

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Glencairn Garden Learning Center

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Bev Carroll, Rene Brannan, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Toy Rhea, Edwina Roseboro-Barnes

ABSENT: Merritt King, Hunter Veal (e)

STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, David Linder, Amanda Helms, Tario Campbell

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: None

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Tario Campbell works with the Central Maintenance Downtown Crew. In addition to grounds maintenance, his team assists all downtown special events as well as any other PRT event as needed. Tario has been with the City since 2001.

MINUTES: The January 8, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

OLD

BUSINESS: Strategic Plan Update (attachment to official minutes)

- City Council expressed pleasure with the direction of the PRT Department. They did inquire about the trend of travel ball v. recreation league play.
- Upon a request for information, City Management has been provided the specific duties of each PRT-related commission and advisory committee.

Master Plan Update

- Until the ground is ready for paving, the Cherry Park alternate entrance/exit project is expected to be landscaped for aesthetics. The Cherry Park playground has been demolished and the new playground should be completed by early April.
- The Edgemont Street parking lot project bids will be opened at the end of February.
- In preparation for Miracle Park, the playground unit at Winthrop Park has been moved and reinstalled at Southland Park.
- The Manchester Meadows turf replacement project estimates are higher than expected.
- Utility Department project costs for the water treatment plant are over budget and are expected to impact potential park projects at the Catawba River Trailhead and River Park.
- The City will inquire about SC Department of Natural Resources funds to help offset costs of specific amenities at the park on Lake Wylie as proposed by the Duke Energy relicensing plan.
- Upon discussion of an updated facility partnership with Winthrop University, Commissioner Rhea made a motion that the Public Parks and Recreation Commission adopt a policy that balanced partnerships must be applicable to both parties and that no new City funds should be used for Winthrop University sports facilities. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- The City hosted one sports tourism events in January with over 3,000 participants.
- Three tournaments are scheduled for February.

NEW

BUSINESS: Advisory Committee Update

- The commission appointed Ted Huechtker to serve on the Tennis Advisory Committee.
- Upon a review of the advisory committee goals and accomplishment reports, the Commission Chair requested that all commissioners become familiar with their assigned advisory committees and plan to attend the next meeting of their committee(s). Plan to give a three-minute report to the Commission after attending the assigned meeting.
- The Commission will work to help advisory committees reach their goals.

Community Outreach Report

- The Senior Health Fair at Boyd Hill attracted 225 participants and 38 vendors.

Partnership Report

- The City has a long-standing relationship with the Rock Hill School District: 1) Athletic facilities are shared for major events (pending availability); 2) PRT staff teach classes such as tennis, cycling safety, and outdoor education following STEM criteria; and 3) playground construction and shared use field maintenance.

FY2020 Budget

- The current fiscal year's budget is on-track for expenses.
- Hiring personnel to fill much needed positions has been a hardship due to the robust economy.
- City Council approved a liveable wage of \$14.50 per hour for year-round employees and wage compression is an issue. Federal rules to protect employees have impacted seasonal employee retention. The department would benefit from a larger overtime budget for year-round staff for whom earning compensatory time and being able to use it is a scheduling and workload issue.
- Budget requests will be made for two staff for Miracle Park, seven staff for the park on Lake Wylie, and a splashpad project. Park upgrade request priorities are Arcade-Victoria, Southland Park and the much-needed storage building at the tennis facility.
- Staff presented issue papers for fee increases for afterschool and summer camp programs. The last rate increase was in 2006. The current goal is to reach 70% direct cost recovery while limiting the impact on customers or the programs.
- Commissioner Evans made a motion to recommend to increase the weekly afterschool program fees by \$5 each year over three successive years. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Summer camps at Emmett Scott and Fewell Park each run for nine weeks in the summer. Commissioners gave tentative approval to the concept of a price increase but requested more information before a final recommendation can be made to City Council

David Boone Award

- The nomination for 2018 volunteer service was reviewed and approved. The winner will be announced on March 12, 2019.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION: None.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The Rock Hill Parks Foundation was well-received by donors and sponsors. All attendees will receive follow-up letters with gift requests.
- Tournament passes were distributed to commissioners for the 2019 tournament season.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms