

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

ZOOM

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Benny Evans, Toy Rhea, Edwina Roseboro-Barnes, Perry Sutton, Matt Watson
ABSENT: None
STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, David Linder, Brian Jones, Amanda Helms
GUESTS: Amy Faulkenberry, Jennifer Wilford

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: Amy Faulkenberry, Chair of the York County Regional Chamber, reported on the volunteer-driven community **Vaccination Clinic** which is led by the City of Rock Hill in cooperation with SC DHEC and Piedmont Medical Center. The clinic is currently operating four days per week with at least 85 volunteers who work an eight-hour shift serving up to 600 individuals per day at 10 workstations. As more vaccine becomes available, the space has the capacity for up to 15 workstations which will require more volunteers and donations. Donations provide meals for volunteers, basic medical supplies for the clinic, etc. Financial donations may be made to the York County Regional Chamber Foundation. Ms. Faulkenberry shared her direct contact information to better assist members of the community to sign-up for vaccinations. The Commission Chair asked that all commissioners spread the word in their communities about the vaccination clinic.

Jennifer Wilford, Director of Economic and Urban Development, spoke about **Clinton Connexion** to request commission feedback on the project. A community “open house” will take place via Zoom on February 18. Note that the project does have funding sources.

At the direction of the commission in January, the PRT Director will be meeting with community leaders on February 11 for an informal conversation to discuss activities related to parks, art and events in growing the Old Town area for residents, businesses and visitors. Following that meeting, Commissioner Carroll will reply to Jennifer Wilford’s request for input on the Clinton Connexion project.

MINUTES: The January 5, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS: Strategic Plan Update

- The next three-year (FY22-FY24) Strategic Plan was discussed at the Council Retreat in January. A draft will be shared prior to the Council Workshop in May.
- The PRT portion of the plan is expected to remain consistent and building toward potential for more growth in the upcoming four to five years.
- City Council was impressed and complimentary of the \$57 million economic impact of sports tourism in 2020.

Master Plan Update

- The construction of the Duke Energy park on Lake Wylie and Miracle Park are progressing.
- Utilities construction impacting River Park is nearing completion and the park is expected to re-open in the spring.

Budget FY2022

- Despite an impressive economic impact, local hospitality tax and state accommodations tax revenues are down overall for 2020. This is due to the absence of business and leisure travelers.
- Without sports tourism, there would be concern about paying debt service for PRT facilities. However, with the impact of sports tourism, there is only an estimated 4% drop in local hospitality tax and state accommodations tax revenue.
- PRT has received letters of thanks from local hotels and restaurants praising the City for safely maintaining sports tourism events which have kept them open for business.

NEW

BUSINESS:

Advisory Committees

- Commissioner Coleman gave a report on the Boyd Hill Advisory Committee activity in 2020.
- Commissioner Carroll encouraged commissioners to provide their preferences for advisory committee assignments.
- The African American Cultural Resources Advisory Committee is requesting signage noting that Emmett Scott Recreation Center was a Rosenwald School site. Staff requested the opportunity to learn more about the Clinton Connexion project before making a decision.

Community Outreach

- Clean & Green, Trex Corporation and community involvement with the plastic bag recycling program has now added a bench at Fewell Park Recreation Center. This is the second bench donation to PRT.

Partnership Report

- PRT staff and Commissioner Perry met with the Pop Warner Football League. The group is wanting a tie-in to PRT on the Panthers project. PRT will explore opportunities but will maintain a Rock Hill-led football program.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION:

None.

ADDITIONAL

COMMENTS:

Though PRT will not host a volunteer dinner for 2020 service, staff is working to find creative ways to honor volunteers and award winners on social media. Commissioner Carroll and Director Taylor will draft a letter to all volunteers thanking them for continuing their service to the citizens of Rock Hill throughout the pandemic.

Submit David Boone Advisory Committee Award nominations to the commission liaison. The award is given annually to the individual, group or organization dedicated to providing volunteer services to Advisory Committees serving the Rock Hill PRT Department. A vote will take place at the March meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2021, 6 PM on Zoom

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms