

Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission – 8/21/23 – 6pm at Old Mebane Recreation Center

Name	Representation
Aaron Davis (AD)	City of Mebane Leader
Tanner Deisch (TD)	City Limits (RPAC Chair)
Emily Powell (EP)	City Limits
Jesse Whitaker (JW)	City Limits
Laurie Sawyer (LS)	City Limits
Sherri Seagroves (SS)	City Limits
Jay Bisette (JB)	City Limits

1. Call to order – RPAC Chair – T.D. – 6pm.
 - a. The meeting began with a tour of the Mebane Train Display and Q&A with a leader of the Mebane Train group.
 - b. Following the tour at the Mebane Train Display, RPAC was led through the Mebane Historical Museum and to the basement of the facility where the business portion of the meeting occurred.
2. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2023 – The minutes were approved with no edits
3. RPAC 360 Evaluation – Open Conversation/Misc – ALL
 - a. Boat rentals at Lake Michael – AD shared that over 1000 people have filled out the form to rent a boat. There are occasional issues, such as the life jacket bin being left open, or a pedal boat being left out in the lake, AD said that they had just had a john boat ditched in a cove. It would be ideal to have a Lake Michael attendant, especially for the weekends.
 - b. LS shared she had received feedback about the turf fields and that the comment was that only “one person knew how to operate the machine” to maintain the fields. AD shared that the information is not accurate, but there is a need for the infill to be re-filled, and it’s a costly project.
 - c. LS also mentioned a concern about the ducks at Lake Michael. There is a concern about the ducks being a nuisance and also that they may not be healthy since there have been at least a couple that have died.
 - d. AD shared that there was a comment received by someone who attended the Juneteenth festival that the American flag needed to be larger. The only flag currently at the park was hung by Eastern Soccer. The City is considering adding a Flag Pole to the Community Park in the future.
4. Budget
 - a. Turf Fields AD shared that there are issues with turf fields that need to be addressed. Specifically, they are slippery, and the turf is beaten down. The problems are being caused by a loss of infill. AD said that they have contracted with a company to test the infill depth and make

recommendations but that this could be a costly project, and how it is going to be paid for has not yet been determined. Will MYSA pay for any portion? That has yet to be determined.

- b. Flag pole – needing to build at the Community Park and the MACC ball field
- c. Lake Michael Spillway – working on getting permits for the project. Now have received a letter from an agency stating that the park needs to be evaluated to see whether it is home to a scarce bat species, and if it is, this could put a halt on the project until a plan for the bats is determined.
- d. Other projects that need to be addressed – Old Rec gym floor, MACC roof, and spillway

5. Upcoming Events – 9/30 – Alamance Adventure Race, Farmers Markets continue Saturday mornings until 11/11, and Cycle NC is on 10/3

6. Project/Program Updates – AD provided updates.

a. Cates Farm – Playground infrastructure should be completed in September, with construction on the play structure to begin in October. AD was visiting a similar playground in Morganton to see their structure and look at features/options for Mebane.

b. Fiddlers Stage – The shade portion is up, but the acoustic panels are incomplete. It will be named the Mebane Business Association Fiddler’s Stage due to the MBA’s financial contribution

c. Spillway project – mentioned previously – things are moving forward with the lake scheduled to be closed in Late Spring 2024 for about a year.

d. Master Plan – may combine the RPAC and BPAC meetings to present the updated Master Plan before taking it to the November council meeting for approval

e. Woodlawn entrance to the community park – bids were received – this project will move forward soon.

f. The Greenway and Connector project will be going before the council later this month for approval.

g. Water bottle fillers – have been installed at MACC baseball and soccer fields. Another will be installed at the community park and possibly at the Old Rec Volleyball Courts

h. Storage bins at Lake Michael – need to be replaced already. Farmers market would also like a storage bin of some sort. AD is considering talking to Boy Scouts to see if they would be interested in tackling it as a project.

7. RPAC Position Advertisement – AD – The position application goes live on 9/1. SS and TD terms end at the end of the year. They can re-apply if they like, but city residents can apply.

8 Pickleball Discussion – AD said that he hasn’t heard any complaints at all about pickleball. RPAC members mentioned that all they had heard were positive things. Several members talked about seeing many people using the courts for pickleball at various times. AD shared that another 2 courts were added outdoors. He shared that even the indoor pickleball at the MACC is going well and that those players want more courts. He said there would probably be a need for a person to coordinate pickleball at some point for the City. This was mentioned as possibly combining with tennis and that person becoming a “Net Sports Coordinator”.

9. Action Items / What happens next? –

a. AD shared that Youth Sports programs are all being filled. Basketball sign-ups have just opened. For RPAC reference, Mebane residents are taken off any waitlists before those from outside city limits. All of the summer sports camps had wait lists except for lacrosse. AD suggested that this is likely due to the product of facilities and people and growth. AD said that with things growing the way that they are and people wanting more, he will likely ask for 1-2 maintenance positions next year.

b. SS shared an update on Trail Rangers – the ornaments that the Trail Rangers will be hiding to celebrate “Year of the Trail” have arrived, and they will be hiding ornaments between September – November at Cates Farm, Lake Michael, Holt Street, and the MST. She also shared that Trail Rangers had 12 junior trail rangers graduate on 8/20 and were awarded a patch to recognize their work in the program. SS was excited by the diversity of the graduates. She also shared that a new Little Explorers group was forming and would be targeting preschoolers led by Erin Nelson.

c. Mebane Citizens Academy will be starting soon. The program is sponsored by the Mebane Women’s Club, but it’s an excellent opportunity to learn more about how the city operates. Recreation and Parks is featured during one of the Academy’s sessions.

10. Adjournment – motion made by SS, seconded by JB. Adjourned at 7:40pm