

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | Glencairn Garden Learning Center**  
**12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rene Brannan, Lawrence Brown, Jr., Bev Carroll, John Coleman, Rodger Culbreath, Jacqueline Jones, Toy Rhea, Matt Watson

**ABSENT:** Larry Erwin

**STAFF:** Becky Adams, Rebekah Ardis, Andrea Barnette, Justin Dunifer, Laurie Helms, Jesse Holliman, Brian Jones, Mark Sexton, and Katie Waszak

**CITIZENS'**

**COMMENTS:** None

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHT:** Justin Dunifer is a Grounds Maintenance Tech II based at Miracle Park. He is originally from Chester but now lives in Rock Hill. Justin is married and has six children.

**MINUTES:** The May 6, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Commissioner Watson motioned to approve, with Commissioner Coleman seconding. All were in favor.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:** Strategic Plan Update

- Director Mark Sexton provided a capital projects update, noting that the initial cost for the Southside Regional Park project came in at \$109 million. The City currently has a \$30 million budget for the project. This means the project will now need to be split into phases.
- Jesse Holliman, Parks Division Superintendent, provided a capital projects update, noting that construction is moving along and on schedule for the Bleachery Fieldhouse. Brian Jones, Tourism Sales/Indoor Annex Division Superintendent, explained that staff are currently working on programming plans for the new facility, which will include pickleball, and are exploring the possibility of hosting a grand opening event for the facility.
- Jesse provided a capital projects update on Armory Park. The project is currently in the demolition phase. The stormwater pond has been added, and the grading for the fields is underway. The grand opening has been tentatively set for September 9.
- Director Sexton provided a report on the Municipal Recreation Coalition of York County. Mark provided a timeline starting with the Health & Environmental Protection (HEP) Committee meeting in January that brought potential recreation funding changes to light for all municipalities in York County. The HEP meeting in March laid out options for potential funding changes. A workshop was held in April, and then at the May meeting, the first reading of the budget was voted on with 5 to 2 in favor of the proposed changes. The May meeting was the first time a possible stipend was mentioned. The second reading on May 19 had a 4 to 3 vote to abolish the unincorporated tax and eliminate the proposed county-wide tax. The final reading on June 19 had a 5 to 2 vote to abolish the unincorporated tax. The City of Rock Hill, along with other municipalities, sent questions to the County Manager's Office for clarification, but in return, those questions were never answered. Commissioner Carroll raised a concern about being overly reactionary, given that similar decisions were made around 18 years ago, which negatively impacted participation in PRT programs. She encouraged the department to make calculated decisions based on cost-to-serve information. Mark explained that the City should offer some level of protection for City residents, as they are paying taxes for recreational services. Mark reiterated that the funds that will no longer be received previously assisted with programming costs and facility upkeep, to be able to offer those programs.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS:** Parks

- Jesse highlighted Miracle Park Phase II construction. Phase II will include a second Miracle Field, a multi-purpose field and an educational building. The site location for the maintenance building has been decided on.

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Recreation

- Garnet McKeown, Division Lead – Recreation, highlighted the 10U Wing Bonz girls softball team that had a perfect season, going 10 and 0, winning the championship game against Fort Mill on May 15. She noted that REC in a Box attended Mt. Holly Elementary School’s Field Day on May 19. Garnet explained that the Old Town Market, held at Fountain Park each Saturday, started in May and will continue through October. City pools opened for the summer on May 24. WCCB Charlotte held the New Rising morning broadcast at the Rock Hill Tennis Center on May 15 in honor of National Tennis Month.

Tourism

- Brian noted that tourism events held in May included adult softball, baseball, basketball, dance and flag football. Brian highlighted the upcoming National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) Top 100 Camp at the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center. He then discussed the upcoming six adidas events, which will occur in June and July. Brian mentioned the ACL World Championships will be back at the Rock Hill Sports & Event Center at the end of July. Tourism events are up compared to last May; however, attendance and economic impact are down. This can be attributed to the BMX World Racing Championships held in May 2024.

CAPRA Accreditation Update

- Katie Waszak, Senior Administrative Assistant, provided an update to the Commission concerning CAPRA accreditation. She explained that the CAPRA Annual Report, which assessed six standards, was submitted in May. The department has not been notified if they were selected as one of the 25 agencies that will be audited for the year. The department has identified Haley Gibson as a CAPRA Volunteer. Her role will be assisting with other agencies going through the accreditation process. Information has been added to the City website in an effort for full transparency and easy review. While it currently features the six annual report standards, the department will work to post all documentation for the 152 standards.

Community Partnership

- Tennis Center staff conducted a tennis clinic at Miracle Park on May 15.

Community Outreach

- The Rock Hill Outdoor Center participated in the Sunshine Pediatrics’ Bikefest Bike Safe Rodeo on May 18. This event taught kids proper riding techniques and bike safety.

Advisory Committee Update

- None

**ADDITIONAL**

**COMMENTS:** The July meeting was canceled; meetings will reconvene in August.

**EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION:** N/A

**NEXT MEETING(S):** August 5, 2025, at Glencairn Garden Learning Center

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Katie Waszak*