

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023
12:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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- Item 1.** Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2023
- Item 2.** Bearskin Greenway Phase III Plan
- Item 3.** Construction Projects 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
FEBRUARY 14, 2023
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 February 14, 2023.

Present: John Thomasson and Debbie Dillion

Absent: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

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

Visitors: Amanda Cotter

In the absence of the Vice Chair, John Thomasson served as Acting Chair for this meeting. Mr. Thomasson called the meeting to order at 12:06PM.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2022

Mr. Thomasson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion: Debbie Dillion moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 meeting.

Second: John Thomasson

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

AYES: Debbie Dillion and John Thomasson

NAYS: None

Item No. 2. Bearskin Greenway Phase III Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Ryan Jones shared plans for the extension of the greenway. He advised that this phase will connect Don Griffin Park to Creft Park. He stated that Creft Park is located near the Winchester community. Through a donation from the Catawba Lands Conservancy the City was able to secure two easements that will assist in connecting Don Griffin Park to Creft Park. This greenway corridor will connect a neighborhood that is considered to be underserved to another park, a farmer's market, a neighborhood that is adjacent to a school, to Belk Tonawanda Park, and to the historic Downtown greenway. He stated that the purpose of greenways are to provide connectivity.

Discussion followed

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. He advised that it is very near completion. He advised that the contractor will turn the building over as soon as the CO is received. An open house grand opening will be planned at a later date.

Discussion followed.

Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1-B Project:

Mr. Jones provided a brief update on the Belk Tonawanda Park Phase 1-B project. He advised that there have been delays on the completion of the splash pad due to plumbing routing changes. He advised that the construction of the shelter and restrooms has been completed.

Item No. 4. General Program Updates

Mr. Jones advised that in conjunction with the Police Department, to address the misuse of amenities in the parks, a non-sworn in officer has been designated and will begin working to constantly monitor and patrol the parks.

Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Darren Baucom advised that leaf collection season is near completion and the final day is February 24th.

Member Thomasson asked if leaves are mulched. Mr. Baucom responded that a third party vendor provides mulching of leaves. Discussion followed.

Mr. Baucom provided an update on various special projects that are currently underway. He advised that the Dog Park project at Sunset Park has been completed.

Member Dillion stated that the outdoor basketball courts look good.

Mr. Baucom advised that the shelter at Sunset Park has been completed with the exception of the sidewalk. He provided the following various park updates:

- The addition of inclusive play elements at Don Griffin Park.
- The completion of outdoor courts at Creft Park.
- The old parking lot behind the outdoor restrooms at Dickerson Recreation Complex has been removed.
- Relocating three Disc Golf baskets on the course.

Athletics and Special Events:

Athletic & Special Events Division Supervisor Rae Moore introduced Peter Davidson as the new part time Recreation Assistant.

Ms. Moore provided an update on athletics and upcoming special events. She advised that registration for Youth Track and Field is open and practices will begin in April. She announced the following upcoming special events:

- Easter Eggstravanga is Saturday, April 1st at the Parks Williams Athletic Complex
- Music On Main is April 28th, May 19th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, and September 22nd
- Car Cruise In is the second Friday of each month April - October

Discussion followed

Community Recreation Centers:

Mr. Jones advised that Program Guides will be available soon. He stated that Thomas Latimer, Recreation Division Supervisor is working on a more structured after school program for the community centers.

Monroe Aquatics & Fitness Center (MAFC):

Mr. Jones advised that MAFC staff are working to provide extended opportunities to members such as opening the Waterpark in May. He advised that the adopted increase in membership rates went into effect February 1st.

Item No. 5. Other Business

Mr. Jones announced the resignation of MAFC Operations Division Supervisor Fred Baber effective Friday, February 10th.

Mr. Jones advised that the Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2024 Budget presentation to Council was taking place at the City Council Strategic Planning Meeting today at 3:30pm.

Mr. Jones expressed his appreciation to the staff for all they do.

Member Thomasson stated the he sees the work of staff and sees the difference their work makes.

Member Dillion commended staff for the great job they do with limited staff.

Mr. Jones advised that the Monroe-Union Breakfast Rotary Club made a donation in the amount of \$14,000.00 for the purchase of inclusive recreation equipment at Belk Tonawanda and Dickerson Parks.

There being no further business, Member Dillion made a motion adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Debbie Dillion made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: John Thomasson

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

AYES: John Thomasson and Debbie Dillion

NAYS: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department