

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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

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Item 1. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2023

Item 2. Construction Projects Update

Item 3. 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 11, 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 April 11, 2023.

Present: Debbie Dillion, Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson, John Thomasson (arrived at 12:15PM)

Staff Present: Assistant City Attorney Ashley Britt, Ryan Jones, Darren Baucom, Kellie Corcoran-Walters, and Angie Sustar

Visitors: Amanda Cotter, Ed Cottingham, Reporter for The Enquirer Journal

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2022

Motion: Debbie Dillion moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting.

Second: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

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

AYES: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson and Debbie Dillion

NAYS: None

Item No. 2. Creft Park/Bearskin Greenway Phase III Master Plan Presentation

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.

Mr. Jones advised that the Creft Park/Bearskin Greenway Phase III Master Plan being presented at today's meeting would be presented at this evening's City Council meeting. He introduced Mr. John Wood, Senior Project Manager with Benesch. Mr. Wood advised that the Greenway Master Plan consisted of four priority greenway segments. They are the Bearskin Creek Greenway, Phase II (EB-5011) – 1.6 miles, the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center to Parks Williams Athletic Complex (MAFC/PWAC Connector) – 0.3 miles, the Bearskin Creek Greenway, Phase III – 0.4 miles, and the Winchester Center to Bearskin Creek Greenway – 0.9 miles. He stated that the Bearskin Creek Greenway, Phase II and MAFC/PWAC Connector segments have been completed and the Creft Park/Bearskin Creek Greenway III is the next segment. He stated the estimated total project cost of this segment is \$1,000,000 and with a PARTF grant request of \$500,000, the local match would be \$500,000.

Mr. Wood advised that PARTF grant applications are due by May 1, 2023 and PARTF awards are announced late Summer or Fall 2023. He stated the time frame of construction after signing of the contract is three years.

Mr. Jones advised that the next step would be for the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council consider the Creft Park/Bearskin Creek Greenway III Master Plan for adoption.

Discussion followed

Motion: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson moved to recommend Council approval of the Creft Park/Bearskin Creek Greenway III Master Plan.

Second: John Thomasson

Action: The motion to recommend Council approval of the Creft Park/Bearskin Creek Greenway III Master Plan passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

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

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 it will be completed and open early summer.

Dog Park at Sunset Park Project:

Mr. Jones advised there was a ribbon cutting ceremony opening the dog park on Thursday, April 6th. He advised that this construction project consisted of the dog park, a picnic shelter, basketball court renovations and sidewalks.

Creft Park playground addition project will begin soon.

Mr. Jones advised that inclusive playground equipment has been installed at Belk Tonawanda Park and Dickerson Park.

Vice Chair Wilson stated that Dickerson Park is looking good.

Item No. 4. General Program Updates

Parks Maintenance:

Parks Maintenance Superintendent Darren Baucom advised that construction of the shelter is complete and the sidewalks at the dog park at Sunset will be installed in the next two weeks. He advised that the next project underway is repair and replace fencing at the pool located at the Winchester Community Center.

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center:

Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center Superintendent Kellie Corcoran-Walters advised that planning is underway for the aquatic center's 25th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, May 7th. She advised that

this event is an open to the public event and that the Hero Run and 5K are on May 20th. She advised that the MAFC will return to opening on Sunday beginning April 16th. The Sunday hours of operation are 1:00pm – 5:00pm.

Member John Thomasson stated that he was at MAFC recently and that there were more people there. Ms. Walters stated that they are seeing a nice turn around with increased memberships. Mr. Jones advised that effective April 1st there was an increase in part-time salaries.

Community Recreation Centers:

Mr. Jones advised that staff are working on summer programs for the community centers. He advised that registration is open for the summer camp program at Dickerson.

Athletics and Special Events:

Mr. Jones advised that due to inclement weather the Easter Eggstravaganza scheduled for Saturday, April 1st was postponed to Sunday, April 2nd and was a huge success.

He advised that upcoming special events are:

- 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

Mr. Jones provided an update on athletics. He advised that registration for Youth Track and Field ended on March 31 and practices will begin April 17th.

Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson asked for the Track meet dates. Mr. Jones advised that there are three meets and he will confirm and forward the dates to her.

Item No. 5. Other Business

Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson asked Commission members if they were available on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm. Member Debbie Dillion replied yes but Thursday are her meeting nights and not available Tuesday nights during the months of February and March. Member John Thomasson advised that he is available.

Discussion followed.

Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson made a motion to move the meeting to the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at the Old Armory Community Center.

Motion: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson made a motion to move the meeting to the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at the Old Armory Community Center

Second: John Thomasson

Action: Motion passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

NAYS: None

After some discussion regarding the benefits of holding the meeting prior to the Council meeting, the members decided to amend the previous motion.

Motion: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson made a motion to amend the first motion to move the meeting to the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at the Old Armory Community Center beginning May 2, 2023.

Second: John Thomasson

Action: Motion passed unanimously with the following votes:

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

NAYS: None

Member Debbie Dillion advised that there had been some discussion in her Ag Extension office about Ag week and having something in downtown Monroe and asked who would be the contact. Mr. Jones advised that Downtown Director Matthew Black would be the contact.

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

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

Second: Vice Chair Tiffany Wilson

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

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

NAYS: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Sustar,
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department