

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 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: Tim Veeck

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: Tim Veeck of Habitat for Humanity notified commissioners that the Carroll Park neighborhood was awarded a grant by the Public Services Charitable Foundation/National Neighborhood Promise. Eleven communities across the United States were awarded the grant for 2021 improvements. The grant includes \$100k for Carroll Park for park enhancements. There is a one-year deadline on using the funds.

Additional funds were approved for homeowner projects. For more information on those grant funds, contact Habitat for Humanity at services@yorkcountyhabitat.org or call the direct line at 803-985-9243. The main line for Habitat for Humanity is 803-328-1728.

Commissioners noted that over \$118k was spent in recent years on park improvements. Mr. Veeck and PRT Director John Taylor will continue a discussion to develop a scope of work.

MINUTES: The February 2, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS:

Strategic Plan Update

- The next three-year (FY22-FY24) Strategic Plan is expected to focus on the southern portion of Rock Hill. The plan is part of the budget process.
- An issue paper for Rock Hill Tennis Center non-member court fees was presented by staff. Commissioner Brannan made a motion to change the court rental fee for non-members of the Tennis Center to a flat fee of \$5 per person. The motion was seconded and approved to move the recommendation forward to City Council.

Master Plan Update

- Tech Park Bridge #2 of 5 was completed. Planning is underway for Bridge #3. The City received six bids for completion of the final River Park trail project. Northside Center exterior painting is substantially complete. The playground and Miracle Field #1 are in process at Miracle Park.
- River Park re-opened for public use.
- Upcoming projects include Emmett Scott outdoor amenities, Southland Park playground replacement from vandalism, Hargett Park playground upgrades and Northside Recreation Center landscaping.
- The City hosted two outdoor and five indoor sports tourism events in February. Eight sports tourism events are planned for March.
- Commissioners requested information on Monday-Thursday local use of the Sports and Event Center. Pick-up basketball draws upwards of 70 players per day, 25 dedicated walkers access

the facility each day and evenings are filled with local AAU teams in addition to PRT programming.

- Staff find that high-profile events generate a much smaller economic impact than youth-oriented events. This difference is important to planning as a goal is to increase local hospitality tax and accommodations tax.

Budget FY2022

- It is important to note that staff works each year to ensure that all 42 PRT facilities are regarding during the budget process and that a plan is in place. PRT was first notified of the grant for Carroll Park in late February. Staff requested direction from the commission as Carroll Park was not scheduled for upgrades in FY22. This could affect department priorities if resources are shifted. Additionally, staff reviewed costs for some of the neighborhood requests for Carroll Park versus the value of the grant, emphasizing disparity. Also, the Clinton Connexion project scope is much larger than the parks in the community. Staff provided park improvement expenditures by ward for review by the commission. The good news is that the community is seeking prosperity. It was requested that Director Taylor open communication with Habitat for Humanity (Tim Veeck) and Clinton Connexion (Jennifer Wilford) for clarification purposes.
- Commissioners complimented PRT on keeping economic impact at the forefront and continuing growth of local hospitality tax and accommodations tax during the pandemic/economic downturn. The ability to continue to provide services to safely drive economic impact have been imperative.

NEW

BUSINESS:

Advisory Committees

- Advisory Committee 2020 Achievements and 2021 Goals were unanimously approved by the commission.
- Commissioners received updated committee assignments. The Commission Chair requested one report per month from the liaisons.

Community Outreach

- Boyd Hill and Northside Recreation Centers worked with the Housing Authority to provide space for business development and job fairs.

Partnership Report

- The Independence Soccer agreement is nearing finalization. Once signed, their staff will work with PRT's spring soccer program for a smooth transition this fall.

David Boone Advisory Award

- Commissioners discussed three nominations for the David Boone Advisory Award. The winner will be announced on social media and be honored in 2022 at the next pending awards event.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION: None.

ADDITIONAL

COMMENTS: Commissioners were asked to consider the idea of renaming Confederate Park.

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2021, 6 PM on Zoom

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms