

## PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Glencairn Garden Learning Center

6:00 PM

### MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Rene Brannan, Lawrence Brown, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson  
**ABSENT:** Jackie Jones  
**STAFF:** John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Brian Jones, Garnet McKeown, Jesse Holliman, Kevin Lynch, Rebekah Ardis, Martin Lane  
**GUEST(S):** Kurt Kottkamp, Marco Hutchinson, Joshua Belton

### CITIZEN

**COMMENTS:** A citizen presented an interest in a dog park within the Riverwalk area of Rock Hill.

A volunteer baseball coach brought forth a concern.

### STAFF

**HIGHLIGHT:** Martin Lane joined the City of Rock Hill Economic Development Department as the Downtown Event Coordinator in 2013. He transitioned into the Tourism division of the Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT) department in 2020 and continues to promote Old Town Rock Hill as a destination through event planning and marketing efforts. Martin stays busy at work with over 150 event days a year, but during his free time, he enjoys watching his two sons on the soccer fields and traveling.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes from January 3, 2023, were approved. Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve meeting minutes with Commissioner Erwin seconding. All were in favor.

### OLD

**BUSINESS:** Strategic Plan Update (attachment to official minutes)

- Director Taylor stated that the next community feedback meeting will be in March for the new regional park in south Rock Hill. Construction is expected to begin in 2024. The tourism component is expected to draw growth to the region.
- Director Taylor mentioned that with the addition of Andrea Barnette's sales position, the PRT department will be going through a tourism marketing study and a potential rebranding to assist in enhancing the tourism image.
- The staff is currently working on the FY24 budget.

Master Plan Update

- Tech Park trail bridge #4 is scheduled for delivery. The lease agreement is being finalized between Duke Energy and the City of Rock Hill for Rock Hill Park on Lake Wylie. Cedar Crest Park refurbishment is complete, and the new playground has quadrupled park attendance.
- Indoor and outdoor sports tourism venues generated an estimated combined \$6 million economic impact in January. February events will focus on soccer, BMX racing, volleyball, and basketball.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS:**

Advisory Committee Report

- Jay Thurmond, Baseball Advisory Committee Chair, presented the committee’s perspective of the baseball issue that had been brought forth during Citizens Comments.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Brannan to affirm the advisory committee’s restriction. Commissioner Rhea seconded. All were in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Thurmond further explained some of the accomplishments of the baseball committee, including the participant number increasing, a strong and versatile committee, games being played at Cherry Park, and being involved with the Dixie Youth Baseball League.

2022 Commission Accomplishments and 2023 Commission Goals (attached to official minutes)

- Commissioner Watson made a motion to adopt the 2022 Commission Accomplishments and 2023 Commission Goals. Commissioner Coleman seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Community Outreach Report & Partnership Report

- Garnet McKeown reported recently hosting Benji Ball on Miracle Field. Benji Ball is an inclusive way to play baseball by using specially designed bats and balls. Staff was excited to debut this new program at Miracle Park with the help of the Winthrop University Baseball team.
- Staff is interested in entertaining a volleyball partnership like the soccer partnership with Charlotte Independence Soccer Club. Commissioners agreed to proceed with investigating opportunities.

**EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION:**

None.

**ADDITIONAL**

**COMMENTS:**

None.

**NEXT MEETING(S):** Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM at Glencairn Garden Learning Center

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rebekah Ardis*