

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

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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- Item 1. Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2022**
- Item 2. Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1B Project Update**
- Item 3. Phil Bazemore Active Adult Center Renovation Project Update**
- Item 4. General Program Updates**
- Item 5. 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
JUNE 7, 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 June 7, 2022.

Present: Chair Rhonda Griffin, John Thomasson, Debbie Dillion

Absent: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

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 April 5, 2022

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

Motion: Debbie Dillion moved to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2022 meeting.

Second: John Thomasson

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

AYES: Debbie Dillion, Chair Rhonda Griffin, and John Thomasson

NAYS: None

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

Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Jones provided a project update. He stated the goal is to have the bottom portion of the park open in time for the 4th of July event. He advised that there will be a delay in the opening of the splash pad due to a delay in construction materials. Mr. Jones would like the meeting next month to be a lunch meeting at the park.

Item No. 3. Senior Center Renovation Project Update

Mr. Jones provided a brief a project update. He advised that construction is going well and is on schedule. All furnishings have been ordered and audio-visual equipment will be ordered in the near future. He stated the tentative move in timeline is September.

Item No. 4. General Program Updates

Recreation:

Mr. Jones advised that the Parks and Recreation Department received funding from the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that allowed park renovations at Sunset Park and bathroom renovations at Dickerson Park to begin earlier than planned.

Athletics and Special Events:

Athletic and Special Events Coordinator Rae Moore provided an update on athletic programs and upcoming events. Ms. Moore advised that Tennisbloc is offering a ten-week session for tennis and pickleball for a variety of ages. There are nineteen registered for tennis and ten for pickleball. She advised that registration for flag football ends June 30 and summer camps begin on Saturday with Kinder sports for two – four year olds at the Dickerson tennis courts followed with baseball next month.

Chair Rhonda Griffin asked for more information on Kinder sports.

Ms. Moore advised that Kinder sports are clinics offered to ages two – four years old. Clinics run 60 to 90 minutes and are offered in soccer, kick-ball, baseball, basketball, and tennis has been added this year.

Ms. Moore shared the upcoming special events line up with the Car “Cruise In” 6pm – 8pm this Friday, June 10th, Juneteenth is Saturday, June 18th at Dickerson Recreation Center, and Music on Main is Friday, June 24th.

Ms. Moore advised that currently in adult sports there is a three team co-ed softball league.

Chair Rhonda Griffin asked if there was a concession stand at the field. Ms. Moore responded that years ago there were concessions at baseball games. Mr. Jones advised that there has been some discussion about using food truck vendors.

Discussion followed.

Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Darren Baucom provided an update on projects that are currently underway. He advised that the outdoor courts painting project of the resurfaced basketball courts at Dickerson Recreation Complex is complete and the courts are open.

Mr. Jones advised that Shining Light Baptist Church had donated property located on Pinedell Avenue to Parks and Recreation and demolition would begin soon on an existing structure located on the property. This property will be used for outdoor educational opportunities for our afterschool program and summer camps.

Member Thomasson asked if there will be any gardens? Mr. Jones responded that the space could be used for gardens, fishing, and other outdoor educational opportunities. He advised that there is limited access to the property. Discussion followed.

Member Thomasson asked how many acres there were. Mr. Jones stated he would confirm the acreage.

Mr. Baucom advised that the J. Ray Shute playground replacement has been completed.

Monroe Aquatics & Fitness Center:

Interim Director Fred Baber provided a brief update on programs. Mr. Baber stated that he has been encouraged by the consistent increase in membership numbers.

Chair Rhonda Griffin asked how new membership is promoted. Mr. Baber advised that new forms of advertising were being utilized such as mobile advertising that are billboards as well as past forms such as radio and newspaper. He is also looking to advertise to new home buyers in some way.

Chair Rhonda Griffin stated that with so many new home neighborhoods being built one possibility would be to contact the builder and as part of an incentive for the neighborhood they may purchase a certain number of memberships to be included in their new home purchase packages.

Member Thomasson suggested contacting HOA's and ask to attend their meeting to share information.

Mr. Jones advised that staff organized a "Pop Up" event at MAFC on Saturday, May 7th. They partnered with the Police Department to have a "Fun Run" as part of the event. The outdoor pool was opened for the day and this event was to let everyone know that we're back. It was very successful and in one day there were about 100 membership activations.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Baber thanked the Board for their support. Member Thomasson stated that he would go and talk to HOA's or other groups if he could be provided with eight talking points.

Member Dillon asked if information had been proved to the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Baber stated that they did have information.

Chair Rhonda Griffin commended staff for their efforts.

Member Dillion asked if there were enough lifeguards. Mr. Baber stated that the aquatics center was fortunate to have all lifeguard positions filled.

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

Motion: Member John Thomasson made a motion to adjourn this meeting.

Second: Member Debbie Dillion

Action: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: **Debbie Dillion, John Thomasson, and Chair Rhonda Griffin**

NAYS: **None**

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department