



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary

August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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NAME	REPRESENTATION
Aaron Davis (AD)	City Staff
Sherri Seagroves (SS)	City Limits (Chair)
Lashonda Hester (LH)	City Limits
Tanner Deisch (TD)	City Limits
Shayla Clemons-Armas (SCA)	City Limits

Present: Shayla Clemmons-Armas, Tanner Deisch, Lashonda Hester, Sherri Seagroves, Aaron Davis

-SS called the meeting to order at 6:04

- SS Mentioned that Coach Kirby had practice and would not be at the meeting
- SS Mentioned that Jesse was not able to come tonight as well
- SS Mentioned that in an E-mail, Aaron mentioned that Justin Brawley had re-signed from the RPAC

- Committee approved minutes from June 21, 2021 meeting

- SCA – motion to approve
- LH – 2nd motion
- Motion approved unanimously – motion passed

## RPAC Commission Updates/Changes

- AD mentioned that Justin B. was resigning because of a busy work schedule
  - With his resignation (does anyone want to be secretary and/or fill the 3-year term) AD mentioned that the board could vote on moving someone into the secretary role and/or fill Justin's 3 year term
  - AD mentioned that we could fill the vacant position, but it likely



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- wouldn't work because the spot wouldn't be filled before the new positions would become active.
- AD mentioned that applications would go live September 1<sup>st</sup> for the next three years
  - TD was interested in taking the 3-year term to serve an additional two year term.
  - SS made Motion to have Tanner take the 3-year term position with the resignation of Justin Brawley
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> by LH
    - Motion carried unanimously
  - No one was interested in becoming the Secretary
  - LH will re-apply for a 3-year term in September
  - TD made a motion to wait to have a 6<sup>th</sup> member until next year
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> by LH
    - Unanimously carried motion

## **Council Member Meeting Updates: ALL**

- AD mentioned that there was not a lot to report from the meeting the previous week
  - AD mentioned that he had to speak up about private recreation at the potential apartment complex and found it odd that he was only required to review apartments and town homes, but not single-family home subdivisions
  - AD mentioned Who was running for City council?
    - Tim Bradley – Current Council Member
    - Jonathan White – Businessman
    - Katie Burkholder – Real estate agent
    - Montreena Hadley – former city planner
    - Charles Lopez – real estate agent
    - Roger Parker – former state representative candidate
  - TD Asked if members should be paired with those who are running?
    - The consensus was that it was not appropriate currently
    - Discussion was had about the different candidates to help RPAC members become familiar with candidates.
  - AD mentioned the next council would be the 13<sup>th</sup> of September



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## New Website

- AD mentioned that the new website is Live – [www.cityofmebanenc.gov](http://www.cityofmebanenc.gov) (check out the website).
  - AD showed the RPAC members the new website and went over the new URL
  - AD showed the RPAC page and removed Justin from the site
  - AD updated Tanner's terms on the website from 1 to 3 based on previous action by RPAC

## Program Coordinator Position Update

- AD mentioned that the Job is live and will close at the end of the month
- AD mentioned that he would like to have this hire before the Christmas Parade

## Programs Update

- Special Events
  - AD mentioned that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a HUGE success
    - SCA – mentioned that food trucks were a problem because the lines were too long, and we need more trucks next year.
    - SCA – mentioned that she liked the band being outside
    - AD – mentioned that the backyard games was a huge success
    - AD – mentioned that we need to re-think the DJ
- AD mentioned that Musical Chairs Concert was also HUGE success
  - SS talked about the event and the auction
  - SS mentioned that the auction raised over 700 dollars which will go to Alamance arts. Some of which will go back to MUSE and the rest will be spent in Mebane.
  - AD mentioned that we hope to really go big with the Concert Series next year with some bigger bands!
- Halloween Event planning has started (Parade downtown w/ pets)
  - AD went through logistics for a new Halloween Costume Parade in Downtown, which will also be pet friendly
- AD mentioned that the Christmas Parade Application goes live on 9/1
- AD went through the list of other Christmas events (tentative dates)
- AD mentioned that the Farmers Market is doing well, partnered with



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## Destination Downtown!!

- AD mentioned that the Bike Rodeo would be on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and that RPAC volunteers would be great!
- AD mentioned that the BPAC Parklet downtown, if anyone would like to volunteer that would be great. Aaron will send out more info about that
  - SS talked about the Better Block Trailer and that this parklet will hopefully help downtown businesses understand the importance of having available dining.
- AD mentioned that the Sports Hall of Fame is schedule for June 2022 and that Caterers are being contracted to get quotes about the event
- Athletics
  - AD mentioned that the department just finished 5 Summer Sports Camps in 4 weeks and that there should be a newspaper article coming out soon in the Mebane Enterprise
  - AD mentioned Tackle Football has started and has one team in each Alamance County age group
  - AD mentioned that there was a shortage of football helmets nationwide.
  - AD mentioned that Grow Golf Now, Flag Football and LAX will start in September
  - AD also mentioned that Basketball Registration is going on NOW!

## Budget Update:

- We are working on few purchases
  - AD mentioned that we are waiting on new slides to replace the broken slides @ Old Rec to arrive
  - AD mentioned Basketball Court quotes are coming in over budget at this time
  - AD mentioned Fairway Mower is being purchased
  - AD mentioned that the Blue Lights will be purchased soon and be put at Lake Michael and Cates Farm Park
  - AD mentioned that the MUSCO Light renovation @ Youth Field was underway
  - AD mentioned that the Swings for Lake Michael were being purchased and would be installed this fall
  - AD mentioned that the Mural @ Lake Michael project was going to be started in the fall
  - AD - Basketball Scorers Tables had been purchased, these will be a game changer for our indoor athletic programs.



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- SCA mentioned that the tables will be great for advertisement

## Projects Updates:

- AD mentioned that We are moving forward again with Cates Farm Park
  - Playground/shelter/entryway/parking lot
- AD – mentioned that the Tower Windows were replaced at the MACC
- AD - mentioned that Bathrooms were updated at Youth/Walker
- AD – mentioned that a New Storage Shed @ MACC was purchased for LAX and Baseball/Softball gear

## Grants:

- AD mentioned that the Retroactive Grant from PART-F was denied because we had already purchased the land.
- AD mentioned that he was still working on the details for the amphitheater that hopefully will be partially funded by the T-Mobile Community Grant
- AD mentioned that the Recreation Trails Program Grant was submitted

## Policy to Council:

- AD mentioned that the proposed drone policy was not brought forth to council, it is still being worked on.
- AD mentioned that the Scholarship program was approved by council
- AD also mentioned that the Metal Detector was approved by council
- AD mentioned that the Tennis Lessons policy had not been brought forth towards council yet. Though it is in the works
  - AD talked about why this lessons policy needs to be in place for liability, equity, and other issues. Currently the city does not know about or is managing the lessons and cash is trading hands without going through the financial system.
  - TD asked about lesson policy's for other sports on city property
  - AD mentioned that there is an internal policy that restricts anyone receiving money from a travel ball team, private lessons, etc..... they would have to rent the facility.
  - AD mentioned that in the past there has not been much of an emphasis on trying to get groups to rent fields, but it is a priority now.
  - AD mentioned that the leaders in the rec department can use



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civic rec on their phone to look up rentals on the spot if needed.

## **New business: ALL**

- SS has asked everyone to take time to look at the council approved advocacy commission municode that list all the duties of the member of the RPAC.
  - ALL – took 5 minutes to look at the information
- SS opened the floor about a discussion, she asked where we are doing a good job as a commission
  - SCA – mentioned she hasn't been as involved as she wants to be, she shares a lot of items on social media. She would like to do better
  - TD – In terms of recommendations and programs.....what are we missing in Mebane and how can we do better with the programming side
    - AD mentioned that we don't have any programs for teens and young adults and that we need to do better.
    - AD mentioned that he asked when he started who was running programs when he started and was told that it was his job and was told it was him. There is so much happening everyday and we lack the capability and bandwidth to produce such programs at this time.
  - SS – ask TD how he thought the SWAT analysis should be run
  - TD mentioned that he thought that RPAC should be involved in looking at the results
  - TD also mentioned that Mebane needs a Pool 😊
  - AD mentioned that the master plan will and should act as a that analysis
  - AD mentioned that he had done a rough draft and it is now in the hands of the planning department to help combine the RPAC and Bike and Ped Transportation plan.
  - SS asked if a company had been hired
    - AD mentioned that there needed to be a bid process based on an RFP
    - AD mentioned that this was going to be a great opportunity for RPAC to be involved in public meetings and their involvement in the master plan
- SS asked what knowledge had been gained since starting on the board
  - LH has been able to share a lot of information with others and she



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- is happy to share the information
- SCA agreed with LH and mentioned that she now has the knowledge and can share that with others.
- TD – connection with downtown events and quality of parks
- SS – meeting the leaders in the department and being introduced to the others that run the department. She finds how impressive how much we do with such little staff.
- SS asked what does the rest of the group hope to accomplish in the next six months
  - SCA – wants to see participation and seeing everyone enjoy the activities
  - TD – laying the groundwork, how the meetings are run.
  - SS – wants to accomplish a strong foundation, how people participate, and making sure social media is being shared by the members
  - SS – also wants the group to start using Trello or a project board to help us along the way.
  - AD – showed the group a Trello board that was used for a previous project
  - AD mentioned that he made one already for RPAC
  - SS talked about how we might use this to look at the projects and make suggestions.
  - AD mentioned that notifications could take place when items would be updated.
  - SS mentioned that the work would not leave and always be viewable and a history of what has been done.
  - TD said that we need to make sure we are following document retention law
  - SS mentioned that she could potentially run trello and is happy to do so
  - SS asked TD to look at the municode, TD mentioned that this was on par with others he has seen
  - AD mentioned that any changes needed to goto council
  - AD mentioned we could send out a 10 minute video about how to use trello
- SS asked everyone how they were engaged in social media
  - SS mentioned that liking and sharing is important on social media
- SS asked how we could better share what is going on more
  - AD mentioned that his fault is that he does not use the actual facebook app, so he uses a third party app to see comments and likes. He does not see the shares that everyone makes, but he



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- appreciates it.
- TD mentioned that his dog shares info about on Instagram a lot
  - ALL – most do not use Instagram, but most use facebook
- AD mentioned that Twitter was not a high priority, but is gaining interest with the community recently.
- SCA – mentioned that she likes the banners, she always sees the farmers market banner
- LH – mentioned we could use NEXT DOOR, but there was not a lot of people using
- TD – asked if there was a printer brochure
- AD mentioned that we typical put flyers on social and going to schools but we did not have an official booklet that went out.
- AD mentioned that there was not enough programming to merit the brochure
- SS mentioned QR codes that should be at each park that would give information about food, beverage, other parks, other amenities, and future programs they could sign up with. (what else is going on)
- SCA – mentioned that it would be like using the fitness court
- SS – is asking for permission to explore mountains to sea trail
  - One of the longest trails that goes right through clay street in Mebane
  - Many of them stopped at the community park
  - Should we have a sign somewhere welcoming them
  - She would like to explore through hikers and how the city could be involved.
  - TD mentioned that leave no trace education would be a good idea
  - SS mentioned that she had a certification
- AD – started conversation about upcoming meetings
  - Before Next Meeting
    - Create Trello account
    - Upload one project
    - Play around with trello
  - Next Meetings 9/15 – Tour Parks and have meeting
    - Take Tour of Parks
  - Following meeting 10/18 - Canoe and Kayak Trip + meeting
- AD mentioned the New City E-mails – please let him know if you are having troubles logging in
- AD mentioned that there were issues about having baseballs and softballs being hit on to the tennis courts. It is a big safety issue and that the courts are being ruined.





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## Adjournment:

- SS made a motion to Adjourn
  - TD – second
  - Meeting ended at 8:02pm

Meeting summary by Aaron Davis, Recreation and Parks Director on 9/2/2021