

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Joint Meeting with New Hanover County Parks & Gardens
Microsoft Teams, January 19, 2022

Attending:

Tara Duckworth, Andy Johnson, Jodi Rich, Tanya Gurganious, John Hinnant, Nick Leder, Patrick O'Mahony, Davina Bell, Andy McGlinn, David Eason, Hunter Holland, Erika Robinson, Ingrid Corbi, Shirin Jenkins, Zach Gilbert, Cynthia Holden, Amy Beatty and Julia Stockwell

Davina Bell called the meeting to order and Andy McGlinn approved the minutes from the last meeting.

City of Wilmington Park and Recreation Updates

Comprehensive Plan

The consultant company McAdams began working on the plan in May 2021. June through November, staff meetings were held to gather information. The summary of findings was presented to staff in December. The plan is to be completed spring of 2022.

Greenfield Park

McAdams is also working on a Master Plan currently to create a higher profile for the park. Once they have completed the engagement period, they plan to reach out to the community for input. They hope to have the plan completed by spring 2022.

Urban Forest Master Plan

Consultant - Davey Resource Group. Currently, the group is in the process of a tree inventory collection which is about halfway done. In February, the engagement should be done, and the plan should be completed by the fall of 2022.

Parks Bond Projects

The Davis Center gymnasium at Maides Park was completed in April of last year and has been thriving.

The municipal golf course clubhouse has finally been completed. It features a much bigger pro shop as well as a nice lounge area for golfers.

Riverfront Park opened July 2021. So far, it has hosted at least twenty concerts and expect to exceed that this year.

Bradley creek Kayak launch project has the engineering staff serving as project manager. We are waiting for Duke to approve the design.

Halyburton Park staff are working to determine the priority of needs and are reaching out to contactors for the work to be done.

The Martin Luther King expansion plan is being worked on by a 3rd party to get an updated cost estimate for construction as well as a cost estimate for adding bathrooms to the new gymnasium.

Ncino Sports Park is waiting on DOT regarding the driveway and encroachment. We are looking into going into an agreement with the Cape Fear youth Soccer Association to provide lights. It will be managed by the Hammerheads.

Olsen Park Phase II.

Scope is the on-call consultant. Phase II includes between 4-8 pickleball courts with lighting, two multipurpose fields, paved trails, parking and signage. Staff is working with FEMA to replace the maintenance buildings that were destroyed in hurricane Florence.

New Hanover County Parks and Gardens Updates

NHC has Airlie Garden as well as 16 other parks, a variety of school and athletic facilities. They manage about 2900 acres of green space in the county.

At Long Leaf Park they have added a ninja fitness course and an adult basketball court. They have also lowered the goals on the kid's court hoping to keep adults off it. LED lights have been added for the tennis courts which will be resurfaced in spring of 2022 and will be adding a shade structure soon.

Hanover Pines is waiting on DOT to get a driveway permit. The 42.5-acre park will have a picnic shelter, playground, outdoor gym, dog park and a walking trail.

Airlie Gardens is now a part of the 'museums for all program'. Meaning anyone can show their EBT card and get in at no cost. The garden has monthly bird hikes, pollinator programs, tree walks and school curriculum programs.

Several trails have been and are being added to make the city and county more assessable and connectable for walking, running and biking.

The county currently has 22 FEMA parcels of land that were purchased by the county through their Hazard Mitigation Grant program. Once a property is torn down and the land is deeded to the county, parks and gardens are responsible for maintenance.

The pools at Echo Farms will be managed by the county this summer.

Andy McGlenn called the meeting closed.

The next parks advisory board meeting will be held on February 16 at 5:30 pm.