

Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission – 9/18/23 – 6pm MACC

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

1. Call to order – RPAC Chair – T.D. – 6pm
2. Approval of Minutes from 8/21/2023– The minutes were approved with no edits. JB approved. SS 2nd
3. RPAC 360 Evaluation – Open Conversation/Misc – ALL’
 - a) JW – asked how pickleball was going now that high school tennis had started.
 - b) AD said they added two outdoor courts at the old tennis courts and purchased nets. Now, requests have been made to get two more courts in the gym. Looking to expand to 6 courts in the gym.
 - a. AD said where we had a bit of lack of knowledge was that when we set up the high school tennis schedule, we set them up to play at the old rec, and the first time that Eastern had a match, they played at the new courts.
 - b. We had to move them back to the old courts because of the AED, which was how the schedule was made.
 - c) AD – AD has had 3 or 4 people contact him about putting vending machines at the park. Whoever would be awarded the contract would be responsible for all of the maintenance, vandalism, etc. People call angry about not being able to buy water. Probably looking at putting out an RFP.
 - a. LS and SS objected, saying it would create a potential for vandalism. TD and JB stated that they would support it because they are the standard in most parks and rec facilities. JW didn’t voice an opinion.
4. Budget
 - a) AD - TD had asked about how the R&P budget would be affected by the budget increase that did not go through at \$0.3 but rather \$0.2. The \$0.2 will be divided between Police, Fire, and Rec and Parks. It might have budget impacts down the road, but not immediately. There was also a comment about lining up projects versus deferring projects to different years.
 - b) SJ - has been putting together a list of big things that are going to take up a lot of funds. She said that the department will leave it up to city management to determine priorities
 1. MACC - Highest priority – roof restoration needs to occur at the MACC. New platforms at the MACC playground. Need a professional to come out and look at that playground to figure out how to address

2. it. Fitness area – cushions need to be replaced (probably \$2000).
3. CJ has been looking into a de-thatching machine for the mower- TurfRenovator . There is a lot of thatch that needs to be removed in order for the turf to remain healthy. Very low tech machine. (\$19000). It will be a time saver and could be used at multiple parks.
4. Old Rec – Old Rec has a lot of mature Bradford Pears. A lot of the trees go directly over the playground, which is dangerous. Need to install a shade structure over the playground because otherwise there would be no shade. Retrofitting the gym floor (kicked out last year)
5. Holt Street – approach footer that needs to be replaced. Rusted. Captain’s chair fitness equipment, all padding needs to be replaced. Looking to plant a vine over the tunnel at Holt.
6. Lake Michael – highest priority are the two piers that are not safe. At least have them removed. Both piers are blocked off, roped off, and signs say they are closed/unsafe, yet people are out there daily. SS suggested putting chicken wire over the whole pier so no one could get out there. The boathouse is not habitable and needs to be removed. SJ had cleaned up a lot of stuff out there, proving people had been out there. Also needs to be removed. Piers and boathouse need to be removed ASAP.
7. Community Park – Spring rocker broken off in the playground area and a cone has covered it. Spring needs to be removed. There is an ask for a flag pole to be installed (quoting out now). Fitness Court has cushions that need to be replaced.
8. Artificial turf needs some major TLC. Scientific testing organization came out and did a 10 page report on each field. Good news, we weren’t to the point the fields were deemed unsafe. Below industry standards on the infill. Need to be refilled and replaced. Some seams need to be redone. Not as much traction provided. Messes up the fibers on the top of the field (70-80K, total cost). Need to ask MYSA for contribution. Once we get the fields back to standard then we will be able to do some different things maintenance wise to improve the fields and make them last longer.
9. Cates – no issues to report.

5. Upcoming Events –

- a) 9/30 – Alamance Adventure Race- Joint venture between Alamance, Graham, Burlington, and Mebane
- b) Cycle NC is on 10/3
- c) 10/28 – Halloween Event – downtown businesses have never been a big fan of the event, but now instead of the Spooktacular, there’s a Jeepers Creepers car show where the jeeps hand out the candy, Farmers Market, Hearsay Tour – Mountain to Sea trail “ghost tour”
- d) AD said that by Thursday we might know if this is going to be a super huge event with many things happening
- e) 11/11 – Last day of Farmer’s Market

6. Project/Program Updates – AD provided updates.

- a) Cates Farm – Working on the stain for the building. Matching the stain to the playground. Site furnishings should be finished and the playground should take 2-3 months to install. Finished by mid-January. Probably won’t open officially until March.

- b) Fiddlers Stage – the stage is up, but the acoustic panels are not complete and the bolts still need to be certified. It will be named the Mebane Business Association Fiddler’s Stage due to the MBA’s financial contribution
- c) Master Plan – AD received a rough plan today. And will be looking it over the next week. At our next meeting we will receive a presentation. Huge slow down because consultants left the company contracted to manage the Bike/Ped
- d) Greenway – Rec department will maintain the greenway. Hoping to ask for a position to maintain the Greenway and Cates or some combination.

7. RPAC Position Advertisement –

- a) 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. There are currently 7 or 8 candidates who have submitted applications.
 - i. SS made a motion to add another position to the RPAC Committee from Southeast Alamance. TD seconded, motion was approved unanimously. AD to reach out and let principal know. He will also follow-up with JK to let him know that “Southeast” will have a seat at the table.

8. 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) 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.

9. Adjournment – motion made by JW, seconded by JB. Adjourned at 7:22pm