

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, August 5, 2025 | Glencairn Garden Learning Center**  
**12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Rebekah Ardis, Andrea Barnette, Jesse Holliman, Haley Gibson, Luciana Scholtens and Mark Sexton

**CITIZENS'**

**COMMENTS:** None

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHT:** Luciana Scholtens has been working at the Rock Hill Tennis Center for nearly four years. Luci graduated from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a minor in social work. She has a five-month-old daughter. Luci has played tennis recreationally over the years.

**MINUTES:** The June 3, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve, with Commissioner Brannan seconding. All were in favor.

**OLD**

**BUSINESS:** Strategic Plan Update

- Jesse Holliman, Parks Division Superintendent, provided a capital projects update. For the Southside Regional Park project, staff hope to have a design locked in and approved by City Council next week. The Bleachery Fieldhouse is completely closed in, HVAC will be installed soon, followed by the flooring. Armory Park renovations continue. The synthetic field and challenge course have been installed. The shelter and playground are under construction. The grand opening is expected to be held in late September. The gym floors at Emmett Scott Recreation Center will be replaced starting next week thanks to funding from the Parks Foundation. The former Victory Garden area will be replaced with basketball and pickleball courts.
- Director Mark Sexton noted that new plans for the Southside Regional Park will be shared with the Commission in September. The concept has changed slightly to ensure that it will generate hospitality tax from a tourism standpoint, as well as cater to the needs of the local community. The original concept came in double of the budgeted cost for the project. Adjustments have been made to bring the cost down while remaining as close to the original concept as possible. Commissioner Rhea asked if the City has worked to secure any grants for the project. Director Sexton explained that \$15 mil has been secured.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS:**

Director's Report

- Mark presented the Annual Report to the Commission. He thanked Executive Assistant Rebekah Ardis for her efforts in putting the information together.
- Mark updated the Commission on the status of the new fee structures due to the abolishment of the unincorporated recreation tax by York County. This means that municipalities now must recoup those lost funds, for Rock Hill, which was over \$480,000 in funding per year. Due to the timing with the approaching new fiscal year budget and a lot of unanswered questions, Rock Hill City Council called a special meeting July 8 and voted to charge a non-resident fee for those residing outside of Rock Hill city limits. For example, the Youth Athletics non-resident fee is \$70, along with the program cost. This did not affect therapeutics. The newly implemented fees will be monitored and evaluated as needed. Commission Chair Carroll expressed her concerns regarding the fees, especially in the case of families with multiple children. Commissioner Brown mentioned concerns from the football community. Director Sexton noted that the Panthers provided a \$10,000 grant for tackle football, which will be used to buy pants for the participants. In the past, this has been the responsibility of the parents to provide. Commissioner Jones asked if the City took into consideration how the school district handles athletics fees. She explained that if a child could not pay those fees, the parent could volunteer by working in the concession stand or in other capacities, which would, in return, cover those fees.

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Mark explained that the department offers a financial assistance program and will not turn away participants.

- Haley Gibson, Tourism Sales Coordinator III, presented proposed rates for pickleball at the Bleachery Fieldhouse. Rate options include clinics, leagues, open play and summer camp. Two options were presented to the Commission. Mark reiterated that the facility is primarily pickleball-based but will be used as an overflow facility for tournaments at the Sports & Event Center. Commission Chair Carroll asked for clarification on the different pricing options presented. Haley clarified that a league would last for six weeks with a preset game schedule, and a membership would be valid for one year, allowing access to open play during specified hours. Commissioner Carroll motioned for a vote regarding the rates; all Commissioners were in favor of option one.
- Andrea Barnette, Recreation Division Superintendent, presented the new options for tennis rates. Rates approved by City Council in July were nearly three times the previous fee for non-residents. Overwhelming feedback and recommendation from staff have suggested bringing these down to double the original cost, for non-residents. Commissioner Carroll motioned for a vote to approve the presented rates; all were in favor.
- Andrea informed the Commission that the definition of a senior was different throughout PRT programs. To keep this consistent, staff is recommending 55 and up for the definition of a senior. Commissioner Carroll motioned for a vote, all were in favor of the 55 and up age defining a senior for PRT programs.
- Andrea addressed safety concerns regarding regional park summer hours of operation, which are currently 7 AM – 11 PM. Staff is recommending that year-round hours be 7 AM – 9 PM to eliminate issues that arise after 9 PM. Commissioner Carroll motioned for a vote to approve year-round hours of 7 AM – 9 PM; all were in favor.
- Andrea presented Velodrome hours. The facility currently operates 48 hours per week, due to low participation, staff is recommending dropping those hours to 24 per week. The recommended hours would be Noon – 8 PM, as usage is higher during this time frame. Commissioner Carroll motioned for a vote to approve the recommended hours; all were in favor.
- Andrea addressed the cost-to-serve for the holiday ice rink. Staff is recommending increasing the fee from \$15 to \$20 to assist with increasing costs. The Commission will review again after potentially addressing a youth fee for young children.

#### Parks Spotlight

- Jesse presented the recent paving projects at entrances to facilities such as Cherry Park, the Tennis Center and Northside Recreation Center along with trails including the Fewell Park Trail.

#### Recreation Spotlight

- Andrea highlighted multiple programs including “Christmas in July” at Miracle Park, the Fewell Park Explorers, REC in a Box Summer Camp, the Youth Football Annual Coaches Meeting and Emmett Scott Fun in the Sun Summer Camp.

#### Tourism Spotlight

- July was a busy month; the upcoming fall months will feature events such as basketball, soccer, softball and expos. July events increased from last year; however, fewer people were in attendance, contributing to economic impact and room nights being down.

#### Rock Hill Parks Foundation Report

- Commissioner Rhea explained that the Rock Hill Parks Foundation received its 501c3 status. He noted that funds were set aside for the Emmett Scott court resurfacing and that \$10,000 was designated to the financial assistance program for those in need of assistance with the newly implemented rates.

#### Community Partnership and Outreach

- The Special Olympics held a Youth Athletes program at Boyd Hill every Tuesday for six weeks. The Youth Service League completed over 60 hours of community service in a two-week time span. 15 teens were enrolled in the program.

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**ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTS:**

Armory Park's Celebration will be held on September 21. The time of the event is still to be determined. Commissioner Watson stated the Trails & Greenways Advisory Committee was updating their by-laws, the mountain bike connection and maps.

**EXECUTIVE**

**SESSION:** N/A

**NEXT MEETING(S):** September 2, 2025, at Glencairn Garden Learning Center

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*Katie Waszak*