



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary  
February 20, 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
Laurie Sawyer (LS)	City Limits
Jay Bissette (JB)	City Limits

1. Call to order – TD
  - a. Meeting took place at the Mebane Community Art Center and was called to order at 6:04pm.
2. Approval of minutes – T.D.
  - a. Everyone found the meeting minutes from the 1/20/23 meeting to be complete and accurate.
  - b. LS - made a motion to approve the minutes.
  - c. EP – second the motion to approve
  - d. All in attendance approved the minutes.
3. Conversation about Advocacy Action items – ALL
  - a. TD - Floor open for advocacy action items – RPAC Commission members should be advocating for more resources, having budget conversations for council members, be the first in line to volunteer, and providing info to our network
  - b. EP – Shared that sometimes it is hard for people to feel they are doing enough. If they are naturally the doer in the group, they would like to do more. Whatever we can do we're happy with.
  - c. AD – Sherry Seagroves (absent 2/20) sent an email earlier in the day to AD
  - d. TD – she suggested that all of the RPAC Commission members would have a pre-packaged group of Mebane businesses, civic groups, churches, etc. to reach out and inform of Recreation and Park needs, events, etc.
    1. JW – questioned whether that was the responsibility of the newly hired PIO and whether it would be a redundancy of work/information.
    2. AD – asked the group if they would be able to identify groups of organizations that we could send information to that are not already receiving contact from the department.
    3. LS – brought up the concern that groundwork with groups could be lost when turnover on the RPAC commission occurs or internal turnover within the group occurs.
    4. AD - mentioned Ray with Recreation Resource Services.
    5. AD talked with Ray about other communities that were using an Advocacy or



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Advisory group. Also talked with Michelle, ED of State Association and presented the idea at a P&R director's meeting. Mebane's RPAC agendas look very similar to other communities. No community in the room had an advocacy commission but Kernersville and Salisbury both liked the idea. AD also mentioned the idea of commissioners meeting w council persons and that was incredibly well received by communities in the room.

6. AD was very appreciative of our RPAC volunteers and said he trusted the members to take the information provided to the group and do what we felt appropriate with it.

a. AD – requested the RPAC members watch and share the Positively Unmatched: Mebane Spring Sports Part One video released today. AD requested that RPAC members share the video with as many people as possible so that it will have a lot of views and the community knows about the programs coming up.

## 4. Budget Update/Council Pairings – ALL

a. AD – Encouraged RPAC members to reach out to Valerie Foushee, Congresswoman for our district to express concern over pending legislation. The chamber's new majority plans to limit the types of projects that are eligible for guaranteed cash. For instance, they would prevent lawmakers from locking in funding for items like city parks and county museums — things that might brandish a member's name. AD said he would follow-up with an email to RPAC members the next day.

b. AD– would like RPAC members to meet mid-March meeting with assigned council members. Wanted to provide a quick update for us to have for meeting with council members:

1. There are quite a few projects that were expected to be in the budget for the coming fiscal year that will be completed soon – water bottle fillers, batting cage, new mower to name a few.
2. Some of the things that AD had recommended are just not going to happen – robot field painter, aerator, for example
3. At this time there are 6 things that are on the 5-25K and above 25K –
  - a. 1. Back entrance to the parking lot off Woodlawn,
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> – lake Michael connector (cannot be completed due to price increase),
  - c. 3. Roof restoration at MACC,
  - d. 4. Completing the loop around lake Michael would be a good one to speak about (if we keep pushing it out further, we're going to struggle to get it going),
  - e. 5. floor at the old rec (initial price was 80K, meeting with a structural engineer on Friday, may need to adjust),
  - f. 6. removal of the lake Michael building (possibly this fiscal year if we can find the money, if not, it would be next year)



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary  
February 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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- a. There are also smaller project such as fixing piers at Lake Michael, fixing basketball adjusters at the Old Rec Center,

c. JW – Asked if there was an update on pickleball courts – where is going? How many courts?

1. AD shared that there is not a good answer right now. The department decided to buy 4 portable nets and utilize the old rec tennis courts to try out pickle ball. He shared that tape will be put down to create the courts and that the department will specify when pickleball can be played. Will be using as a trial to see how popular it is. Would use the 3 tennis courts as a divider. Will test the need with the “temporary” courts, and then see what the needs looks like. May set hours to monitor noise level.

d. AD - Much like the trial with pickleball the department will be trying something at Lake Michael with Boat usage and rentals. There will be a system where if a person wants to rent a boat they can complete google form and waiver, and then they will receive a four digit code to enter at the padlock. There will be kayaks, john boats, canoes, etc. Padlocks will have changeable codes.

1. ES – asked about PFDs. AD said that there would be a bin with PFDs. AD also shared that Shawna is working hard to find weekend help for the boat station.

## 5. 360 Evaluation Time – What are you hearing? ALL

a. ES - brought up doing something for the Rec staff and asked if there might be any issues with this idea.

b. AD said he has had an issue with rules that prevented him from appreciating employees.

c. The commission well received the idea.

d. AD will add next month’s agenda item to discuss.

## 6. Special Event and Program Updates – AD

a. AD - Sat. 4/1 Easter Eggstravaganza and Farmers Market kick-off. Held downtown. Decorated eggs will be placed in business windows and then the Easter Bunny will visit and kids can look at the downtown windows to try and find their egg.

b. AD - Farmers Market will be staffed by a PT city worker or contracted attendant.

c. AD – stated he will send out an email with volunteer opportunities attached.

## 7. Miscellaneous/Other - All

a. AD– Shared the department is in the market to spend some of our “swag” stuff – cool



# Recreation and Parks Advocacy Commission

Meeting Summary  
February 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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towels, badge lanyards for staff, custom-shaped squishes, etc. Asked the committee if they had any ideas for swag.

8. Adjournment – TD

a. TD – motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm. JB second to approve.