

Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission – 2/20/24 – 6pm MACC

Name	Representation
Aaron Davis (AD)	City of Mebane Leader
Emily Powell (EP)	City Limits (RPAC Chair)
Jesse Alston (JA)	City Limits
Jesse Whitaker (JW)	City Limits
Jay Bisette (JB)	City Limits
Nohe Weir-Villatoro	Mebane Citizen
Brad Heckler	Mebane Citizen

1. Call to order – RPAC Chair – E.P – 6:05 pm
2. Skate Park/Pump Track Presentation – Community Members
  - A. Starting conversations about ideas they have going down separate paths.
    - i. Skate Park
    - ii. Pump Track
  - B. The idea is to potentially use the community park expansion area...
    - i. Skate, pump track, indoor aquatic center.....
  - C. They know that funding, time, and space is limited.
    - i. They understand it could take some time but be impactful to the citizens.
  - D. This could be a very inclusive endeavor....and could be a good place for people to come that would also have an economic impact.
    - i. Inclusive of all types of people who want to be on boards, skates, blades, etc.... they can all use it, and it's good for all the skaters.
  - E. They think the best location would be at the community park using the new parcel that was purchased.
  - F. A lot of programming opportunities and outside tournament-type events could work.
  - G. Aquatics Center would have a competitive lane-type section, a recreation section, and a place for classes and lessons.
  - H. Other area skate parks in the area were mentioned.
    - i. Chapel Hill – 500K for upgrades
    - ii. Hillsborough – building a skate park
    - iii. Elon - 250K – for a new park
    - iv. Burlington – Competitive Pump track
  - I. Parts of the project
    - i. Pavilion, Aquatics, skate park, pump track, parking lot.
  - J. There is no funding, except a few hundred dollars that have been donated to local shops.
    - i. They understand that they could be a long-range plan down the road.
    - ii. They are interested in gaining advocates for the project.
  - K. Sponsorship and Branding opportunities for larger businesses.
  - L. Questions and Comments
    - i. Jesse – appreciate the research and their presentation.

- i. Cost questions:
  - 1. Skate park estimate – 500 – 700K
  - 2. Skate and Pump Track – roughly a million dollars +
  - 3. The aquatics park etc.....does not have a rough estimate of the project.
- ii. Emily asked Aaron how this fits.
  - i. Aaron mentioned that he is an advocate for anything really cool that is beneficial to the community but is not biased toward any one project.
  - ii. This meeting was an opportunity for the community members to share their passion with the RPAC.
- iii. Jesse likes the idea of pulling in non “ball” sports....
  - i. Wondered if the city had the infrastructure for a downtown hotel that had been mentioned previously.
- iv. Emily likes the idea of the skate and pump because they can do it without a buddy and do lots of things...c
  - i. She asked can this be built separately from the aquatics center due to overall cost...?
- v. Jesse asked if there was an alternate location that could be considered.
- vi. Jesse asked about revenue generation in rec and parks.
  - i. Aaron mentioned that the department does not generate the revenue that would help bring a revenue-neutral budget even with projects.
  - ii. He also mentioned that there were not any funds allocated towards this project for this year, next year, or in the 5-year CIP plan.
- vii. Emily said that a walking path should be added to the plan.

### 3.) Approval of Minutes from January Meeting – E.P.

- A. Aaron mentioned a change to Sherri's comments from last month about her basketball comment. He made the revision in the minutes, but wanted everyone to know.
  - i. Emily motion
  - ii. Jay Second
  - iii. Minutes were approved.

### 4.) RPAC Goal Setting for 2024 – E.P.

- A. Emily asked to move this item to next months agenda

### 5.) Basketball Court Update

- A. Aaron mentioned that there was a meeting with city admin, along with police. He also mentioned that police needed to get involved with the situation and would be making more visits to the basketball courts to monitor. He mentioned that he was looking into clear panels for the fence to help with sound, but he had not come up with anything that would work yet. There also may be more plantings going in around the court to potentially help out.
- B. Following the meeting with Admin, Aaron called the citizens, left a message, and did not hear back from them.

- 6.) RPAC 360 Evaluation – Open Conversation/Misc – ALL
  - A. Emily asked about the white building next to the basketball court. She wanted to know what was in it.
    - a. Aaron mentioned that it was mainly storage for Christmas decorations.
    - b. Emily asked if a mural could be put on the building.
    - c. Aaron mentioned that it had been brought up in the past, they were looking for a sponsor to help fund the project.
  
- 7.) Vacant Programming Position + Department Changes – A.D.
  - A. Aaron mentioned that they had 22 applicants for the position.
    - a. They conducted 8 virtual prescreen interviews.
    - b. There will be 3 future interviews in the next few weeks.
    - c. The hope is to have someone in the position by March 25<sup>th</sup>, if not earlier.
  - B. Aaron mentioned that they would propose some departmental structure changes.
  - C. Aaron also mentioned that Amy Pendergraph would officially retire from the City of Mebane on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
  
- 8.) Master Plan Update / Approval / Public Hearing – A.D.
  - A. Emily mentioned that she saw that Burlington had their plan passed that was constructed by the same company and did see some cut-and-paste type items.
  - B. Overall, the sentiment from the commission was that it was well thought out and would give us good direction moving forward.
  - C. Emily made a motion to recommend the plan to City Council
    - a. Jay made a second
    - b. Motion passed
  
- 9.) Budget Update – A.D.
  - A. Aaron presented parts of the budget request for the Recreation and Parks Department. He mentioned that while some projects have already been removed for consideration, he was confident that those still in the proposal would be great for the citizens.
  
- 10.) Council Member Meetings – A.D.
  - A. Aaron mentioned that he would send out new updated information for highlights to speak about at the council member pairing meetings.
  - B. No members had yet had a conversation yet.
  
- 11.) Action Items/What Happens Next? – ALL
  - A. Jesse asked about a strap on one of the tennis courts at the new tennis courts. He mentioned that it was broken and not keeping the net at the correct height anymore.

The meeting with adjourned at 7:38pm

