

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Sports & Event Center

6:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Jacqueline Jones, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson

ABSENT: Benny Evans

STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Garnet McKeown, Brian Jones, David Linder, Amanda Helms, Rebekah Ardis

GUEST: Perry Sutton

CITIZEN

COMMENTS: None.

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Rebekah Ardis joined PRT as the Tourism Grant Coordinator in January. She has a background in hotel sales, economic impact, and financial administration.

MINUTES: The meeting minutes from February 1, 2022 were approved.

OLD

BUSINESS: Strategic Plan Update

- City Council approved an agreement between Tepper Sports & Entertainment/Charlotte Football Club (Major League Soccer (MLS)) to use fields 3 and 4 at Manchester Meadows for a period of 18 months beginning April 2022. The fields will be brought up to professional standards and will be repaired and maintained by the MLS during the time of this agreement. Field 5 will also be upgraded at the end of the term. Permanent locker rooms to meet City specifications and two mini soccer pitches will be installed at locations to be determined.
- The MLS will work with Independence Soccer to enhance the recreational soccer program.
- A Marketing and Event Sales Coordinator has been approved for the department. This position will work closely with the Panthers, drive Sunday-Thursday event rentals, and grow economic development and hospitality industry workforce development.

Master Plan Update

- Construction of a new picnic shelter was completed at Carroll Park. Miracle Park Phase II planning is underway. Tech Park bridge #4 (of 5) is on plan to start in FY2023. Staff has met with SCDOT regarding the Northside trail connector (adjacent to Dave Lyle Blvd). Swings are ready for installation at the Glencairn Garden shade garden. Footer construction is ready to start at the "Lake" Park which is yet unnamed.
- Outdoor sports facilities held four soccer events in February; soccer events, softball events and the BMX Carolina Nationals will take place in March. The Sports and Event Center hosted five events in February; five events are scheduled for March. The February direct economic impact of sports tourism is estimated at \$4.9 million.
- The condition of City pools has been discussed by the Commission since 2012. Two pools, Boyd Hill and Emmett Scott, are in the best condition to open this summer pending maintenance and lifeguard needs. Prior to Covid, pool use was consistently diminishing. Pools are 25 to 50 years old with constant maintenance needs. With public bus transportation, the commission requested research on a viable regional waterpark option. Commissioners were asked to take the pool discussion to their Council members.

NEW

BUSINESS:

Advisory Committee Report

- The Advisory Committee 2021 Accomplishments and 2022 Goals were distributed for review and will be discussed and voted on at the April meeting. (*Attachment to official minutes*)
- Commissioner Brannan gave a report from the Manchester Meadows Advisory Committee. Ultimate frisbee and 7-on-7 flag football tournaments are on the schedule for spring. Work on the fields will take place from May to July, limiting tournament use. New soccer goals and nets are on order as a needed major upgrade. The past five years, the direct economic impact average for Manchester Meadows has been \$13.2 million. The committee is working to recruit a new member from the daily walkers at the park.
- Nominations for new advisory committee members were submitted for the Rock Hill Sports and Event Center and Football. Upon a motion by Commissioner Watson, seconded, and approved, Janie Julian (RHSEC) and Pat Kennedy (Football) were appointed.
- Director Taylor is working with African American Cultural Resources Advisory Committee to assist them with an exit strategy from the City by July 1, 2022 due to their attainment of non-profit status.

Community Outreach Report

- Boyd Hill Recreation Center and the Housing Authority worked together to bring seminars and resources on financial literacy to the community.

Rock Hill Parks Foundation Report

- The fundraiser, Fiesta at the Fountain, will take place on May 5.
- The Farm to Table event sold out in seven days.

ADDITIONAL

COMMENTS:

- Congratulations to Perry Sutton on his election to City Council (Ward 5).
- Commissioner Watson made a motion to recommend Lawrence Brown to the City Council Boards and Commissions Appointment Board for the newly vacant commission seat. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Due to the growth challenges at the Sports & Event Center, the Commission agreed to move monthly meetings to the Glencairn Garden Learning Center.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION:

None.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Glencairn Garden.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Helms