

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission
Minutes**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at the Zanewood Recreation Center and was called to order by Chairperson Nolen at 6:00 P.M.**

Commission Members present:

Mark Nolen, At-large (Chair)
Dwain Erickson, West (Vice Chair)
William Birdnecklace, West
Latrina Caldwell, At-large
Joe Gomez, At-large
Miriam Osammor, East
Terry Parks, At, Large
Judy Purcell, Central
Kellina Quigley, At-large

Commission Members absent:

Johnny Hoang, At-large
Deborah Lande, Central
Taylor Murray, East

Councilmember XP Lee

Brooklyn Park Staff present:

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks
Marcus Hill, Parks and Facilities Manager
Pam McBride, Youth Services Manager
Jeanine Machan, Administrative Assistant

- 2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE
N/A**

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A Motion was made to Approve the June 21, 2023 agenda by Commissioner Purcell and second by, Commissioner Caldwell
Motion unanimously approved.**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion was made to Approve the May 17, 2023 minutes by Commissioner Erickson and second by, Commissioner Parks.
Motion unanimously approved.**

- 5. ACTION ITEMS
N/A**

- 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS**

1. TOUR OF ZANEWOOD AND DISCUSSION ON EXPANSION

Facilities Manager Marcus Hill provided an outline of how the evening's presentation was going to occur and introduced Ashley Adamma Ochiagha Interior Designer/Project Manager for the Teen Center project from Design by Melo Architect Firm that was hired to design the new space. Youth Services Manager Pam McBride and Manager Hill took the group on a tour of the Zanewood Recreation facility explaining the multiple programming use of each space and a look at the outside amenities and programming that takes place outside.

After the tour the work session was conducted starting with Manager Hill providing the Phase I Design Process Overview. Manager McBride and Ms. Ochiagha conducted a question-and-answer survey with the Commissioners who provided their thoughts and ideas on the needs for the new teen center by writing them down.

Discussion/Comments

Ashley asked the commissioners what was exciting about having a new recreation center?

- Commissioner Caldwell stated that having a designated space for the youth in the community.
- Commissioner Purcell stated that a new rec center would show that the city values the youth.
- Commissioner Quigley stated that it will foster talent and learning new skills.
- Commissioner Parks stated that it will give the youth a voice in the community.
- Commissioner Caldwell stated that it will create opportunities for the youth.
- Commissioner Parks stated it provides a place for the youth to go and gets them off the street.

Ashley asked the commissioners what concerns did they have?

- Commissioner Gomez stated his concern over the execution of the project.
- Commissioner Parks stated the price tag.
- Commissioner Nolan agreed and added where are the funds going to come from?
- Commissioner Purcell asked how the children that don't live near the rec center are able to get there?
- Commissioner Parks stated that the city does not have public transportation that run east to west.
- Commissioner Osammor stated that security is a concern.

Ashley asked the commissioners if there were places in the city that they felt were secure and why?

- Commissioner Gomez stated that the north end of town is safer.
- Commissioner Birdnecklace felt it was a perception that the area of Zanewood is unsafe. He feels safe in the area.
- Commissioner Erickson asked if there was an option for two centers so that there was a facility in the north? Are there any other options?
- Commissioner Osammor also agreed that the support for the rec center is coming from all over the city and it would be good to spread it around.

Ashley asked the commissioners what should be emphasized?

- Chairperson Nolen stated that space was needed.
- Commissioner Parks felt that open space for the kids to move about.
- Commissioner Osammor asked for clarification if it was decided that the rec center was going to be at the Zanewood location? The response was yes.
- Commissioner Purcell stated that it needed to be attractive to the youth so that they come.
- Commissioner Parks stated that it was important that the kids get a voice in the design discussion.
- Manager Hill stated that he has been talking to the youth and two themes reoccur: 1) they would like access to food and 2) opportunities to make money for themselves.

Ashley asked the commissioners what questions should staff be asking the youth and or family members about their needs in the new rec center?

- Commissioner Quigley asked if there were any business that have offered to provide opportunities for the youth? Manager Hill stated that there are a couple of meetings in the future with the City's Community Workforce Development and that staff will be relying on them to get that going as they have the connections with the businesses.
- Commissioner Erickson said ask the families would they bring their children to a new facility?
- Commissioner Caldwell suggested a community survey be put together. Manager Hill stated that staff are working on putting that together.
- Commissioner Parks stated that a question should be asked if they are willing to pay for it?
- Commissioner Parks said the youth should be asked what do they want for programming?
- Commissioner Erickson stated that asking the girls should be emphasized.
- Commissioner Caldwell asked if the hours can be extended?
- Commissioner Parks stated that weekends would be great if we have the staff.
- Chairperson Nolan asked if staff have looked at other rec centers to get ideas? Manager Hill stated that he and Manager McBride have done research across the county and found there are not many

rec centers that are a separate location by themselves. Many are attached to community centers, or connected to a school or just a community room. This facility will be a model for other communities.

- Commissioner Caldwell asked when will the center be finished. Director Tullberg stated that the grand opening would most likely be January of 2025. It depends how big the facility is based on the funding that is received.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Erickson stated the next walk would take place on July 19th at Oak Grove Park at 6:30.

8. WRITTEN REPORTS

1. PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE
2. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE
3. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Tullberg highlighted from the Directors Report the award of the state bonding of \$5M for the CAC. The project cost is around \$15M. \$4M was set aside by the Park Bond Referendum funds. The discussion will be on how to fill in the gaps.

Commissioner Nolan asked how Tater Daze went? Direct Tullberg stated that the parade went well with 65 entries. Attendance is still light. The Community Market afterwards was poorly attended. There is still discussion on date / location and how event can be improved in 2024.

Commissioner Parks asked if it was still the plan to put basketball courts at the CAC? With the expansion of a senior center does that mean mixing youth with seniors? Director Tullberg stated that basketball courts are still being planned. The ultimate plan for the senior center is still the Central Fire location as soon as Central Fire is moved.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Commissioner Gomez asked about the Pickleball Courts budget. Director Tullberg stated that more courts are being planned for Central Park possibly for next summer.

10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Councilmember XP Lee

City Council had a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on June 20, 2023 to review development models for the Oak Grove Parkway site over by Stone Mountain Pet Lodge. There's a lot of consensuses for higher density and signature amenities in the area. Which would put more pedestrian and bike traffic into Rush Creek Trail and Noble Sports Park.

2. CITY PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES

- Commissioner Parks asked for prayers for the 5 ladies who were killed in a car crash that occurred on June 16 by a reckless driver driving more than 100 MPH running a red light and t-boned the vehicle with the 4 women and 1 girl.

3. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING

- JULY – NO MEETING
- AUGUST 16 – TREE PLANTING & PICNIC at River Park North Shelter

4. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- AUGUST 7 – JOINT CITY COUNCIL / COMMISSIONERS MEETING

11. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Parks.

Motion unanimously approved.

Adjourned by Chairperson Nolen at 8:27 P.M.

Submitted respectfully,
Jeanine Machan
Secretary