

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**  
**Glencairn Garden Learning Center**  
**6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Larry Erwin, Bennie Evans, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson  
**ABSENT:** Lawrence Brown, Jacqueline Jones (e)  
**STAFF:** John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Rhea Faris, Leslie Ballard, David Linder, Garnet McKeown, Amanda Helms, Robert Romanek

**CITIZEN**

**COMMENTS:** None.

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHT:** Robbie Romanek joined PRT in 2016. He is a Grounds Maintenance Technician II at Manchester Meadows specializing in landscaping and maintenance of the athletic fields.

**MINUTES:** The meeting minutes from August 2, 2022, were approved.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:** Strategic Plan Update (attachment to official minutes)

- Community discussion has begun for the proposed regional park on the south side of Rock Hill. The linear park is projected to be 100+ acres stretching from Heckle Boulevard to downtown and connecting with the Winston Searles Trail. It will encompass the existing park facilities of Arcade Victoria and Arcade A & B. The park will have tourism-related components and be funded, at least in part, by local hospitality tax and tax increment funding. The public input process is expected to be completed in 2023, planning and design in 2024, and construction beginning in late 2024.
- On August 15, the York County Council voted to maintain the non-incorporated recreation tax. However, this vote did not approve the York County Recreation Coalition recommendation; instead, approved an amended version that had been voted down by the Coalition. The City of Rock Hill will receive \$431,500 for FY23, a reduction of \$155,000. Moving forward, each Recreation Coalition member will make a revenue needs request to County Council for the next year, and County Council will then make the final decision on revenue distribution. This defeats the strength of the Coalition which has worked closely together over the past 16+ years to provide a full menu of quality parks and recreation facilities and programs to all county citizens.
- Staff is preparing budget cut options due to the \$155,000 reduction in funding.

Master Plan Update

- Trail bridge #4 is on order for the Tech Park trail. This 5-year replacement plan should be completed in FY2024.
- Site work continues for the Fountain Park restroom. The prefabricated restroom is expected to be delivered to the site in September.
- The direct economic impact of PRT-generated tourism events was \$10.6 million in August. Eight events are scheduled for September.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS:**

Advisory Committee Report

- By affirmation, the Commission approved a \$25,000 grant via the Rock Hill Parks Foundation as a match to \$75,000 in CDBG funds for the refurbishment of the Cedar Crest Tot Lot.

Program Review

- Nine summer athletic outreach camps served 906 youth.
- Summer camps at Boyd Hill, Fewell Park, and Emmett Scott served 224 youth, and Rec in a Box served 3,934 youth at neighborhood parks throughout Rock Hill.

Facility Review (attachment to official minutes)

- “Use at your own risk” has been added to park regulations for all PRT facilities.
- All park hours for neighborhood parks are now listed as “Dawn to Dusk. (Except for scheduled activities and lighted, site-specific sports activities.”
- Two of four City pools were in operation this summer on alternating days due to staffing issues. The remaining two pools have not operated in 3 years, and each will require an investment of over \$600,000 in repairs if SCDHEC were to allow them to reopen. Staff reports few concerns from the public about these closures. The Commission requested staff bring options on the future of two to four pools.
- Commissioner Carroll requested the best use review for all facilities and asked commission members to share facts and statistics when following up with City Council members.

Community Outreach Report

- Staff shared Rec in a Box testimonials from York Road Elementary and the Adult Enrichment Center.

Partnership Report

- Relationships formed over adidas and Ocho events have led to new tourism events at the Sports and Event Center. Under Armour Live Periods will be played in Rock Hill in 2023.

**EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION:**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Watson, seconded, and approved at 6:30 PM to go into Executive Session to discuss privileged information.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Watson, seconded, and approved to leave Executive Session at 6:42 PM
- No votes or actions were taken during Executive Session.

**ADDITIONAL**

**COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Coleman expressed thanks for the well wishes during his wife’s health crisis.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at 6:00 PM at Glencairn Garden.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Amanda Helms*