

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 4, 2024 | Glencairn Garden Learning Center
6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson

STAFF: John Taylor, Rebekah Ardis, Jesse Holliman, Brian Jones, David Linder, Kevin Lynch, Garnet McKeown, Sydney Munn, and Mark Sexton

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: N/A

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Sydney Munn was born and raised in Rock Hill, SC. After graduating from Rock Hill High School, she attended Clemson University, where she graduated with a Bachelor's in Sociology. Following graduation, she moved back to Rock Hill and thereafter joined the Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department (April 2024) as an Administrative Coordinator. When she's not working, you can find her spending time with friends and family & cheering on the Clemson Tigers!

MINUTES: There was no quorum, so the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes were not approved. They will be presented again at the next meeting.

OLD

BUSINESS: Strategic Plan Update

- John Taylor reported that the third quarter results were given to Commissioners. The new 3-year Strategic Plan will be given to the Commission when approved/adopted by the City Council. The budget has PRT to receive an Audio/Visual Technician as a new position within the department. There is also a request for an additional \$100,000 for seasonal employee wages. We will know more on June 24 after the second budget reading.

Master Plan Update

- Maintenance/Infrastructure: Kevin Lynch reported that phase I of park renovations at Oakwood Acres is in progress. This is for the ballfields and fencing; electrical trenches are dug, and the roof materials have been delivered for the Manchester Meadows new maintenance building. Carroll Park ADA improvements continue with sidewalks and a water fountain. There is also fencing repair being completed due to storm damage. Tech Park Bridge #5 has been ordered, and there seems to be some movement on the Jack White Bridge Trail. New patio doors for Manchester Meadows should be delivered any day. Northside's Pollinator Garden is almost complete and may have enough funds remaining for small irrigation. City pools have a new contract for management and are working to open them by June 10.
- Tourism: Brian Jones reported that the Sports & Event Center held four basketball events in May, with over 700 teams generating approximately \$6.1 million in economic impact. June will have six events, mostly basketball; in July, we will host Adidas and NCAA, and Ocho Day is set for August 2 at the Sports & Event Center and Manchester Meadows. David Linder reported that there were three outdoor tourism events held during May at Cherry Park, Manchester Meadows, the Rock Hill Tennis Center, and the Rock Hill Outdoor Center, including the 2024 UCI BMX Racing World Championships. There are six events scheduled for June. Sydney reported that there were three corporate meetings/events at the Sports & Event Center with almost 400 room nights in May, generating over \$115,000 in estimated economic impact. Walmart has booked two business events in June.
- BMX Update: We are finalizing the numbers. The LOC worked hard for two years and will evaluate the event at a follow-up meeting tomorrow. While we had challenges, that's when our team shined the most. Staff are working on ways to continue to share the story and the event's success.

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NEW

BUSINESS: Advisory Committee Report

- David Linder updated the Commissioners on the Baseball Committee. There were 489 participants this season. At the end of the season, staff will discuss recommended opportunities for change with the advisory committee due to instances that occurred during the season with parents, coaches, and officials.

Facility Update

- Lee Street Project: Mark Sexton presented a site overview and the proposed facility's outdoor and indoor conceptual renderings. It will have four basketball, eight volleyball, and 12 pickleball courts.
- McGirt Auditorium is coming along. Seating has been ordered, and the fire suppression should be finished this week.
- Armory Park's design plans are being prepared and plans are expected to be submitted in the first part of July. Bidding is expected to happen in September, groundbreaking in November, and construction is anticipated to be completed in June 2025.
- Next Regional Park: Mark said we have submitted an ORLAP application for state approval for a potential \$15m federal grant. There will be a third and final community meeting in August. Mark further discussed the \$15m ORLAP grant to assist with funding the new park and the land swap deal that the City made with the American Legion.
- BMX Steps and Sidewalk Connector: John praised Jesse for working with other departments to complete this project in time for the BMX Worlds.
- The name of Parcel M park was discussed, but a vote could not be taken at this time. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Community Outreach & Partnership Report

- David Linder discussed how Page Wofford and the Northwestern High School football program have been a phenomenal asset for our youth. For instance, the flag football championships needed a facility and Page offered Northwestern High School and his staff to assist during the event.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- John mentioned that Mark and Brian have done a wonderful job developing relationships with Adidas, Under Armour, and NCAA boys and girls. We will host approximately 2,000 athletes plus chaperones for six days in July. Staff is working through intense negotiations with Power House owners and the NCAA regarding how the NCAA gets athletes fed in 1.5 hours.
- PPRC's next meeting may be moved due to the 4th of July holiday.
- Lastly, John Taylor thanked the Commissioners for what they do as volunteers. He mentioned they each meant the world to him and thanked them for the wonderful ride.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION: N/A

NEXT MEETING(S): Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 6 PM at Glencairn Garden Learning Center

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah Ardis