

Parks Advisory Board Meeting

Attending

Andrea Talley, Andy McGlenn, William Bordeaux, Erika Robertson, Shirin Jenkins, Gabriella de Souza, Hunter Holland, David Eason, Ingrid Corbi

Two presentations were given to the committee. The first was Dr. Janna Robertson from UNCW. She presented the idea of creating signs and murals for the Hemenway Center and murals for Earl Jackson Pool. They would be created by local artists as well as the Community Boys and Girls Club. She has grants to pay for and to maintain them.

The second presentation was by Evan Folds. He presented the idea of using natural pesticides and or composts throughout the city to cut down on potential poisons reaching our citizens and waterways. He is working with staff at Olsen Park on a pilot project to eliminate pesticides on two ball fields.

Members introduced themselves to the new member, Gabriella de Souza

Old Business

The Riverfront Park flyer was passed out. The park will be opened on July 2nd with a ribbon cutting ceremony and then a July 4th celebration with concerts. All will be free to the public.

The 21/22 budget has been approved. In it, a position has been approved for an Assistant Director in Community Services. The managers for each department will answer to this person.

Staff engagement meetings for the comprehensive plan will be starting soon. Steve Morrissey asked about the timeline for the comprehensive plan. Andrea Talley responded that the term of the work would be approximately 10 months.

The city pools are now open and summer camps are underway.

New Business

As far as DEI assessments, the IDEA committee (Recreation Division) has created sub committees to work on the different goals and one of those subcommittees is the Assessment Subcommittee. Andy explained that he and Hunter Holland (UNCW) have completed the survey which will be sent out to staff within the next month to gauge where we need improvement in our DEI endeavors. The process will be a year long and will consist of two follow-up surveys and reports compiled by Dr. Holland.

Andy also shared that soon they will be adding more signage as well as a selfie station in the park to begin educating the public about social trail creation.

Internal staff is in the early stages of restructuring the department. The restructuring plan is expected to be complete by December of this year.

There will be no July meeting. August 18th will be the next meeting.