

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Glencairn Garden Learning Center

5:00 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rene Brannan, Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson

STAFF: John Taylor, Mark Sexton, Brian Jones, Garnet McKeown, Jesse Holliman, David Linder, Kevin Lynch, Rebekah Ardis, Isaiah DeSantis

GUEST(S): Dennis Haynes and Mark Sleeper with York County Flyers

CITIZENS'

COMMENTS: Dennis Haynes and Mark Sleeper with York County Flyers, which is a radio-controlled flying club, presented their needs and desires for flying site property within the City of Rock Hill due to encroachment of their current location in York.

STAFF

HIGHLIGHT: Isaiah DeSantis started with PRT as a seasonal employee when the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center opened after Covid. He worked seasonally while attending Winthrop University studying to get his bachelor's degree in Sports Management. Isaiah graduated in December 2021 and started working for the city full-time in July 2022 during the week of Adidas as a Recreation Leader. He has since become a Program Coordinator and oversees the maintenance seasonal staff. Enjoys giving back and impacting youth through sports.

MINUTES: The meeting minutes from May 2, 2023, were approved. Commissioner Brannan made a motion to approve meeting minutes with Commissioner Coleman seconding. All were in favor.

OLD

BUSINESS: Master Plan Update

- Director Taylor provided Commissioners with the City Council-approved FY24 strategic plan, which is year three of three of the current Strategic Plan.
- Maintenance & Infrastructure: Phase II of Miracle Park is still ongoing. The conceptual design for the new regional park is also still ongoing. Carroll Park basketball court is now complete. Football and soccer goals have been received and are being put together and will be installed in the coming weeks. Due to the generous donation by the Rock Hill Parks Foundation, the Japanese Bridge at Glencairn Garden will be repaired, as well as the exterior doors on the second floor at Manchester Meadows. City of Rock Hill branding signage within the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center is in production and will be installed soon.
- Sports Tourism: The City's outdoor venues hosted seven events in May for an event economic impact of \$4.4m and over 38,000 visitors. June will host four events and anticipate 30,000-32,000 in attendance. The Sports & Event Center hosted four events in May with approximately 27,000 visitors at an estimated event impact of \$6.8m. In June the indoor center will host five events, including Adidas/3SSSB from July 5-11 (boys) and July 14-28 (girls). Also reported that ESPN Ocho will be back on August 8.
- Nothing to report on Connectivity and Partnering & Open Space.

NEW

BUSINESS: Advisory Committee Report

- Commissioner Rhea and Becky Adams, staff liaison, reported on the Rock Hill Parks Foundation's (RHPPF) current state. The Foundation has 16 funds and approximately \$3.1m. A couple of projects

that the Foundation has donated money to include the doors at Manchester and the bridge at Glencairn Garden, Rec in a Box supplies, Emmett Scott shelters, and travel expenses for a Miracle League athlete, a family member, and a PRT staff member to attend the Allstar games. There have been \$110,000 in gifts that were given in the last 15 months. The cost to run the RHPF through the Foundation for the Carolinas is \$35,000-\$37,000/annually. Commissioner Rhea mentioned that the board is currently looking into becoming its own 501c-3 instead of being under the umbrella of the Foundation for the Carolinas. Doing so will help cut down on costs and have more flexibility during fundraisers due to their policies. Lastly, Commissioner Rhea mentioned that the current by-laws state they have up to nine board members. He requested that the board increase their members to 12-15. This would allow for a CPA, as well as to be able to engage the younger generation. A recommendation was presented by Commissioner Rhea that the number of board members increases from nine to up to 15 members. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion; all were in favor. Commissioner Rhea followed with a recommendation to nominate Maddie Williams to the RHPF's Board. Commissioner Brannan seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Facility Update

- Rock Hill Park has been well received with over 3,000 participants during the month. One day alone saw approximately 540 people. Parking has been a concern but with the daily help of the Rock Hill Police Department from 12 PM-8 PM everyone has been cycling in and out smoothly.

Community Outreach & Partnership Report

- Garnet McKeown reported that REC in a Box was busy in May attending three different Rock Hill Schools, one of which twice. REC in a Box attended Northside Elementary, Mt. Holly Elementary, and York Rd Elementary. REC saw the third graders at Mt. Holly on 5/12/23 and it was enjoyed so much that we were asked to return and provide an event for all students on 5/22/23. On 5/24/23, REC provided an end-of-the-school-year event for all students at York Rd Elementary. Just between these three schools REC in a Box saw approximately 1,200 students.
- Garnet also reported that Winthrop University Baseball gave 168 tickets to Miracle League (one per Miracle League player) so that players and family members could attend the Winthrop Baseball game against Queens University on May 9, 2023. The tickets were given to Terry Hagen to distribute. Approximately 65 Miracle League players and family members attended the game.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The Commission's next scheduled meeting is July 4. Due to the holiday, the Commissioners agreed to move it to the following Tuesday, July 11. Director Taylor also mentioned that he, Mark Sexton, and David Linder will not be at the August meeting due to their travels to Glasgow, Scotland for the 2023 BMX World Championship. Brian Jones will conduct the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Watson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss various contracts and business decisions at 6:54 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhea. All were in favor. 7:52 PM Commissioners came out of Executive Session. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

NEXT MEETING(S): Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6 PM at the Glencairn Garden Learning Center.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah Ardis