

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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- Item 1.** Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2022
- Item 2.** Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1B Project Update
- Item 3.** Senior Center Renovation Project Update
- Item 4.** General 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
APRIL 5, 2022
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 6:00P. M. on April 5, 2022.

Present: Chair Rhonda Griffin, Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson, Debbie Dillion

Absent: John Thomasson

Staff Present: Assistant City Attorney Ashley Britt, Ryan Jones, Darren Baucom, Fred Baber, Rae Moore, and Angie Sustar

Chair Rhonda Griffin opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes from January 4, 2022

Chair Griffin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting.

Motion: Debbie Dillion moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2022 meeting.

Second: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

Action: The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: Debbie Dillion, Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson, and Chair Rhonda Griffin

NAYS: None

Item No. 2. Belk Tonawanda Park Phase IB Project Update

Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Jones provided a project update, presented an artist rendering of the “Splash” pad, and provided information on its location within the park. This project also includes a picnic shelter with adjacent restrooms, a fully inclusive fitness station and the bocce courts will be relocated.

Item No. 3. Senior Center Renovation Project Update

Mr. Jones provided a brief a project update. He advised that construction is underway and on schedule. All furnishings and audio-visual equipment will be ordered in the near future. Mr. Jones stated the new facility will provide opportunities to diversify program offerings.

Vice Chair Wilson asked when the project would be completed. Mr. Jones stated that tentatively the completion time frame is the end of summer to early fall as long as construction remains on schedule.

Item No. 4. General Program Updates

Recreation:

Mr. Jones announced Thomas Latimer has been promoted as the Recreation Centers Supervisor. He now supervises all recreation community centers. In this role, he will focus solely on the community

centers and programming, and engage with the community. Mr. Jones stated that this position has been changed from what it was previously. He stated that Mr. Latimer was previously the center supervisor at Sutton Park Community Center for over eleven years and in that time had built relationships within that community. Mr. Jones is excited to see him build relationships at the other community centers as well.

Mr. Jones announced the hiring of two center supervisors. They are: George Massey at the J. Ray Shute Community Center and Ashura Colquhoun at the Sutton Park Community Center. Mr. Massey has been a part-time employee at the J. Ray Shute Community Center for six years and has been very dedicated to that community. Ms. Colquhoun has over five years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She holds a bachelor's degree in recreation and parks management with a concentration in recreational therapy.

Mr. Jones stated that participation numbers at the community centers are growing and enrollment for summer day camp at the Dickerson Center is underway.

Athletics and Special Events:

Athletic and Special Events Coordinator Rae Moore provided an update on athletic programs and upcoming events. She stated that athletics are in full swing in baseball with a total of nine teams which is 110 participants. She credits the increase in participants to offering sports to the younger age groups. There is also an increase in youth track and field, where there are 150 participants and 24 on the waiting list. As well, there has been increased interest in adult softball. Open pickle-ball play was offered each Wednesday in March. Ms. Moore has worked with an organization, Tennisbloc, to offer tennis and pickle-ball programming. There will be a ten-week summer session offered June through August at the Dickerson courts. Registration for the ten-week session is through Tennisbloc. Ms. Moore provided an update on the United Senior Games currently underway.

Ms. Moore stated the Easter Eggstravaganza held at the Parks Williams Athletic Complex was a great success with a huge crowd and beautiful weather. She shared the upcoming special events line up with the Car "Cruise In" 6pm – 8pm this Friday, April 8th, Music on Main is Friday, April 22nd, an outdoor movie event on Friday, April 29th at Dickerson Park, and a 5K event on May 7th at MAFC

Chairman Griffin asked if with the Dowd Theater open downtown, is there a master calendar of special events for the City? Discussion followed.

Member Dillion asked if Parks and Recreation have anything to do with the new science center. Mr. Jones advised that the science center is under the Tourism Department and Pete Hovanec is the Director.

Mr. Jones stated that the Parks and Recreation Department manage the parks, recreation facilities, and the MAFC. He advised that the science center, The Dowd Theater, and the golf course are under Tourism.

Chairman Griffin made the suggestion that it would be help for a list of what falls under the category of Parks and Recreation be made for the advisory board members. Mr. Jones stated that he will provide the information requested. Discussion followed.

Monroe Aquatics & Fitness Center:

Interim Director Fred Baber provided a brief update on programs. Mr. Baber announced hiring Bonnie Hoag as Aquatics and Fitness Supervisor. This position was previously held by Cindy Lisk who retired last year after twenty-two years of service. Bonnie has been with the MAFC for four years and worked with Cindy. He advised that hiring for summer positions is underway.

Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Darren Baucom provided an update on projects that are currently underway. Staff is transitioning between winter and spring projects. He advised that the outdoor courts painting project of the resurfaced basketball courts at Dickerson Recreation Complex is almost complete. The court will feature two half courts and a full court.

Member Dillion asked if there were Pickle-Ball courts at Dickerson. Mr. Baucom stated there were six on the tennis courts.

Vice-Chair Wilson asked if the basketball courts at Sunset were the City of Monroe. Mr. Baucom stated yes and that it was in next year's budget to address.

Vice-Chair Wilson made a request for a track in the City of Monroe. She stated there's no track for children to practice on during the weekend because schools are closed. She suggested that one be put at Parks Williams Athletic Complex.

Chairman Griffin asked if the middle schools have track. Ms. Moore stated that this year track and field was offered to middle school students. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, Chair Rhonda Griffin called for a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Motion: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson made a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Second: Member Debbie Dillion

Action: Motion to adjourn.

AYES: **Debbie Dillion, Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson, and Chair Rhonda Griffin**

NAYS: **None**

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department