis facilities in SC, but one of few with the passion and quality exhibited by the City of Rock Hill and the facility's exemplary staff.

- The Rock Hill Tennis Center is one of 25 national winners in the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) annual Outstanding Facility Awards program which recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country.
- Tedi Doncheva has been the Tennis Pro at the Rock Hill Tennis Center for 14 years and has played an instrumental role in the growth and success of the tennis facility. Tedi was awarded the USTA SC Tennis Professional of the Year for her enthusiastic work with a diverse range of players and programs.

Maggie Schweitert, 696 Goldflower Drive, Rock Hill, 29732
Mrs. Schweitert addressed the commission to request consideration of a park in Ward 4 near the Rock Hill-York County Airport and/or Aspen Business Park area. Commissioners and staff stressed their continued effort for park facilities and reviewed processes and multi-pronged work approaches to establish such amenities. Director Taylor will follow-up with Mrs. Schweitert.

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Pablo Eaton joined the City in May of 2021 as a Grounds Maintenance Technician at Glencairn Garden. His hobbies include working on cars and cooking.

MINUTES: The January 4, 2022 regular meeting and January 19, 2022 called meeting minutes were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS: Strategic Plan Update

- The City Council Retreat will be held February 9, 2022 and will feature multiple PRT projects.
- PRT goals within the Strategic Plan may be edited and updated per City Council request.
- Debt service items such as Glencairn Garden will be reaching full payment. This will open funds for new capital projects.

Master Plan Update

- RFATS (Rock Hill/Fort Mill Area Transportation Study) has approved funding for connectivity projects to downtown Rock Hill.
- Carroll Park playground equipment and fall surface projects have been completed and picnic shelter materials are on-site. Additional park improvements are on hold as environmental studies are being completed.
- Brass donor plaques have been installed at Hargett Park in the Will Cox Courtyard along with new picnic tables, columns, and lighting as the result of a donor gift. Commissioner Carroll requested a recognition event.

- New cameras have been installed in select park locations. As new facilities come on-line, technology will be a major focus on the front-end of planning.
- Outdoor sports facilities were impacted by snow/ice on two event weekends; four soccer events are scheduled for February. The Sports and Event Center hosted four events in January; four events are planned for February. The January direct economic impact of sports tourism is estimated at \$3.9 million. Of special note, due to the ATAX and HTAX fund health during Covid, the City's bond rating did not suffer.
- Director Taylor noted that City pools are on the Council retreat agenda for discussion. Commissioners stated that Council and City Management must decide to either stay in or get out of the pool business. Staff stated that the longer the City holds off on a contract with Trident, the less likely lifeguards will be available for the 2022 summer swim season.
- Staff and commissioners discussed insurance options for youth sports participants. There have been three supplemental insurance claims in the past four years. Staff requested commissioners consider options of keeping insurance, getting rid of insurance, or building an insurance fund (*City is self-insured*). Commissioner Carroll stated that one serious injury could have a major impact on the City. Staff will continue to research changes in the insurance industry and bring back a recommendation for the 2023 calendar year.

NEW

BUSINESS: Commission Goals & Accomplishments (attached to official minutes)

- The 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals were approved as presented.

Advisory Committee Update

- Commissioner Carroll requested that liaisons visit advisory committees at least twice in 2022.
- Members of the African American Cultural Resources Advisory Committee have independently pursued non-profit status. This may impact their association with the City. Staff will bring details and recommendations to the March meeting.

Community Outreach & Partnership Report

- The proposed partnership discussed at the January 19 called meeting will be on the February 14 City Council agenda.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Feast at the Fountain is a Rock Hill Parks Foundation fundraiser event to be held on May 5. Invitations will arrive soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A motion was made at 7:33 to go into Executive Session to discuss privileged information.
- A motion was made 8:05 PM, seconded and approved to leave Executive Session.
- No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms