

PARKS, RECREATION & GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 20, 2017
MINUTES

The Parks, Recreation & Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) met on Thursday, July 20, 2017, in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, with the following members present:

Amy Simes, presiding
Richard Bostic
Patrick Buffkin
Christopher Dillon
Kendall Harris
Dexter Hebert
Jennifer Hoverstad
Brad Johnson
Carol Love
Clodagh Lyons-Bastian
David Toms
Charles Townsend
Jennifer Wagner

Absent & Excused: Shane Mellin
David Millsaps

Staff Present: Diane Sauer, Scott Payne, Stephen Bentley, Ken Hisler, Giavonia Harris, Wayne Schindler, T. J. McCourt, Laura Kordulewski

Chairperson Simes called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Discussion followed with actions taken as shown:

PUBLIC COMMENTS –NONE RECEIVED

No one asked to be heard.

PRESENTATIONS

GENE TOMLINSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT PRESENTATION – RECEIVED

Ersell Liles, Jan Harris and Kay Tomlinson were present for this item. Mr. Liles, a previous employee of the Parks & Recreation Department, reviewed the history of this annual tournament as well as Mr. Tomlinson's many attributes. Mr. Tomlinson passed away on February 20, 2012 and funds raised at the tournament are contributed to the Parks scholarship fund. A check in the amount of \$3,000 was presented to Chairperson Simes in honor of Mr. Tomlinson.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – INFORMATION RECEIVED

Matthew Klem, Planner II, reviewed the process involved in the Comprehensive Plan Update. Members were presented with a flyer showing opportunities for public input. He explained this is one of the Planning Department's 100 meetings in 100 days relating to the update. He reviewed the new format of the plan as well as the structure and content. Information relating to the update is on the City's website. What's next and public comment opportunities were reviewed. Members were advised to email any comments to Bynum Walter in the Planning Department.

This report was received as information.

MILLBROOK EXCHANGE DOG PARK “BENEFUL” UPDATE – RECEIVED

Wayne Schindler, Assistant Director, reviewed the history of this project. In August, 2016 staff was approached by Purina Beneful regarding being involved in the Dream Dog Park contest which has been done for a number of years and involves citizens voting for their favorite dog park. Millbrook Exchange Dog Park was chosen as the candidate which is the oldest in the City's system and has been well used and refurbishment was needed. Twelve other cities were involved and Raleigh's candidate won a \$30,000 cash award. A contract was involved and took several months to execute. There are three parts to the award including \$30,000 cash, a Doggie Tunnel and a kickoff event. He provided a picture of the Doggie Tunnel. The kickoff event was held April 27 where the award check was received with more than 50 citizens and dogs attending. What we don't have is the actual check nor the Doggie Tunnel. Staff is pursuing the company for those. He explained 2 public meetings were held after the kickoff event on May 5 and May 25 where suggestions from the public for improvements were entertained. Mr. Schindler reviewed the information provided to those attending the meetings. Priorities were developed coming out of the first meeting. Priorities presented from the first meeting were discussed at the second public meeting. He noted an enhanced entrance, shade, resting station for pets and water for humans and pets were important items.

Laura Kordulewski, Parks Planner, provided a handout outlining the Concept Plan and reviewed the consensus priority elements and how they are proposed to be achieved in the plan. Small and large dog areas, small dog agility area, water locations, improved signage, etc. were pointed out on the plan available at the meeting. The cost estimate for the project is \$45,869. The items

that will come from prize money and city funded items were reviewed. The schedule was reviewed including preparation of construction documents this summer and implementation in the fall. The parks crew and staff will perform the work. Ms. Lyons-Bastian referred to the drainage issue and asked if elevation changes are being made and indicated she did not see that in the cost estimate. Ms. Kordulewski indicated drainage improvements will come from parks funding. Mr. Schindler indicated grading crews will do the regarding and some drainage work has been done on the periphery of the park with curbing and swales installed to divert the water. Ms. Lyons-Bastian indicated one of the biggest concerns is having some kind of water feature for the dogs. Mr. Schindler indicated citizens talked about a splash pad; however, that much water is a problem in this area and the committee working on this project settled on a misting system that does not create such a large amount of drainage. Mr. Lyons-Bastian referred to the 12 x 12 shade that will be provided with Mr. Schindler noting there would also be shade where the picnic tables are located. He indicated the committee wanted to keep the central area open so dogs would have space to run and there would be some shade provided at the upper end of that area. Mr. Buffkin questioned the cost of mulching Mr. Mr. Schindler explaining the Friends of Millbrook Dog Park have an arrangement involving working with local tree companies bring pre-chipped mulch. When the mulch needs to be replaced will be a recurring cost for the City.

Mr. Buffkin indicated his observation from the first meeting is there is a group of people feeling this is their park and that this money is their money and they won it and want to be involved in how the money is spent. He felt that group had a rude awakening when they found out how far \$30,000 goes. He noted staff had done an excellent job of working with the citizens and the splash pad was a good example of working with them. He expressed appreciation for the way staff handled involved the citizens. Mr. Schindler indicated there had been a change in leadership with the Friends of Millbrook Dog Park and staff is working to be sure they will renew their agreement so they will have an ongoing relationship with the facility.

In regard to a question regarding the hold up with the money from Purina, Mr. Schindler indicated he was not sure what the problem is and staff will contact them again to see if they have a timeline for sending the funds. He indicated staff has already started doing work that will come out of City funds regardless that deals with drainage and the surface will be fixed as well as fencing and furnishings. Ms. Hoverstad indicated the people of Raleigh did an amazing job of marketing during the campaign and asked for a future update on where the check is noting people did marketing for the company for free.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PRESENTATION – RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

T. J. McCourt, Planner, provided members with a handout of his presentation. The program goal is “Bringing people to parks and parks to people”. He explained there are 6,000 acres of park space and 115 miles of greenway in the City of Raleigh. Additional goals were reviewed including evaluate access to neighborhood parks and greenway trails, identifying opportunities for improving equitable access; supplement PRCR land acquisition strategy to improve overall LOS and evaluating and improving PRCR use of data. Maps showing distances from various areas to the closest park were reviewed. Criteria was reviewed relating to circuitry, community vulnerability and pedestrian safety. Mr. McCourt reviewed the map of the entire park system

showing the top 30 priority parks which are the ones desired to look at for this program. Case studies were reviewed with Peach Road and Barwell Road Parks shown as the two highest priority parks. Takeaways from the program include access, equity, LOS strategy and data. The timeline is as follows:

Parks Committee Action:	June 13
PRGAB Presentation	July 20
Review Policy Document and Prioritization Matrix	
PRGAB Action:	September 21, 2017
City Council Presentation	October

Mr. Buffkin explained the Parks Committee worked on this for several months and during the course the Herbert Belk Award was received by the City. This is awarded every two years and the City will keep the award until 2019. This is the first time the award was won by the City of Raleigh. Wake County won the award one time. Mr. McCourt indicated this program was used to win the award and staff is very proud of it. Ms. Bostic requested a listing of the top 30 parks in this program. Mr. McCourt explained this listing was developed as an appendix for the final document and would provide that information to members.

Mr. Hebert indicated he liked the fact we have data to know what is happening in vulnerable communities and data speaks to a lot of people.

ACTION ITEMS

BARWELL ROAD PARK MASTER PLAN – APPROVED

This master plan was presented at the previous board meeting.

Mr. Bostic questioned the pool noting he is not against a pool but it looks like an indoor facility and questioned in the needs assessment for swimming, is there a difference between seasonal versus year round. Mr. McCourt indicated based on feedback from the community and the 2008 aquatics study, an indoor/outdoor hybrid facility was recommended and that is what the budget estimate was on. Many people felt it was not adequate to have to go to Chavis Pool in Southeast Raleigh. Brief discussion followed regarding the bicycle dirt track and any unique features planned for the track. Ms. Sauer explained this will be the City's first bike track and is smaller scale.

Mr. Hebert indicated an excellent job was done on the design of this park and the community was very engaged in the process. He indicated those involved felt their input was valued.

Mr. Hebert moved that the PRGAB recommend approval of the master plan to the City Council. His motion was seconded by Mr. Harris, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

MINUTES – APRIL 20 AND JUNE 15, 2017 – APPROVED

Members had received copies of the April 20 and June 15, 2017 PRGAB minutes prior to the meeting. Ms. Hoverstad moved approval of the minutes. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert, unanimously passed. Chairperson Simes ruled the motion adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV):

Mr. Buffkin reported the Committee received public comments on a draft policy for UAV with 12 citizens providing comments. He explained it seems the issue has attracted a lot of attention in the media. Those present were advised this would be a process with input. He indicated there would be future meetings on this matter and a consensus developed. A recommendation will come to the PRGAB at the end of this year or early 2018.

Fletcher Volunteer Awards Committee:

Ms. Hoverstad reported the Awards Program will be held on April 25th, 2018.

GWUT/Greenway and Urban Trees Committee:

Mr. Johnson reported there will be joint meeting with BPAC in September.

CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEES:

Brentwood Park CPC:

Mr. Toms reported the committee had their third meeting last Thursday and approved the vision statement. He indicated it is clear the committee is moving toward a more natural park. There were 3 plans provided and the committee wanted to see two redrafted. They have been working with the elementary school and a lot of effort put forth to tightening that relationship with the school. The next meeting will be the following Thursday which will be a public meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Walnut Creek Wetland Park CPC:

Ms. Lyons-Bastian reported the committee has had their first meeting and set priorities. The next meeting will be July 24.

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Sir Walter Raleigh Awards Jury:

Mr. Townsend urged members to attend the Awards Program on September 6.

Nomination Committee:

Ms. Hoverstad volunteered to serve on the Committee with ballots at the September 21 meeting. New officers will take office at the October 19th meeting.

LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission:

Ms. Simes reported the commission met Monday night and the transportation bond was discussed and Ms. Walter presented the Comprehensive Plan update. The next meeting will be August 21.

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board:

Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board 7/20/17 Meeting Summary for PRGAB

The Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board met on Tuesday, June 27.

Board Chair, Barden Culbreth called the meeting to order, confirmed a quorum and asked for any public comment.

The chair recognized and welcomed Ruby Greene who was newly appointed to the board by City Council. Ms. Greene provided some information related to her background and interest in historic cemeteries. Ms. Greene is the president of Friends of Hillcrest Cemetery, a friends group serving that private cemetery in southeast Raleigh. She indicated a specific interest in learning about restoration of our historic cemeteries to assist in their group's efforts at Hillcrest.

The Landscape Committee presented the guiding principles document and landscape master plan for Mt. Hope Cemetery to the full board. The board unanimously approved the committee's recommendation to accept and approve the plan. The committee will now begin to review the Dorothea Dix Park cemetery in order to develop similar guidelines in partnership with the Dix Conservancy.

The Maintenance Committee did meet in May. Terry Harper indicated that she had a follow-up discussion with Tania Tully on local designation for City Cemetery and Mt. Hope Cemetery. The committee has finalized and submitted the required documentation.

The Outreach Committee is continues to work with department marketing staff on establishing a presence for the recently completed audio walking tour of City Cemetery narrated by Betsy Shaw. Some additional editing is being completed prior to implementation for public use.

Staff recapped recent planning efforts for the second annual statewide Cemetery Workshop to be hosted by and held in Wake Forest this coming October

Under new business, an election of board officers resulted in David Brown being appointed chair and Barden Culbreth being appointed vice-chair. David will assume his new role as chair at the July board meeting.

The board discussed committee assignments in light of new members recently appointed to the board. Final committee assignments were confirmed.

Jane Thurman reported that RCCP, Inc. has completed restoration of the Peace Plot at City Cemetery. They are now trying to fundraise (\$5,000) to cover the cost of hiring a firm to perform ground penetrating radar (Gpr) across the African American section in City Cemetery to confirm grave locations and numbers.

The next meeting of the Historic Cemeteries Advisory Board is scheduled for July 25, 5:30 p.m. at the Tucker House.

Historic Resources and Museum Advisory Board:

Ms. Simes reported the board met on June 28. The Summer in the Park concert series is still on go. The next meeting will be July 25.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – RECEIVED

Ms. Sauer reported an additional day was added to Holiday Express this year noting this is the 10th year. Tickets will go on sale on July 25. Ms. Harris reviewed the new procedure for board members to obtain tickets.

Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB)

Director's Report July 20, 2017

City Council Updates

June 20, 2017

JOINT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD AND THE PARKS, RECREATION AND GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD (PRGAB) - APPROVED

Both the Environmental Advisory Board and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board recommend City participation in [Bee City USA](#). Staff from the Office of Sustainability; Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources; and the Urban Design Center have been working with each Boards to evaluate designation as a "Bee City". Both Boards recognize the important role pollinators play in the overall health of a community. A report was made during the meeting.

Announcements (Dedications, Public Meetings, etc.)

Committee Meetings

Fletcher Awards Committee – Does not have a meeting scheduled. The date has been confirmed for 2018 - Fred Fletcher Volunteer Awards on Wednesday, April 25 at 7pm at Fletcher Theatre

Parks Committee – Thursday, September 7th at 6pm in Jaycee Module

GWUT Committee – Does not have a meeting scheduled.

Public Meetings

The Citizen Planning Committee for Walnut Creek Wetland Park Master Plan will meet on Monday, July 24th, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, at Walnut Creek Wetland Center in the Neuse River Room, 950 Peterson Street, Raleigh, NC 27610.

Brentwood Park Public Meeting #2 – July 27 at 6:00pm at Brentwood Park and Neighborhood Center.

Wooten Meadow Park Schematic Design Public Input Meeting - The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department will host a final public input meeting to review the first phase of development of Wooten Meadow Park on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Lake Lynn Community Center, 7921 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613.

Join us this summer for the **Raleigh Parks Bucket List**

Looking for something fun to do this summer? Explore Raleigh parks while checking items off your Parks Bucket List and Earn Prizes! Here is how it works:

<http://www.raleighnc.gov/content/CorNews/Images/PRecBucketListPicture.jpg>

BOARD COMMENTS – RECEIVED

Ms. Hoverstad reported the Wooten Meadow Park SIP has started to move forward for Phase 1. There will be a public open house on August 1 from 6-8 pm at Lake Lynn to review what Phases 1 and 2 look like.

Mr. Harris referred to the small gym at Roberts Park noting only a few people can get in there for games. He questioned future plans short and long term. Ms. Sauer indicated a lot of money has been put into Roberts Park and there are no plans to extend the gym and will be part of another bond referendum. Mr. Hisler reviewed work that has taken place at Roberts Park noting it was built in the 1960's and a focus on the gym is not on the short term plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt