



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary  
October 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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NAME	Representation
Aaron Davis (AD)	City of Mebane Leader
Taylor Ford (TF)	City of Mebane Leader
Tanner Deisch (TD)	City Limits (Vice Chair/Chair Elect)
Emily Powell (EP)	City Limits
Jesse Whitaker (JW)	City Limits (Chair)
Sherri Seagroves (SS)	City Limits
Jay Bissette (JB)	City Limits

1. Call to order – T.D.
  - a. Meeting took place via zoom on Monday, October 17 at 6:00 p.m.
  - b. Recording for note-taking purposes
2. Approval of minutes – T.D.
  - a. Corrections from last meetings minutes
    - i. Sponsorship Packet – clarification that the prices on the packet cannot change until next FY as they would need City Council approval – A.D.
    - ii. Asked for other edits or recommendations – T.D.
    - iii. Motion to Approve – E.P.
      1. Seconded – S.S.
3. Master Plan Update – A.D.
  - a. At NRPA Conference went over the survey with the BerryDunn team
  - b. Hopefully RPAC members received their postcards in the mail and have been able to fill out the survey with their code
    - i. Heard of some issues but has not filled out survey – S.S.
    - ii. Sylvia brought forth some issues. We are working on correcting those through a third-party contractor from the consult. Email A.D. any other issues.
    - iii. Fine tuning issues with 4 BerryDunn team members. Should have been correct to begin with.
  - c. Social Pinpoint Site
    - i. A.D. sent link to social pinpoint site to all committee members via email
      1. Asked committee members to share link on their social media accounts and add things they would like to see implemented
      2. Examples: recommendations at the Mebane Community Park – skate park or outdoor basketball court



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3. Rec and Parks will send this link to RPAC members once more.
  4. Comments sections allows for back and forth.
  5. Comment that while lap swimming at New Millennium Fitness it was expressed that if you want more pool access in Mebane you should voice your opinions through this process. – T.D.
- d. Survey Postcards
- i. Sent it to between 4,800-6,800 residents.
  - ii. Once we get a certain number of responses that will be released to the general public.
    1. Data sets
      - a. Original Postcard Survey Group
      - b. General Public Survey Group
      - c. Mix of Both Survey Groups
    - iii. Concern about postcards getting lumped in with Election mail and therefore maybe getting tossed and not responded to. – E.P.
      1. That concern will be mentioned to our consultants. – A.D.
      2. This survey should go into November. – A.D.
      3. Human habit to lump that kind of mail together as trash. – E.P.
4. Cates Farm Grant Opportunity Update – A.D.
- a. At last month's Council Meeting there was a budget amendment to increase fund balance for Cates Farm Park now at about \$1.2 million.
    - i. A that same meeting we also asked for council's blessing to apply for a grant.
      1. Accessibility for Parks Grant
        - a. For this grant we need to present to several stakeholders including boards and commissions, outside groups as well as the general public.
      2. Connection disruption – S.S.
        - a. Very inclusive in terms of accessibility to not only children but also adults
        - b. She wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Mebane Trail Rangers
        - c. Grant opportunity is presented by NC Division of Parks
        - d. Playground design is by Beanstalk
      3. Accessibility for Parks continued



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- a. \$10 million being allocated for this grant
  - b. Spoke with our Representative and she mentioned there were not that many technical reviews, hopefully that means there are not that many applicants.
  - c. This is a 5 to 1 match grant; we are looking at about \$450,000 with about \$75,000 for our match
  - d. Apply by November 1 and will hear back in early 2023
    - i. That timeline might allow for the project to be completed in entirety before grand opening
  - e. Selection based on a universal design (ADA accessible and inclusive)
  - f. Phase 1 will include parking lot, entry way, shelter, paths, and part of the playground (4 towers, interconnecting bridges, sky hammock, other play elements and wheelchair swing).
  - g. Shared pictures
  - h. Phase 2 will include zipline, 5 more towers, connection to subdivisions and further connect paths to other parks (Lakes Michael, Mebane Community Park)
    - i. Subdivisions would build paths and then city would maintain them
  - i. Likes the design of the playground and that it is inclusive for all – T.D.
  - j. Trail rerouting has already begun
5. NRPA/NCRPA Conference Updates – A.D.
- a. We are fortunate to be able to attend these conferences.
  - b. A bit in awe of the size difference between the vendor hall at state conference and national conference.
    - i. Good experience to talk with consultants and vendors.
  - c. National Conference
    - i. Good networking experience to see people you don't always interact with at state level.
  - d. State Conference
    - i. Able to network at dinners and socials



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- e. Thanks to RPAC for advocating for the budget and giving us these learning opportunities.
- 6. RPAC Applications/Appointments – A.D.
  - a. As of October 16, we had 4 applicants
  - b. Would love to see more applicants if you know of anyone, please send them to CivicRec to apply they have until October 21
    - i. Could extend application deadline but if appointments were delayed might run into issues with our first meeting in 2023 (set for January)
  - c. Jesse has reapplied
  - d. Applicants must live within City Limits or within ETJ
    - i. Asked how to find out if you live in the ETJ – J.W.
      - 1. Alamance GIS – there is a data layer that shows residents included in ETJ
      - 2. Have we always allowed members to be residents of the ETJ? – J.W.
        - a. Certain it has been part of the Commission since its inception – A.D.
          - i. Agreed – T.D.
- 7. Upcoming Events – T.F.
  - a. Downtown Mebane Halloween Spooktacular – Saturday, October 29 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Downtown Pocket Park
    - i. Would love to have RPAC support as costume judges.
  - b. Mebane Makers Market pop-up – Saturday, October 29 12 – 4 p.m. at Bright Penny presented by Destination Downtown Mebane
  - c. Chili Cook Off – Saturday, November 5 4 – 6 p.m. in Downtown Mebane presented by Destination Downtown Mebane
    - i. Aaron is set to be a judge
  - d. Santa’s Arrival in Mebane – Saturday, November 19 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the MACC in conjunction with the Winter Wonderland Craft Show 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
  - e. Hometown Holiday Celebration – Saturday, November 19 – 3 – 8 p.m. in Downtown Mebane
    - i. Outdoor Movie will be presented by the City and will feature The Polar Express
      - 1. Hope to offer a Hot Chocolate Bar with support from Melomaniac
      - 2. Exact movie location TBD



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- f. Shop Small Saturday – November 26 in Downtown Mebane
  - g. It's Snowing in Mebane – November 26 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Downtown Pocket Park
    - i. The first date is usually our busiest!
  - h. It's Snowing in Mebane – December 2 4 – 7 p.m. at the Downtown Pocket Park
  - i. Mebane Christmas Parade – December 2 7 p.m. in Downtown Mebane
    - i. As of the October 14 had 55 applicants
    - ii. Application deadline is November 1, please share application with anyone who may be interested
  - j. It's Snowing in Mebane – December 3 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Downtown Pocket Park
  - k. It's Snowing in Mebane – December 10 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Downtown Pocket Park
    - i. If any RPAC member want to be involved, we appreciate the support! – A.D.
    - ii. Santa's Tour of Mebane has been discontinued and replaced with Santa's Arrival as there were liability concerns regarding that event and leaders riding on a float throughout Mebane – A.D.
    - iii. Mentioned this graphic listing upcoming events is on social media – A.D.
      - 1. Your social media graphics and presence always look so sharp I am sure that gets notice on the state level. – T.D.
        - a. Michelle Wells, Director of NCRPA gave us props on our social media.
8. 360 Evaluations
- a. Excited for Mebane on the Move's Reindeer Run 5K and Merry Mad Dash – T.D.
    - i. Hasn't taken place in the last three years and is a big fundraiser for Mebane on the Move to pay for instructor– S.S.
    - ii. Share that information with Taylor and we will get that event added to the upcoming events social media graphic – A.D.
  - b. Aaron would you be interested in being interview in article highlighting Year of the Trail as part of the Visitor's Guide – S.S.
    - i. Agreed to be a part – A.D.
  - c. Personal Update – closed recruiting firm and is now the Membership Coordinator for the Mountain to Seas Trail – S.S.
    - i. Has completed 6 events and has another scheduled for October 18 – S.S.



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- d. Asked for update on Outdoor Basketball Court – S.S.
  - i. Have not heard anything negative, only feedback has been the request for more outdoor courts. – A.D.
9. Parks Superintendent Update – A.D.
  - a. In the process of hiring
  - b. Not ready to announce hire
  - c. Will start October 31
  - d. Will be at next meeting
10. Public Information Officer Update – A.D.
  - a. Hired
  - b. Hire has not been announced formally
  - c. Will start October 31
11. Downtown Development Director – A.D.
  - a. Barbara
  - b. Had meetings about partnerships, what we will cover what she will cover.
  - c. She is a Quasi City Employee with city email and office at planning but overseen by Downtown Board
12. Farmers Market Update – A.D.
  - a. Hosting monthly meetings between now and start of next market season
  - b. September Meeting
    - i. Decided on location (same location), times (8:30 a.m – noon) and dates (2023 – April 1 – November 11)
    - ii. Asked vendors to assist in finding more vendors, specialty food trucks and weekly musicians.
    - iii. Asking for their assistance with social media with the longer season – likely will offer social media takeovers.
13. Comments/Questions/Thoughts
  - a. Next Meeting
    - i. Monday, November 21
  - b. Christmas Luncheon
    - i. RPAC invited
    - ii. Wednesday, December 14 – noon at the Mebane Arts and Community Center