

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, April 2, 2024 | Glencairn Garden Learning Center**  
**6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Bev Carroll, Larry Erwin, Jacqueline Jones, Toy Rhea, Rene Brannan  
**ABSENT:** Lawrence Brown, Jr., John Coleman, Matt Watson  
**STAFF:** John Taylor, Jesse Holliman, Brian Jones, Kevin Lynch, Garnet McKeown, Mark Sexton, Katie Waszak  
**GUEST(S):** John Arant

**CITIZENS’  
COMMENTS:** N/A

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHT:** Elssy Carpenter is the Event Coordinator for Parks, Recreation, & Tourism and works closely with Old Town Association. She is a wife and mom to two, a five-month-old and seven-year-old. She considers herself a foodie and enjoys trying new foods. Her faith is very important to her.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes from March 5, 2024, were approved. Commissioner Rhea made a motion to approve meeting minutes with Commissioner Erwin seconding. All were in favor.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:** Strategic Plan Update

- Mark Sexton reported that we are wrapping up the last quarter of the Strategic Plan that has been in place for the last three years. The Strategic Plan for the next three years is in draft and will be shared with the Commission when available.
- A third input meeting for the next regional park will be held in August. The City is currently pursuing an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant (ORLP) through the National Park Service to assist with funding the project. If awarded, this could possibly adjust the project timeline, the new projected completion timeline would be between 2025 and 2026. Discussion is continuing regarding the status of the land owned by the American Legion that is set to be used for the park through a ninety-nine-year lease agreement. Funding would not be available for the section, which is currently a large portion, where the athletic fields would sit. Options for the property are currently being discussed.

Master Plan Update

- Maintenance/Infrastructure: The BMX Trail Connector is currently in process. Renovations to Oakwood Acres Park are in the planning phase. Construction has started for the shed at Manchester Meadows. A contract has been awarded for the pools. Carroll Park ADA improvements are in process. Various improvements are in process at the Outdoor Center in preparations for the UCI 2024 BMX Racing World Championships. Construction continues at McGirt Auditorium. Foundation for the lobby was recently poured. Staff will attend a closing on an adjacent property next week, that will be used for parking the purchase is complete.
- Tourism: Brian Jones reported that the Sports & Event Center held seven events during the month of March, featuring over 9,000 athletes and 27,000 attendees with an estimated economic impact of 4.2 million dollars. As volleyball season is winding down, the facility will feature mostly basketball competitions until the ACL World Championships and Ocho Day are held in August. Mark noted that Texas is pursuing hosting the adidas event although we have a multi-year contract. They are offering over \$300,000 to bring the event to the town of Bryant, Texas. A meeting will be held with a representative from the state of South Carolina to discuss further as Rock Hill does not want to lose this large event. Jesse reported that six outdoor tourism events were held during March at Cherry Park, Manchester Meadows, The Rock Hill Tennis Center, and the Rock Hill Outdoor Center. These events saw nearly 35,000 attendees and generated nearly 4.5 million in economic impact.

## NEW

### **BUSINESS:** Advisory Committee Report

- Garnet spoke on behalf of the Lifelong Learning Advisory Committee. The program will celebrate its five-year anniversary in January 2025. The committee would like to host a day-long event in February, to celebrate the anniversary. They hope to have a facilitator, keynote speaker, and breakout sessions during the event.
- Commissioner Carroll mentioned that Commissioners have received their Advisory Committee assignments and noted that they should try to attend these meetings when possible. After attending, please notify Rebekah Ardis, so that a report can be provided at the next Commission meeting.

### Facility Update

- The contract has been awarded for the Annex project to Edifice, a construction company from Charlotte, NC. A first draft of renderings has been reviewed by the project team and will now go to City Management for approval and or changes that will need to be made.

### Community Outreach & Partnership Report

- Garnet discussed the partnership with WRHI and the YMCA to host the annual Great Easter Egg Classic. This event was first held in 1983 at Fewell Park with 3,000 eggs dispersed. This year 35,000 eggs were scattered and over 8,000 people were in attendance.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

- Mark mentioned the upcoming UCI 2024 World Racing Championships that are quickly approaching and the need for volunteers.
- Mark spoke on the upcoming York County Recreation Coalition meeting regarding recreation funding proposals for 2025. Deputy County Manager Kevin Madden made a proposal to increase taxes that would assist with the funding. The Coalition has different recommendations that will be presented at a later date.

## EXECUTIVE

**SESSION:** A motion was made to enter Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Rhea to discuss business decisions at 6:05 PM. All were in favor. Commissioners came out of the Executive Session at 6:10 PM. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

**NEXT MEETING(S):** Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6 PM at Glencairn Garden Learning Center

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Katie Waszak*