

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Glencairn Garden Learning Center

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rene Brannan, Lawrence Brown, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Jacqueline Jones, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: John Taylor, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, Jason Reynolds, Amanda Helms, Rebekah Ardis, Jessica Craven

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: None.

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Jessica Craven is a horticulturist who has been with the city for three years. Her main area of focus is Fountain Park though she works at various facilities and events as needed.

MINUTES: The meeting minutes from April 5, 2022, were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS:

Strategic Plan Update

- As follow-up to the Strategic Plan quarterly review, commissioners did not have any questions.

Master Plan Update

- The bridge project at Tech Park is staged to begin bridge #4 at the start of the new fiscal year.
- The Northside Trail connector project, funded by the state, is in preliminary process.
- The restroom facility at the park on Lake Wylie is under way.
- The basketball court at Carroll Park will be resurfaced in June and bleacher pads and ADA sidewalk connections will be installed.
- Cedar Crest Park received a CDBG grant for fall surfacing, swings, and sidewalk connections.
- Staff is working with an ADA project team on an ADA compliance plan.
- Sports tourism in April generated a \$7 million direct economic impact.
- Director Taylor reviewed the four areas of the PRT Master Plan: Park Maintenance/Infrastructure, Sports Tourism, Connectivity, and Open Space/Partnerships.

Budget FY2023

- The general fund budget will remain flat. State retirement increases, health insurance increases and recent salary raises brought about this decision. There will be no new staff positions. There are currently four staff openings in the department, three from retirements and one from a promotion.
- York County Council voted 3-1 at first reading to rescind the ordinance which provides recreation assistance funding to members of the York County Recreation Coalition. Staff reviewed the history and reasons for the financial assistance and the role of the Coalition. After requesting dialogue with the County Council for three years, the Coalition has been invited to present at county budget workshop on May 10 (*York County Government Center, 6 S. Congress St., York at 6 PM*). Two additional official votes (*May 16 and June 6*) are required to rescind the ordinance. Chairperson Carroll encouraged commissioners to attend the workshop and to communicate with their County Council representatives.

- If the ordinance is rescinded, there is the potential for no funding from the County in FY2024. This may result in changes to program rates and/or municipal recreation facility access.
- Staff briefly discussed current additional struggles with York County including jail fees, water/sewer fees, and accommodations.

NEW

BUSINESS: Advisory Committee Report

- Commission received nominations for new appointees to the African American Cultural Resources Advisory Committee: Angelo Geter, Louveta Dicks, and George Garrison. Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Watson and seconded, commissioners voted to approve the nominations.

David Boone Volunteer Award

- A volunteer appreciation event for 2020 and 2021 volunteers will be held June 14, 6 PM at the Sports and Event Center.
- The David Boone Volunteer Award will recognize a winner from 2020. If so inclined, commissioners are welcome to make nominations for 2021 volunteer service.

Community Outreach Report

- Twenty youth from Emmett Scott received tickets to see the Harlem Globetrotters in April.

Partnership Report

- The city is working with MaxAbilities to provide two needed seasonal job positions at Miracle Park.

Meeting Dates

- The Commission meeting for July 5 will be cancelled. If there is a need for a called meeting, commissioners will be notified.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Commissioners and staff noted recent retirements of two long-time staff: Whitner Bailey (Glencairn Garden) and Linda Sanders (Cherry Park).
- Staff member Martin Lane was awarded the Southeast Festival and Event Association “Event Professional of the Year” for 2021 for his roles with both Old Town and ChristmasVille.
- Commissioners thanked PRT staff for their role in making Come-See-Me a success.

SESSION: None.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 6:00 PM at Glencairn Garden.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms