

**CITY OF MONROE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
OLD ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER
500 S. JOHNSON STREET
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28112**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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- Item 1.** Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2021
- Item 2.** Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1B Project Update
- Item 3.** Program Updates
- Item 4.** Other Business

ATTENTION COMMISSION MEMBERS: Please contact Angie Sustar at asustar@monroenc.org or 704-282-4651 to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

**CITY OF MONROE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021
MINUTES**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Monroe, North Carolina met in the Old Armory Community Center at 500 S. Johnson Street, Monroe, North Carolina at 11:30am on September 21, 2021.

Present: Chairman Dan Shive, Commission Members Rhonda Griffin, Debbie Dillion, and Tiffany Wilson

Absent: Vice Chairman Moya Saltzgaber, Commission Member John Thomasson

Staff Present: Assistant City Attorney, Ashley Britt, Tonya Edwards, and Angie Sustar

Chairman Shive opened meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Item No. 2. Discussion of Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs Term Limits

Chairman Shive shared an update on the policy adopted by City Council on term limits for Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs. He stated the changes will go in to effect January 1, 2022. Chairman Shive advised that recommendations made today for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be presented to the Citizens Appointment Committee for consideration. The Citizens Appointment Committee will submit their recommendation to City Council. Ms. Edwards advised that Chairman Shive and Vice-Chair Saltzgaber's terms will end as of December 31, 2021 and the recommendation for Chairman and Vice-Chairman is needed.

By discussion and without objection, there was a consensus for the recommendation of Rhonda Griffin as Chairman and Tiffany Wilson as Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Edwards asked Assistant City Attorney, Ashley Britt for clarification on Member Wilson's eligibility for reappointment to the board. Attorney Britt stated that Member Wilson was eligible for reappointment of an additional term since she was currently serving her first term on the board. The Citizens Appointment Committee would consider her reappointment as well as the Vice Chair recommendation at the same time. She would just need to let Sherry Hicks (Deputy Clerk) know that she was interested in serving a second term, and Ms. Hicks would tell her if any further information was needed beyond the application already on file.

Assistant City Attorney, Ashley Britt also stated that members whose second term expires only have to roll off for one year and then they may reapply if they wish.

Assistant City Attorney, Ashley Britt stated that at the Citizens Appointment Committee meeting they will make the recommendation to Council for a final decision on appointments of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Those appointments will become effective in January of 2022. Ms. Edwards stated the Citizens Appointment Committee's next meeting is in December. Attorney Britt stated yes, but there could be a

special meeting before then.

Ms. Edwards expressed her appreciation of Chairman Shive and Vice-Chairman Saltzgaber's service to the Parks and Recreation Commission. She stated that Chairman Shive had served on the board since 2009 and as the Chairman since 2012; as well Vice-Chairman Saltzgaber has served since 2005 and as Vice-Chairman since 2012. Ms. Edwards thanked them on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department for their support in helping to promote the Parks and Recreation programs, events, facilities, and for all their years of being an advocate for Parks and Recreation in our community.

Chairman Shive stated that being on the board had been informative and a lot of fun particularly under Ms. Edwards' leadership and her staff. He advised that he has seen so much that has changed for the best for the Parks and Recreation Department and that it has been an honor to be a part of the board and witness all that has taken place.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2021

Member Tiffany Wilson moved to approve the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of July 20, 2021.

Member Debbie Dillion seconded the motion, which unanimously passed with the following votes:

AYES: Chairman Shive, Members Tiffany Wilson, Rhonda Griffin and Debbie Dillion

NAYS: None

Ms. Edwards reminded everyone that October's meeting will be the first Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6:00pm at the Old Armory Community Center. She stated that she hoped this change would provide an opportunity for citizens that could not attend a lunch meeting would now have the opportunity to serve on this board if they wished. Ms. Edwards advised that currently there is one board vacancy and that there will be two more as of December 31, 2021. She asked members to encourage anyone that might be a good candidate to serve on the board to please apply.

Member Griffin asked for clarification on the number of current vacancies. Ms. Edwards advised currently there is one vacancy and as of December there will be two more.

Ms. Edwards announced her retirement effective December 1st, with her last day being November 12th. She shared that though she is very excited about her retirement, the decision was a difficult one to make and was done so with mixed emotions. She shared that she felt thirty-three and a half years was a long time to be doing any one thing and that she was looking forward to what her future holds. She stated it has been a wonderful career with the City of Monroe and that she could not have asked for a better place to work. She stated that her career had started with Union County Parks and Recreation seven years before she came to the City. Ms. Edwards is very proud of all the accomplishments and improvements that have been made to both the programs and facilities during her career in the Parks and Recreation Department. She credited much of the department's success to Brian Borne, Interim City Manager for his understanding of the department's needs and his willingness to convey those to Council. She also shared her appreciation to Council for their support of Parks and Recreation and understanding its value. Ms. Edwards expressed her full confidence in the current staffs' ability to successfully complete the projects that are now underway including the new senior center and the Belk

Tonawanda Park renovation/expansion project, as well as, to continue to provide excellent programs and facilities for the residents. She expressed her appreciation to the board for their support.

Member Dillion asked about the Golf Pro position vacancy. Ms. Edwards advised they are currently looking at a potential reorganization of staffing at the golf course and there would be an announcement in the near future.

Chairman Shive expressed his appreciation for all the work Ms. Edwards has done to improve Parks and Recreation. He stated, "If I were to start a business, I would hire Tonya immediately and I would go home and watch television because she is so organized, she does a great job, and I wouldn't worry about it." He commended Ms. Edwards for the outstanding job she has done and for all that Parks and Recreation has accomplished under her leadership and that she would be greatly missed.

Chairman Shive asked about the transition of this position. Ms. Edwards stated that Human Resources is working to post the position. Chairman Shive asked if there would be an interim. Ms. Edwards stated that no decision had been made at this time but she feels confident there will be someone assigned in an interim role until the new Director is hired due to the timing of her retirement and where they are currently in the process.

There being no further business, Member Debbie Dillion made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Tiffany Wilson seconded the motion, which unanimously passed with the following votes:

AYES: Chairman Shive, Members Debbie Dillion, Tiffany Wilson, and Rhonda Griffin

NAYS: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department