

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023
12:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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- Item 1.** Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2022
- Item 2.** Bearskin Greenway Phase III Plan
- Item 3.** Construction Project Updates
- 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
DECEMBER 13, 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 12:00P.M. on December 13, 2022.

Present: Chair Rhonda Griffin, Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson (arrived at 12:20pm), John Thomasson, Debbie Dillion

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

Chair Rhonda Griffin called the meeting to order at 12:00pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Item No. 1. Staff Notes for Information Purposes Only – November 15, 2022

Item No. 2. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2022

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

Motion: Debbie Dillion moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 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. 3. Construction Project Updates

Phil Bazemore Active Adult Center:

Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Jones provided a brief update on the Phil Bazemore Active Adult Center construction project.

Member Thomasson asked if a wood working program would be offered? Mr. Jones advised that once the vacant wood working instructor position is filled, it will be offered.

Discussion followed.

Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1-B Project:

Mr. Jones provided a brief update on the Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1-B project.

Item No. 4. Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center Membership Rates

Mr. Jones advised that there were items on the City Council's Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting. The items are:

- A request to increase membership fees and increase joining fees at Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center. The increase includes a 20% increase in membership fees and a \$25.00 increase in joining fees. Increase to be effective February 1, 2023.

Item No. 5. Other Business

Mr. Jones advised that there were items on the City Council's Consent Agenda for tonight's meeting. The items are:

- The donation of \$14,000 from the Monroe-Union Breakfast Rotary Club and Pilgrim's Pride for inclusive playground equipment at Belk Tonawanda and Dickerson Parks.

Mr. Jones advised of vandalism at the new basketball courts at Sunset Park. He stated that fortunately it wasn't extensive damage and it can be quickly repaired.

Athletics and Special Events:

Athletic & Special Events Division Supervisor Rae Moore provided an update on athletics and upcoming events. Ms. Moore advised that basketball season is in full swing. Baseball and softball registration is currently underway. Last week the Christmas Tree Lighting was a tremendous success.

Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Darren Baucom provided an update on special projects that are currently underway. He advised that the basketball courts projects at Dickerson, Sunset, and Creft Parks have been completed and the courts are in use. As soon as the water fountains with doggie bowls arrive and are installed, the Dog Park project at Sunset Park will be completed. Construction on the picnic shelter at Sunset Park is scheduled to begin this week. He advised that loose leaf collection continues to be busy. He advised that leaf truck drivers are working an extra hour daily and on Saturday mornings to keep up with the amount of leaves.

Member Thomasson expressed his appreciation to Darren Baucom and the maintenance staff for working with the County to coordinate the tree planting in Memory of David Lee. The tree is located at the entrance of the Union County Court House.

Community Recreation Centers:

Recreation Division Supervisor Thomas Latimer provided an overall update of community center programs currently taking place. He advised that in partnership with Union Diversified Industries (UDI) and staff at the Sutton Park Community Center, the Sutton Park Basketball Bonanza event that took place recently was a great success.

Mr. Jones advised that today's meeting is Chair Griffin's last meeting as Chairman. He recognized Chair Griffin for her years of service to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City. He expressed his appreciation for her commitment and dedication to the Commission.

Discussion followed.

Chair Griffin stated that it has been a pleasure serving on the committee and it has been great to have an inside window of seeing what happens behind the scenes. She stated that staff does a great job and it's evident that they are excited about their job and enjoy what they do.

Mr. Jones stated that we are actively looking for individuals to serve on the committee. He advised that anyone interested in applying for the Chairman position to email him. He said the Commission could make a recommendation, but none was provided.

Vice Chair Wilson asked when were the meetings moved back to noon. Mr. Jones stated it was at the October meeting.

Member Dillion presented a donation from the Monroe Garden Club in the amount of \$1,592.82 to be used at the Teaching Garden at Dickerson Community Center. Mr. Jones thanked her and said this will go to Council for approval.

Vice Chair Wilson asked if meetings times could switch every other month? Mr. Jones said that would be difficult for staff due to the many evening events that they handle. He added that attendance when the meetings were held in the evening was low, and the change in time did not attract any prospective members.

Vice Chair Wilson expressed gratitude to Chair Rhonda Griffin for her service on the Parks and Recreation Commission, and said she should be recognized by the Commission.

Motion: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson made a motion to show appreciation to Rhonda Griffin for her service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Second: Member John Thomasson

Action: Motion to show appreciation to Rhonda Griffin for her service on the Parks and Recreation Commission passed with the following votes:

AYES: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson, John Thomasson, and Debbie Dillion,

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Rhonda Griffin

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

Motion: Chair Rhonda Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

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

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

NAYS: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department