



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary

February 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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NAME	REPRESENTATION
Aaron Davis (AD)	City Staff
Amy Pendergraph (AP)	City Staff
Tanner Deisch (TD)	City Limits
Sherri Seagroves (SS)	City Limits
LaShonda Hester (LH)	City Limits
Justin Brawley (JB)	City Limits
Jesse Whitaker (JW)	City Limits
Shaya Clemons-Armas (SC)	City Limits
John Kirby (JK)	ABSS

AD asked everyone to welcome AP to the meeting, she would be taking meeting minutes. AP gave a brief introduction of herself.

## **Recreation and Parks Presentation**

AD talked about his past work experiences, family, shared three interesting facts about himself, and his three favorite athletes

AD asked each commission member to share the following about themselves

- Name
- Career/Current job
- Three interesting facts about themselves
- Favorite Athlete (s)
- Why they wanted to be on the RPAC

SS shared info

TD shared info

JK shared info

AD talked about the importance of the partnership between Eastern Alamance and the City.

JW shared info

LH shared info

SC shared info

JB shared info



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AD shared the mission and vision statement for the department and talked a little about each of the full-time leaders that work for the recreation and parks department

AD shared the Leader Hierarchy and explained why he uses LEADER instead of STAFF when speaking about the department's employees.

AD shared a slide about the amount of F/T vs. P/T leaders and explained the contract with the social media assistant.

AD went over items about the budget:

- Personnel
- Operations
- Capital
- CIP
- Revenue (explained subsidization)

AD gave information about the parks within the City of Mebane system, including; Lake Michael, Holt St., Youth & Walker, MACC, Community Park, and Cates Farm

AD shared information about facilities, which included the MACC and Old Rec

AD shared information about the City's athletic programs

AD shared information about different partnerships the Recreation and Parks department has with other groups, schools, as well as talked about sponsorships

AD shared information about the Programs and Special events that the City plans. He mentioned that even with COVID taking place, 2020 was a banner year for the number of programs offered but lacked the typical participation amount due to COVID.

AD gave information about the Recreation and Parks Software, Civic Rec



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AD talked about the social media platforms, including engagement and reaction. He spoke about the one negative post that caused some department problems, but it has been okay since.

AD shared information about current improvement projects are taking place within the department.

AD shared a slide listing potential CIP projects that may or may not be funded in the coming years.

AD shared slides talking about the Mebane Community Park with a few really nice pictures of the park.

AD talked about the Cone Health Community Fitness Court

AD shared information about the trails being open at Cates Farm Park and what the future might be like for that park.

AD shared information about the role of the Advocacy Commission and a list of items that members might become engaged in:

- To promote department programs/events/parks
- Share stories with other community members
- Talk with City Council members about our needs/challenges
- Volunteer at events and help any way you can
- Be present at our facilities and talk with others about their experiences
- Be the eyes and ears when we can't be
- Be a social media advocate
- To suggest new policy leading to a more happy and healthy community
- Be a Cheerleader!!!
- Help us recruit P/T Leaders for the department!
- We need Summer Maintenance applications (3 total will be hired)
- Help us find grants and sponsorships for the department
- To ask WHY!

AD shared the roles that would NOT be permissible as an RPAC Member

- To change to rules and regulations



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- To determine what upgrades/improvements will happen at our parks and facilities
- To create new programs or change the way we operate a sport
- To take on social media trolls and their agendas
- It's not your job to do the work, but to bring ideas to the table for consideration
  - Suggestions are welcome 😊

At 7:00 p.m. - JK and SC excused themselves from the meeting

## **Selecting Terms and Appointments for Members (within the presentation)**

AD explained Robert's Rules of Order

AD explained how the Terms would work for voting purposes and the staggered start process. He also explained that those who roll off after their term expires will have the option to reapply to be reappointed and that there is NOT a waiting period before they can be reappointed to the commission.

AD asked for nominations or self-nominations for the 1-, 2-, and 3-year terms.

SS requested a 3-year term

TD requested a 1-year term

JW & LH stated they could serve any amount of years

AD explained that members serving in the Vice-Chair role could not serve a one-year term.

JW asked AD to explain the roles of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

AD explained the duties of the three different rolls

JB requested a 3-year term

LH is not interested in being the Chair

JW explained that he would be interested in being the Vice-Chair

TD made a motion to appoint TD and LH to serve a one-year term, SC and JW to serve a two-year term, SS and JB to serve a three-year term. JK will serve as long as employed with ABSS, according to the bylaws.

LH Seconds the motion



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There was NO discussion on the motion  
The motion passed unanimously  
Roll call was taken on votes for clarity  
SS, JW, TD, JB, and LH all stated "I" for approval of the motion

AD listed those who would be eligible to be in the different roles and asked for nominations for self-nominations for those rolls

JW expressed interest in becoming Vice-Chair  
JB expressed interest in becoming Secretary  
SS expressed interest in becoming Chair

LH made a motion to approve the nominations listed above for RPAC Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

TD seconded the motion  
SS mentioned that not having Shayla on the call made the discussion somewhat limited  
The motion passed unanimously  
Roll Call was taken on votes for clarity  
SS, JW, TD, JB, and LH all stated "I" for approval of the motion

AD mentioned that he would meet with SS before the next meeting to discuss the agenda for the next meeting and that all members should reach out to SS if they have an item they would like to get on the agenda for the next meeting

## **Meeting Frequency Discussion (within the presentation)**

AD mentioned that the bylaws state that the commission only meets every other month but that the commission and or recreation and parks director could call a special meeting at any time. He asked for discussion about potentially changing that to a monthly meeting.

SS mentioned she suggested monthly  
TD suggested monthly, and that others do not meet in June/July  
JW also was fine with the monthly  
JB agreed with monthly

AD asked for a motion to change the bylaws to allow for monthly meetings. However, no one made a motion, so it was decided that the commission would have a special meeting in March 2021. The subjects would be discussed again during that meeting.

## **Presentation Questions (end of the presentation)**

No questions were asked during this time



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## **Budget Submission Updates**

AD mentioned that he turned in his budget to city hall for all aspects of possible funding. He also noted that he would have future meetings with the City Manager to discuss the budget and create a City Council presentation.

AD mentioned that due to the timing of the first meeting, the commission could not weigh in on budgetary items, but he hopes that they can do so in the future.

AD mentioned he was asking for three F/T Leaders to be added to the Recreation and Parks Department.

## **Future Meeting Invites**

AD mentioned he would like to invite all the F/T Leaders to a specific meeting to get to know each of them and have a familiar face.

TD would like them to do a spotlight on the team that they lead as well

AD mentioned that he would like MYSA to be apart of one of the meetings.

## **Commission Report Discussion**

AD explained that he asks AP, Kris Kloeping, Keith Withers, and Cy Allmond to prepare a monthly report. He has one prepared from the month of January to send out to the commission if they want to have that much information.

AD mentioned that he would send these reports out before each meeting with the agenda.

## **Chess Possibility in Mebane**

AD told the story of the possibility of a Chess Park in Mebane and all the communication history. He also mentioned that City Council had asked for the RPAC to weigh in on this possibility.

AD asked the commission if they would have an issue with the Chess area, assuming the family would pay for all the equipment and the install of the Chess park



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LH has requested more research to take place on the person who the chess park would be memorializing.

AD mentioned a small amount of research was completed, but nothing extravagant other than what we had heard from the family.

LH asked: what happens when this might happen again (a request for anything to be memorialized) She also mentioned that there should be a policy that guides the City on memorials.

AD mentioned that Rec Leaders would begin creating a policy for memorials

LH mentioned that raising money is okay, but what if they have a history that would not represent the City in a promising way.

SS mentioned that there is a 25K Go Fund me site. She would like to know the process and what has been done etc.

AD mentioned that information was shared on a previous city council meeting that could be viewed by members for more info on the topic

TD mentioned that ongoing maintenance should be matched in the policy for any new memorials



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## Homework

AD mentioned that optional homework was to send in headshots and a bio for the website, and he also showed the RPAC the website.

## Volunteer Opportunities

AD mentioned that there would be volunteer opportunities in the future and that there would be further discussions in upcoming meetings. He noted that the RPAC could request to volunteer in any way and use their intangibles to help the department out.

## NEW & ONGOING BUSINESS (parking lot items)

TD asked AD to convey to the department leaders what an excellent job he feels they are doing. Very complimentary.

TD also mentioned, too, the effect that the department has on the City, economically. Tax money that comes in based on events and facilities.

AD mentioned how much the department had been trying to help out with the downtown businesses

AD mentioned that he believes Recreation and Parks is an essential service to City Government. Mental health has been a massive part of combating COVID-19

SS mentioned that she would like to have a copy of the Recreation and Parks Master Plan

AD directed SS to the Recreation Master Plan on the City's website but said there are hard copies available in his office at the Mebane Arts & Community Center.

AD mentioned that he was putting in for a new Master Plan in the budget and would hopefully have the RPAC's support for the future Master Plan.

JW made motion to adjure

TD 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion

Motion passes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

*Meeting summary by Aaron Davis, City of Mebane Recreation and Parks Director*