

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2021

Attendance

Andrea Talley, Andy McGlinn (Chair), Erika Robertson, Shirin Jenkins (Co-Chair), Gabriella de Souza, Zach Gilbert, David Eason, Ingrid Corbi, Steve Morrissey, Philip White, Inga Kennedy, Margaret Isbell

Absent

Marissa Bryant, Hunter Holland, Will Bordeaux, Emily Morgan (Secretary)

Minutes

Andy called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Erika made a motion to approve the April and June minutes and Shirin seconded. All approved.

Gabriella de Souza discussed Greenfield Skatepark. She wanted to share her screen but was unable to due to the host being the city. She will email the presentation to board members. Gabriella went over a new event/program that she started with the City of Wilmington and recreation supervisor, Jonathan Batts. This new program is called Greenfield Skate and Sweep.

In July they had their first event and participants picked up 25 pounds of trash. Going forward they will partner with the North Carolina Wildlife Federation as a trees for trash event. For every 25 pounds of trash picked up 1 tree will be planted in Wilmington. They are looking for sponsorship. If anyone would like to donate cleaning supplies and/or prizes please reach out to Gabriella. They are in the process of getting approval for a new beginner bowl for the skate park. There is no other place for new skaters to learn in Wilmington.

Inga Kennedy from PEQ who is working with McAdams presented to the board with questions related to the Comprehensive Plan. Board members went through the same asset mapping exercise with the consultant that staff participated in previously. Tuesday, August 12, focus group meetings were held with several organizations, also led by the consultant who facilitated the asset mapping exercise. These were held all over the city along with some Zoom meetings. There will be 3 focus groups next week. These will be individuals that are invited to participate. There will be 3 other opportunities to give the board updates.

Mayor Saffo sat in on the meeting during the time when Inga was speaking. He wanted to thank the board for everything they are doing.

Old Business

Erika wanted to follow up on the parks and upkeep of our parks, mostly Riverfront Park. There were some hiccups after the first few concerts. There have been addition trash receptacles placed at several of the intersections near the park. Erika noticed that the staff from Live Nation were making sure the trash and recyclables are in the correct receptacles.

New Business

Andy would like to have a pool update at the next board meeting. Andrea gave a brief update. It's been quiet season. NSEA Swim has been giving bi-weekly updates. Legion had some sewage issues, there was a tree that had grown around the pipes. No issues with Robert Strange. Davina will be back

for at least September and October. Andrea would like someone to volunteer as the new secretary. We have not heard from Emily. Looking for someone long-term to do the meeting minutes.

Phillip White, a visitor to the meeting tonight, was involved in the public meetings for the Comp plan and there was a great turnout. Phillip went with Cape Fear Riverwatch when pickup up trash at Riverfront Park. They went up to 5th Street and mostly walked the river bank.

Steve Morrissey, he wanted to make a comment about the promise of value make to the residents and businesses of the city of using the park will only get more citizens investments create more value for everyone. One thing he did not hear was the linkage to the county parks. How can we make that more systemic? He brought up the algae on the Greenfield Park tennis courts. How is that relayed to the department that will take care of it? Any calls or emails are forwarded to the Parks department.

Adjournment

Zack made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Shirin made second motion. All approved.

September 15th will be the next meeting at the MLK Center. 401 S. 8th Street.