PARKS, RECREATION & GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 18, 2017
MINUTES

The Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) met on Thursday, May 18, 2017, in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett Street, with the following members present:

Amy Simes, presiding
Clodagh Lyons-Bastian
Richard Bostic
Patrick Buffkin
Christopher Dillon
Kendall Harris
David Millsaps
Dave Toms
Charles Townsend

Absent & Excused:

Dexter Hebert
Shane Mellin
Jennifer Hoverstad
Brad Johnson
Dr. Carol Love
Jennifer Wagner

Staff Present: Diane Sauer, Scott Payne, Stephen Bentley, Ken Hisler, Brenda Hunt, Todd Milam, Giavonia Harris, Kate Pearce, Shawsheen Baker, Brian Smith, David Shouse, Stacie Hagwood, Carter Pettibone, Lora Greco

Ms. Sauer called the meeting to order at 6:12pm (Chairperson Simes arrived later in the meeting).

Discussion followed with actions taken as shown:

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE RECEIVED

No public comments were received.

PRESENTATIONS

DIX PARK PLANNING PRESENTATION UPDATE – RECEIVED

Senior Planner Kate Pearce provided an update on the status of the Dix Park project and indicated she would also be asking how the PRGAB would like to be involved in the planning process. The update included programs occurring at the park currently, activities update and contracting update. The planning process will be taking place over the next 20 months. There have been many programs and participants thus far including tours, various events, etc. The City Council will receive the contract for approval and the June 6 meeting. The 2 year planning 3 phase process was reviewed. The 6 subarea focuses are the park and region, park and transportation, park and the site, park and the buildings, park and programs and park and the partners. The community engagement process was reviewed in detail that also included the web and media. The next step is taking the contract to City Council on June 6 for approval, a kick off in late June/early July and then beginning. Ms. Pearce asked the PRGAB how they would like to be informed.

Mr. Buffkin stated he had not heard anything about what the work groups have been doing and there may be people that are not aware they are on it. Ms. Pearce stated it has taken longer than expected to get to this point. Ms. Lyons-Bastian asked about maintaining natural habitats with Ms. Pearce noting there are 2,000 employees going to work at the park every day and large scale events; however, the master plan will discuss restoring habitats. In response to a question from Mr. Dillon, Ms. Pearce indicated the occupied buildings and DHHS have 7 ½ years left on their lease and they are looking for a new home. The state has to release the buildings to the City and they can release them early but the City has no leverage to require early release. The state is currently renovating some floors and consolidating employees.

Mr. Dillon indicated the programs at Dix have been amazing and staff had done a wonderful job.

AVENT FERRY CORRIDOR STUDY PRESENTATION – RECEIVED

Senior Urban Designer Carter Pettibone reported the Avent Ferry Corridor Study began in April 2016 when the City Council approved the area study. The corridor planning process was reviewed in detail including citizen engagement, consideration of other plans for the area, expectations, etc. Results were reviewed from the visioning workshop held in April 2016. A kickoff meeting was held on March 27 at McKimmon Center. Mr. Pettibone reviewed the schedule for the project noting the end of June is the public input period and there will be a design workshop held in the fall. Staff plans to come back with a draft after the first of 2018. The next steps were outlined ending with a draft plan in early 2018.

The report was received as information.

RIVER BEND PARK SCHEMATIC DESIGN – APPROVED

Senior Planner Lora Greco reviewed the history of this project noting the property was purchased in 2012 consisting of 24.97 acres. The location of the park was pointed out on the map available at the meeting. Surrounding development was noted including 5401 North. The developer is building a substantial residential and mixed use development close to the proposed park site and $2 million has been allocated through the 2014 Parks Bond Referendum for the first phase of park development. The PRGAB and City Council adopted the master plan in November 2016. Priorities from the plan have been incorporated in the draft schematic design for the first phase development including an entry road, parking, two comfort stations, accessible trails, a playground, a kayak loading/unloading area and required stormwater control measures. Public engagement opportunities were reviewed. The project schedule was presented with the schematic design to be presented to City Council on June 6, 2017 and ending with construction in 2018-2019.

Bill Hamilton, Landscape Architect with CLH Design reviewed the plan in detail including how we got to this point, surrounding land uses, the vision statement, etc.

CHAIRPERSON SIMES ARRIVED AT THE MEETING

Vehicle and pedestrian access areas, river access, greenway access, playground, paved paths, comfort stations, picnic shelter, parking areas and stormwater control measures were reviewed by Mr. Hamilton. In response to questions, the site and architectural elements were reviewed in detail. Next steps include presenting the design to City Council on June 6. Mr. Buffkin indicated there is a lot of development going on in this area noting Wake Technical College recently opened a new building and a development is building out. The school system is also building in this area. He noted the developer was on the CPC. Ms. Greco stated staff has not been able to find out much about what is planned for the surrounding development; however, there is a dog park planned.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one asked to be heard.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Mr. Millsaps referred to the dog park with Ms. Sauer noting we are open to a public/private partnership for a public dog park. If the developer puts one in and wants to partner with us, it has to be open to the public. She indicated a dog park is not planned for this site. Mr. Buffkin asked about the overflow parking with it being pointed that is worked out during master planning process. Ms. Sauer started there is opportunity to work with the school system on this joint use for parking and will have to have access from the parking area to the park.

Mr. Buffkin moved approval of the schematic design and refer it to City Council with a recommendation of approval. His motion was seconded by Mr. Townsend, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

WALNUT CREEK WETLAND PARK SITUATION ASSESSMENT – APPROVED

Senior Planner Lora Greco indicated this is a 2014 Bond Referendum project consisting of a 41.75 acre parcel which contains the Walnut Creek Wetland Center in addition to 6.68 acres south of this parcel. She reviewed the history of the property. $1 million has been allocated through the bond referendum for completion of the master plan and park improvements as recommended by the plan. The Situation Assessment is the first step in the process including a site analysis, community research and data collection, public outreach, a community survey, establishment of a public website and interviews with stakeholders. The schedule was reviewed. Staff recommends referral of the Situation Assessment to the City Council for acceptance as information and that the Citizen Planning Committee members be referred to the City Council for appointment approval.

Britt Storck, Landscape Architect, reviewed the presentation included in the agenda packets including previous planning efforts, wetland areas, existing infrastructure. Greenway trails, demographics, surrounding land uses, surrounding neighborhoods, access points and the community engagement process. Five key themes identified by the stakeholders including the park's role in the community, wetland preservation and access, premier education facility, greenway access and focal point and perception of safety. The CPC candidates list was provided to members with Ms. Storck noting there was a tremendous amount of interest in the community. The demographics of the committee was reviewed. Ms. Lyons-Bastian volunteered to serve on the CPC.

Following discussion, Mr. Millsaps moved that the Situation Assessment and the CPC list be forwarded to City Council for approval. His motion was seconded by Mr. Harris, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2017 – APPROVED

Mr. Buffkin moved approval of the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Harris, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committees

Parks Committee:
Mr. Buffkin reported the committee will meet in June on the Neighborhood and Community Connection Program and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Parks

Greenway Urban Trees Committee:
Mr. Millsaps reported the committee would meet on Tuesday, May 23 at 9am.

Citizen Planning Committees:

Brentwood Park CPC:
Mr. Toms reported a kick off meeting was held on May 2 and the group was universally aligned. There are 2 issues of interest including the fact the original developer turning over the park to the city and the need for a Spanish translator. The city has a program for providing translators.

Liaison Representatives:

Arts Commission and PADB:
Scott Payne reported the Arts Commission will meet on June 23. This fall there will be a murals workshop at Dix involving artists putting lights on some large trees. These will be temporary projects.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission:
Ms. Simes reported the commission met Monday night of this week. She indicated this is Bike Month and suggested checking out Bike Raleigh site to find out specifics. City ride will be a week from tomorrow. The next meeting of the commission will be June 19.

DIRECTORS REPORT – PRESENTED

Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB)

Director's Report May 18, 2017

City Council Updates

May 2, 2017

Erinsbrook Park Draft Final Master Plan - APPROVED
Amy Simes, Chair, presented the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) recommendation to approve as presented the Draft for the Erinsbrook Park Master Plan.

May 16, 2017

Contracts and Consultant Services - Facility Rental for Summer Camp and Before/After School Programs - APPROVED
The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department (PRCR) rents facility space from Wake County Board of Education (WCBOE)/ Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) to operate before school, after school, and summer camp programs. The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department will rent space at Daniels Middle School and Pleasant Grove Elementary School for summer camp programs during the summer of 2017. During the 2017-2018 school year we will rent space at Harris Creek Elementary School, Pleasant Grove Elementary School, River Bend Elementary School, and Sycamore Creek Elementary School for Before and After School programs.
The total contract amount will not exceed $178,295 in which $12,464 will be encumbered in FY17 and the remaining $165,831 will be encumbered in FY18. Funds are available in the general fund.

Lease Agreement - Lease of parking lot at Governor Morehead School- APPROVED

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department leases temporary overflow parking for Pullen Amusement Park from the Governor Morehead School on weekend days and, upon agreement, State designated holidays. The parking lot offers an additional 64 spaces for patron use and is located across from Pullen Amusement Park on Ashe Avenue. Lease cost is $180.25 per day with a 2% escalator in year two.

Both parties would like to enter a multi-year lease agreement commencing upon execution of the contract and terminating on June 30, 2019. Total contact amount will not exceed $42,000.

Joint Use Agreement – City of Raleigh and Wake County Public School System: Lake Johnson Park and Athens Drive High School - APPROVED

In 1979 the City Council approved a thirty (30) year joint use agreement with the Wake County Board of Education for the properties know as Lake Johnson Park and Athens Drive High School. In June 2013 City Council approved a four year extension of the original agreement while the negotiations for a new twenty-five (25) year agreement were finalized.

Announcements (Dedications, Public Meetings, etc.)

Committee Meetings

Fletcher Awards Committee – Does not have a meeting scheduled.

Parks Committee – Thursday, June 1 at 6pm at Jaycee Module

GWUT Committee – Tuesday, May 23rd at 9:00am RMB Room 305

Public Meetings

Barwell Road Park Master Plan - Final CPC Meeting – May 22 at 6:00pm at Barwell Road Community Center.

Brentwood Park Public Meeting #1 – May 24 at 6:00pm at Brentwood Park and Neighborhood Center.

Millbrook Dog Park Improvements Workshop #2 – May 25 at 6:00pm at Millbrook Community Center.

Brentwood Park Master Plan Citizen Planning Committee – June 1st at 6:00pm at Brentwood Park and Neighborhood Center.

PRGAB "Get Together Social" – Friday, June 9th at 1:00. Location TBA

Dedication

Junious Sorrell Park Dedication – Saturday, May 20 at 10am

CHAIR REPORT – PRESENTED

Chairperson Simes reported the Sir Walter Raleigh Awards Jury is scheduled to review the applications on Wednesday, June 21 from 12-4pm at the Raleigh Urban Design Center. Jury members will receive the applications in advance. She indicated it is necessary to have a representation of the jury from this board. Mr. Townsend volunteered to serve.

Members received a draft Work Plan and it was requested that members review the projects and provide additional comments. This will come back to the PRGAB in June and presented to the City Council at the first meeting in August.

PRGAB COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Ms. Lyons-Bastian indicated the Dix site is great and every weekend there is a lot going on there.

Ms. Lyons-Bastian indicated she and Mr. Buffkin went to the Beneful dog park makeover at Millbrook Dog Park noting there was good attendance. She referred to grading and runoff that was needed and the work that was done to assist with that. A good deal of the money went toward handling this issue.

Mr. Buffkin indicated the Fred Fletcher Awards was an excellent event and a tremendous success. He thanked staff involved and those who worked with the volunteers.

Mr. Dillon indicated the Fletcher Awards was a great success. He also wished staff well with the upcoming summer camps.

Mr. Townsend complimented staff on the Fletcher Awards event.

Mr. Bostic asked when the Crabtree Creek Greenway Boardwalk be completed noting users are anxious to get this completed and in use.

Mr. Harris indicated the Fletcher Awards event was well attended.

Mr. Harris referred to the reopening of the Sorrell Park noting it will be opened Saturday and has been a long time coming.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt