

**MINUTES**  
**GUILFORD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Blue Room, Old Courthouse, Greensboro, NC  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Members Present**

Alan Branson  
Gil Vaughan  
Jim Bronnert  
Glenn Cashion  
Tim Marion  
Marie Poteat  
Bernie Meyers

**Members Absent**

Lawrence Straughn  
Justin Washington  
Marty Spottl

**Staff**

Christopher Horrigan  
Jessica Wolf  
Dwight Godwin  
John Gladstone  
Matthew Wallace  
Rick Mosher  
Daniel Durham

**Guests**

The Parks and Recreation Commission met on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Blue Room of the Old Courthouse, 301 West Market Street in Greensboro. Chairman Tim Marion called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Six members were present to start the meeting.

**Introduction of Guest**

Marion opened the meeting and welcomed those present. All commission members and staff went around the room and introduced themselves as well as any guests present in the audience.

**New Business**

Marion continued to the agenda to new business to approve the minutes from the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting (item A.).

**Bernie Meyers made a motion to approve the October 8<sup>th</sup> minutes as written, Seconded by Glenn Cashion. Motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Marion continued on the agenda to election of officers (item B.).

Tim Marion and Bernie Meyers were nominated for chair in the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A vote was held for election of CAB chair. Tim Marion received 5 votes, Bernie Meyers received 2 votes. Tim Marion is the 2020 CAB chair by majority vote of attending members.

Justin Washington was nominated for vice chair in the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, running unopposed. Washington will be the 2020 CAB vice chair.

**Chair and Vice Chair nominees were accepted by acclimation.**

Marion continued on the agenda to December meeting location (item C.).

The Parks and Rec CAB December meeting is typically moved to a park and is a social gathering with no new business to be discussed.

**Bernie Meyers made a motion to move the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to Bur-Mil Park, Seconded by Glenn Cashion. Motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Marion continued on the agenda to 2020 parks recommended fees (item D.).

Christopher Horrigan discussed the 2020 parks recommended fees in detail with the board. He passed out an excel sheet (attachment 1) containing all fees and highlighted which fees would be impacted for next year. Jim Bronnert asked Horrigan if the department ever considered charging different fees for weekday versus weekend rentals for shelters. Bernie Meyers asked if we ever thought about aquatic center season pass holders being able to bypass the line if pool is at capacity. Alan Branson raised a question of liability at our event centers when we sell alcohol. Horrigan and Dwight Godwin discussed the proposed fees and answered any questions the CAB had.

**Gil Vaughan made a motion to approve the 2020 parks recommended fees as written, Seconded by Alan Branson. Motion carried by unanimous consent.**

### **Status Updates**

Marion continued on the agenda to Status Updates.

Horrigan presented a PowerPoint presentation to go along with the updates (attachment 2).

Marion moved on to Bryan Park North update (item A.).

Rick Mosher led a lengthy discussion on the Bryan Park North update. He handed out the Bryan Park North Agreement that was approved by the BOCC (attachment 3) and the property deed (attachment 4). Mosher talked about the history of the property and discussed giving this property back to the City of Greensboro. He discussed this is a 50-50 split, as in, we both own the whole park, not specific sections, and both groups have to participate. There are hopes to have a master plan done by July 2020 when this contract goes into effect. Questions were asked regarding the current user groups on the property and how this will impact those groups. If user groups have to be relocated, who will pay for that? Mosher stated groups will not be displaced and any proposals will have to go to the BOCC and Greensboro City Council to be approved.

Marion moved on to Open Space funds update (item B.)

Matt Wallace gave a breakdown of the remaining funds from the 2004 Open Space Bond and how the funds were spent. As of November 2019, there is a fund balance of \$364,420.89 remaining. The board asked to be updated periodically on the funds.

Marion moved on to Southwest Park overlook update (item C.).

Wallace updated the board on the status of the overlook. He gave some history as to what happened to the previous overlook and discussed the proposal of a new one. A rough estimated cost of a new overlook is around \$35,000. The Audubon Society has approved the project and is willing to fund half the project. Horrigan stressed to the CAB that funding is not currently available and the Audubon Society is encouraged to divert funds from this project. Horrigan did mention the possibility of grant or sponsorship funding but none is available at this time.

Marion moved on to Country Lights Aglow update (item D.).

Dwight Godwin gave an update on the Northeast Park Country Lights Aglow program. Staff is currently reevaluating this program and it is currently suspended. He discussed the funding and staffing struggles this program faces and says the park would like to bring this program back once these challenges have been addressed.

Marion moved on to dog park update discussion (item E.).

Jim Bronnert wanted to know the status of the dog park at Gibson Park. Stated there is no other good dog park in the area and wanted the board to discuss this project and stressed that this is a regional need and can be located at any of our facilities, not just at Gibson Park.

Marion moved on to Rich Fork signage update (item F.).

Bronnert would like to see us and High Point address the lack of signage on Main Street for Rich Fork and the Hedgecock Dog Park. Wallace said he will reach out to NCDOT for free signage to address the issue.

Marion moved on to advocating for parks and recreation (item G.).

Marie Poteat discussed it's hard to get issues to the BOCC. How can the CAB help prioritize needs and start solving problems? Some CAB members were not aware of the obstacles staff faces and are asking to develop a policy with staff on guidelines to raise funds to help offset costs for future projects.

### **Other Business**

Marion moved on to Other Business.

Meyers asked where we stood on the playground replacement at Bur-Mil Park. This playground was destroyed from a tree falling on it last October due to the hurricane. Horrigan stated there was no short or medium term plan to replace it. We are looking at grants but we need to do a cost estimate and site plan first.

### **Upcoming Events**

Marion moved on to upcoming events.

Horrigan invited the CAB to the parks all staff meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Northeast Park.

John Gladstone recapped the Big Pick at the County Farm. Over 1,500 pounds of grapes were collected and donated.

Jessica Wolf recapped the Bur-Mil Park Fall Festival. We saw the most participants in the last 5 years, estimating around 5,500 were in attendance.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Marion moved on to commissioner comments.

Marie Poteat and Marty Spottl visited Thomas Built Bus and Benbow Preserve and just wanted to express how good they looked and complimented staff on the improvements.

There being no further business or additional comments, by unanimous consent the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

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Chairman

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Recording Secretary