



Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary
January 30, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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
Evelyn Kreiley (EK)	City of Mebane Citizen
Laurie Sawyer (LS)	City Limits
Sherri Seagroves (SS)	City Limits
Jay Bissette (JB)	City Limits

1. Call to order – T.D.
 - a. Meeting took place at the Mebane Community Art Center and was called to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Approval of minutes – T.D.
 - a. T.D. asked if anyone had any changes to the meeting minutes.
 - b. L.S. mentioned that her name was spelled wrong in last month's minutes.
 - a. A.D. mentioned he would make those changes.
 - c. J.W. made the motion to approve the minutes from November.
 - i. S.S – 2nd
 - ii. All in attendance approved.
 - d. A.D. mentioned that he posted the November minutes as a DRAFT online because there was such a large gap between the two meetings. He would go back and make the edits and repost.
3. Introductions – T.D.
 - a. T.D. mentioned there were some new faces at the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
 - b. All members introduced themselves. (JW, EP, LS, TD, & SS)
 - a. JB was not able to attend the meeting until 7:30 pm
 - c. E.K. introduced herself as a citizen looking to see what the pulse was for the Recreation and Parks Department; she is coaching some youth programs in the area.
 - d. A.D. introduced himself and mentioned a few things as reminders about the mission of the RPAC.
 - a. ADVOCACY > ADVISORY is the main key.
 - b. Be the voice and be a champion of our programs, events, and facilities



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- c. Be the eyes and ears and please share what you see and hear
 - d. Share on social media.....
 - i. A.D. mentioned that helping with comments on social media is helpful or reaching out to let us know that there are comments.
4. RPAC passion appointments – T.D.
- a. T.D. mentioned that the RPAC had to fill two positions.
 - i. Secretary & Vice Chair/Chair Elect
 - b. A.D. mentioned that those rolling off the commission at the end of this year would not be eligible to become Chair-Elect
 - c. J.W. asked what additional responsibilities there may be as Chair-Elect
 - i. T.D. mentioned that there were minimal duties unless the Chair could not be present at meetings.
 - d. E.P. was nominated to become the Chair-Elect by S.S.
 - i. All approved
 - e. L.S. was nominated to become Secretary by S.S.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that the Secretary was in charge of typing or writing notes and then providing those notes to A.D. no later than 1 week after the meeting.
 - ii. All approved
5. Master Plan – A.D.
- a. A.D. mentioned that he sent meeting information about the Master Plan engagement meeting for the next time. He wanted to ensure that members could skip the meeting and would not need to attend meetings on consecutive nights.
 - b. E.P. asked if comments could be made at the meeting.
 - i. A.D. - Mentioned that the presentation would be available on YouTube and that questions and comments would not be allowed at the meeting.
 - c. A.D. went through the presentation with RPAC. If the public would like to view this presentation, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6okHbjjsEQ>
 - d. A.D. mentioned that the key findings overall were the following:
 - i. Walkways, Trails, and Pathways are essential.
 - ii. New Community Center w/ Pool for multigenerational use
 - iii. Facility (Park or Rec Center) South of the Interstate
 - iv. Improve Docks and Connectivity at Lake Michael
 - v. Fitness and Wellness additions



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- vi. Pickleball and other court additions to the City.
 - e. T.D. – mentioned that it would be great to have public engagement as a non-stop option for the public so they can continue to give feedback to the
 - f. E.K – mentioned that there could be a better way for citizens to give feedback than what is currently available. (can the format be changed and make it look better)
 - g. A.D. – talked about how most comments are given on-line
 - h. T.D – mentioned how happy he was that the RPAC helped push the website and links for master plan engagement.
6. Upcoming Events – A.D.
- a. Train Show @ Old Rec – March 11th
 - b. Farmers Market – Starts April 1st (two months before it started 4 years ago)
 - i. Market will end in November this year, but the City will only be involved for the normal period of time.
 - ii. Update the committee that healthy Alamance has pulled out, and we are attacking this from a different lens
 - iii. Municipalities and the County might merge for one employee to run the entire market system.
 - iv. For the time being, the City will be looking for a contractor that run just the Mebane market on Saturdays and help some with the admin.
 - v. The Rec Department’s bandwidth is now a little tighter due to this change.
 - c. Youth Sports (podcast coming out soon)
 - i. E.P. mentioned it was called a “VLOG”
 - d. Easter Events
 - i. Eggstravaganza – April 1st
 - ii. Rock Hunts at Schools – First week in April
 - e. Dogwood Festival Movie – April 21
 - f. Movies in the Park – April 29, May 5, 12
 - i. S.S. – mentioned that the Women’s Club might be interested in partnering for Popcorn
 - 1. A.D. asked S.S. to reach out to Taylor to see if MBA had offered that same service as they did last year or not.
 - g. Cycle NC (we need volunteers) – October 3rd.
 - i. Showed video of Mayor - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZQXG3f8xfg>
 - ii. A.D. mentioned that he would present to the council in February to discuss the group giving out alcohol to the participants at a 1-hour happy



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hour. This alcohol would be given to the organizers as a donation/sponsorship.

- iii. A.D. asked for volunteers for that event.
- iv. A.D. mentioned that Police, Fire, and EMS had been coordinated.
- v. A.D. mentioned that there would be a shuttle taking participants to downtown for shopping and dining.
- h. T.D. asked how this event came about:
 - i. A.D. replied that the Alamance Visitors Bureau reached out to the city to see if they were interested.
 - ii. A.D. also mentioned that the city has many opportunities to host events, but typically the events need a larger/more amenity at our event space.
- i. S.S. asked where participants slept.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that they either slept in tents, an R.V. or in a Hotel

7. Budget Update – A.D.

- a. Goals for this coming fiscal year.
 - i. 4 C's
 - 1. Correction (fixing)
 - 2. Completion
 - 3. Companion Construction
 - a. With other projects
 - 4. Compass Construction
 - a. Location
 - ii. **How can you RPAC help? (council partnerships) – Y**
 - iii. **Main priority - YEAR OF THE TRAIL/SAFETY**
- b. Top priorities in the CIP +\$25K
 - i. Cates Farm Park Phase #2
 - 1. Will find out about the grant by mid-March
 - 2. Hopefully, the project will be funded regardless of whether the grant is received.
 - ii. Community Park Parking
 - iii. Lake Michael Trails/Connector
 - iv. Lake Michael Building
 - 1. Structural engineers have look at the building and have recommended that a new building is brought to the lake, rather than trying to fix the building that is there.
 - v. Gym Flood @ Old Rec
 - 1. Other projects are on hold due to the nature of the floor
 - 2. Structural engineer will be meeting to give more information about the status of that floor.



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- c. Top priorities in the Capital Outlay
 - i. Water Bottle Fillers
 - ii. Barricades
 - iii. MACC Office uplift
 - iv. Basketball Goals @ Old Rec & MACC
 - v. Cameras @ Community Park Soccer Fields
 - d. J.W. asked about the priority of Master Plan items
 - i. A.D. mentioned that some might need to wait, but this is the YEAR of the TRAIL, so let's try to take advantage of that.
 - ii. A.D. mentioned that Pickleball courts were in the budget but likely would not be approved this year.
 - iii. J.W. asked about the cost of pickleball courts vs. basketball courts
 - 1. A.D. mentioned that the cost was less on pickleball but similar.
 - iv. T.D. confirmed that these items were for the fiscal year 2024
8. City Council – T.D.
- a. T.D. made sure all members knew of their partners for council discussions.
 - b. L.S. confirmed that she knew who her member partner was and that we had talked about that at our last meeting.
 - c. A.D. mentioned that it would be appropriate to meet with them to discuss the budget AFTER the February meeting.
 - d. A.D. will supply a list of talking points for the council.
 - e. It was asked what the many priorities would be this year for budget.
 - a. A.D. mentioned that the trails and connections at Lake Michael would be the top priority because it is the YEAR OF THE TRAIL
 - b. A.D. also mentioned that finishing Cates Farm Park would be a secondary priority with some trail connectivity in the project.
9. 360 Evaluation – ALL
- a. J.W. mentioned that he really liked and was impressed with the new vision of the board reports with Shawna coming on board and that he believes we have the right people in place.
 - b. J.W. mentioned that he was very pleased with the Basketball Program this year. He also mentioned that he appreciated the opportunity to watch basketball on YouTube on nights when he was traveling and away.
 - i. A.D. – went on a tangent about how happy he was with the program and how much time and effort is spent by staff making sure the programs are



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- great. He mentioned that even though we feel our program is one of the best in the state, we still get complaints about coaches and officials.
- ii. A.D. mentioned that if anyone in our program has any complaints, it would be helpful if the RPAC members shared the information above with them.
 - c. E.P. wanted to know about feedback from the parade.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that people loved the parade in general and that the live stream did not work well and was cut off due to lack of internet
 - ii. A.D. mentioned that the city might not pass out candy as much as in the past and encouraged the floats to pass out more candy
 - iii. A.D. mentioned that there may be a location in the future for “performances.”
 - d. T.D. mentioned that the postcard about the Christmas parade was very helpful and appreciated by the downtown residents.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that it was a lot work to coordinate those mailers, but it was the right thing to do for everyone in that area.
 - e. S.S. asked A.D. when the no-trespassing signs would be put up
 - 1. A.D. mentioned that the project was delegated and that he would check in on the status. He also mentioned that a solar light was installed on the kiosk so users could see the rules at night.
 - f. T.D. mentioned that there needs to be a safe spot for walking after dark.
 - i. S.S. mentioned maybe using the wildflower loop would be an option
 - ii. E.P. mentioned that it would be good to know what the options were.
 - g. S.S. talked about a citizen that was injured at Cates Farm Trails the night of the Christmas Parade and the severity of that fall.
 - h. S.S. mentioned that the Lake Michael gate was pushed open while closed and needs to be repaired.
 - i. S.S. asked about the two boys who were at Lake Michael and what was done with that information.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that the video footage was sent to the police and was in their hands now.
 - j. S.S. asked about no trespassing signs at the Lake from the subdivisions.
 - i. A.D. mentioned that staff would start working on that.
 - k. A.D. mentioned that he and S.S. presented at last months city council meeting about the Year of the Trail and Mayor Hooks signed a proclamation which was on file at the NCRPA office now.



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- I. T.D. asked about the 5K Reindeer Run in downtown.
 - i. S.S. gave details about the race.

10. Meeting Schedule

- ~~a. January 30, 2023 – Regular Meeting (MLK Day on the 16th) – MACC~~
- b. February 20, 2023 – Special Meeting - MACC
- c. March 20, 2023 – Regular Meeting - MACC
- d. April 17, 2023 – Special Meeting – Community Park
- e. May 15, 2023 – Regular Meeting – Holt St.
- f. June 12, 2023 – Special Meeting – Lake Michael (Juneteenth on the 19th)
- g. July – OFF
- h. August 21, 2023 – Regular Meeting – Old Rec
- i. September 18, 2023 – Special Meeting – “Maybe” Cates Farm
- j. October 16, 2023 – Regular Meeting (NRPA in Dallas on the 10-14)
- k. November – 20, 2023 – Special Meeting
- l. December – OFF (NCRPA in Wilmington 11-13)

11. Miscellaneous A.D.

- a. Project Updates
 - i. Fiddler Stage
 1. Bids are in, the project came in over budget, and A.D. would need to go to the council in February to ask for more funds.
 - ii. Cates Farm Park
 1. Project meeting just took place, the Playground construction would not start until October, the rest of the infrastructure.
 - iii. Kiosk @ Lake Michael will be installed within the next few months.
 - iv. Cates Farm Mile Marker Signs (also to be installed at the Lake)
 1. A.D. mentioned that EMS, Fire, and Police mentioned that shorter distances between mile markers would provide them an easier way to identify a location in case someone was in need.
 - v. Lake Michael Gate was broken, that will be fixed soon
 - vi. Lake Michael Gate Camera would be installed soon.
 - vii. Batting Cages – hoping to get the process approved and get those completed soon.
 - viii. Rentals at Lake Michael for this Spring/Summer

12. T.D. motion to adjourn at 7:21, J.B. second to approve.