



## **Prosperity & Livability Committee**

*Chaired by Councilman Hudson*

*Committee Members: Hudson, Holmes, Jefferson, and Peters*

**March 9, 2022 –9 :00 a.m.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Council Chambers**

### **Minutes**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesley Hudson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Following a roll call, the following attendance by Committee Members was duly noted.

#### **Present (4):**

Chairman Wesley Hudson [Left the meeting at 10:14 a.m. prior to a vote on the last item and prior to adjournment], Committee Member Monica Peters [Arrived at 9:05 a.m.], Committee Member Cyril Jefferson and Committee Member Michael Holmes

#### **Staff Present:**

Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager; JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney; Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager; Jeron Hollis, Managing Director; Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney; Ryan Ferguson, Communications Manager; Lee Tillery, Parks & Recreation Director; Andy Piper, Senior Planner, Planning & Development Department; Rebecca Coplin, Beautification Project Manager; Lisa Vierling, City Clerk; and Mary S. Brooks, Deputy City Clerk

*The following documents associated with the presentations, are hereby attached as a permanent part of these proceedings:*

- 1. PowerPoint Presentation-High Point City Lake Park Update.*
- 2. PowerPoint Presentation-Tree Plan.*
- 3. PowerPoint Presentation-Keep High Point Beautiful Strategic Plan.*
- 4. Hand Outs-Social District Maps, NCRMA Social Districts Summary.*

PRESENTATION OF ITEMS**2022-115      Update: City Lake Park Project**

Lee Tillery, Parks & Recreation Director, will be providing an update on the City Lake Park Project.

*Lee Tillery, Parks and Recreation Director, extended greetings; made a PowerPoint Presentation (PPP) on the City Lake Park Project (Project); said that there would be a 'History Wall' at the Park dating back to 1920; interviews were conducted for information regarding the history of the Park; provided design details and photos showing the progress that had been made so far; explained the details for the alternate option for the water slide; how and where the pedestrian bridge would be constructed along the Park; spoke to the new stage where events would be held; provided photos that showed where the new parking lot would be; and spoke to the challenges faced regarding traffic flow entering/existing the Park.*

*Committee Member Holmes voiced concern regarding challenges faced for visitors trying to locate parking; asked if staff had reached out to surrounding businesses to help with the parking needs; and inquired on the traffic abatement flow. Mr. Tillery replied stating that the south entrance to the Park would be reopened; said that staff had reached out to surrounding businesses that would assist with overflow parking; that additional parking would be located at the back of the Park near the stage; and that staff was working on determining the best flow for parking during special events.*

*Mr. Tillery continued discussion regarding the Project's budget; voiced appreciation for the amazing work Samet Corp. has done; said that the total budget for the Project was \$23,152,748; spoke to the three change orders made that were due to additions needed regarding the Project that affected the schedule; for the updated budget, the current cost savings were \$213,156.57; Samet's Construction contingency remaining was \$357,045; the City of High Point's construction contingency remaining was \$293,015.84; the PARTF Grant received was for \$500,000; and the estimated savings was over \$1.3 million. Mr. Tillery outlined additional expenses to be incurred for the Project as follows: Pedestrian Bridge/Greenway Connection, additional cost for new slide and replacement for the chemical storage roof that totaled \$1.3 million.*

*Committee Member Holmes inquired on the issues concerning the chemical storage roof. Mr. Tillery explained the reasoning for the replacement chemical storage roof; and noted that the material used now was not as hazardous.*

*Mr. Tillery continued with the timeline for the Project; the pool construction would be completed June 29, 2022, exterior improvements-July 21, 2022, event center/locker rooms-July 27, 2022, new water slide-August 4, 2022, and the pedestrian bridge/greenway connection-September 20, 2022; said that the pool would be open to the public next summer-2023; the other amenities would open upon completion; spoke to the challenges faced regarding supply chains; and entertained questions.*

*Committee Members Jefferson and Holmes both voiced appreciation for all of the hard work and efforts considering the challenges faced; and for the cost savings for the Project as well.*

**2022-116      Discussion: Long Term Tree Plan**

Andy Piper, Senior Planner-Planning & Development Department, will be discussing the city's Long Term Tree Plan.

*Chairman Hudson voiced appreciate for the Long-Term Tree Plan (Plan); and expressed the importance in planting trees.*

*Andy Piper Senior Planner, Planning and Development Department; noted that he was the Chair of the High Point Urban Forestry Committee; spoke to the other tree planting projects with local businesses; and spoke to the five main goals in establishing long term tree plans as follows;*

- *Make High Point a net positive tree city*
- *Develop a tree replacement plan for Main Street in downtown*
- *Contracting with a nursery to grow trees that are ready for planting when needed*
- *Introduce a City-sponsored annual tree giveaway to High Point residents*
- *Initiate a line item in the annual budget to ensure the success of these programs*

*Mr. Piper spoke to making High Point a net positive tree city; one of the goals would be to plant a tree to replace every tree on city controlled spaces that either died or was removed; spoke to creating a well-designed streetscape with a variety/diversity of trees; outlined the maintenance required to maintain the trees; shared how trees affected the livability of the city; said that studies showed that trees had a direct economic impact, and health benefits; to move forward with the Plan, staff is requesting the following:*

*A greenlight to move forward with initial planning efforts*

- *Giving this initiative a line in the budget to establish its importance*
- *Requesting \$25,000 in recurring funding for:*
  - *An annual tree giveaway*
  - *Establishing a contract with a local tree nursery to grow trees for High Point*
  - *Replacement and improvement of trees in downtown Main St. corridor*
  - *Marketing, publicity, and materials*
- *There are multiple organizations that would be interested in supporting and partnering on this program*

*Committee Member Jefferson said that he looked forward to implementing the Plan; and spoke to increasing the walkability downtown.*

*Committee Member Holmes spoke to the benefits the trees would have on the environment, and the city's infrastructure.*

*Chairman Hudson spoke to the challenges on maintaining the trees.*

**Chairman Hudson moved to forward this matter to the City Council with a favorable recommendation. Committee Member Holmes made a second to the motion. Following a roll call vote by Chairman Hudson, the motion carried by the following 4-0 unanimous vote:**

Aye (4): Chairman Hudson, Committee Member Holmes, and Committee Member Peters, and Committee Member Jefferson

**2022-117      Update: Keep High Point Beautiful**

Rebecca Coplin, High Point Beautification Supervisor, will be presenting Keep High Point Beautiful's Strategic Plan for 2022.

*Rebecca Coplin, Beautification Project Manager, extended greetings; gave a special recognition to city departments, and thanked them for their assistance and cooperation in making Keep High Point Beautiful (KHPB) successful; made a PPP regarding the KHPB Strategic Plan for 2022; spoke to KHPB's mission; outlined the calendar of events that included projects such as the Underhill Neighborhood Sign, Storm Water Art Project, and the Piedmont Triad Big Sweep; spoke to KHPB's action plan that included six goals that would be focused on: Green Project, Social Media, Schools, Recruitment, Diversity, and Corporate Outreach; outlined the steps that would be taken to achieve these goals; provided a list of grants that they applied for; provided a list of the Board Members, Partners/Sponsors/Donors, Volunteers, and City Departments that assisted KHPB; said that KHPB was working on an 'Ask' for feedback from the community; and entertained questions.*

*Committee Member Holmes said that he would share KHPB's information with the community to get them more involved.*

*Committee Member Peters invited KHPB to the grand opening for the food court on April 22<sup>nd</sup> so that she could spread the word regarding KHPB.*

**2022-118      Discussion: Creation of Social Districts**

Staff will provide information regarding the Creation of Social Districts.

*Greg Ferguson, Deputy City Manager provided a background regarding North Carolina's new law on Social Districts; provided a definition for Social Districts- "A defined outdoor area in which a person may consume alcoholic beverages sold by an ABC permittee"; said that this term does not include the ABC permittee's licensed premises, or an extended area allowed under G.S. 18B-904(h); said that the city may adopt an ordinance designating an area within the municipal limits as a social district under G.S. 160A-205.4; outlined the requirements and process; discussed the comparables with other cities; and said that businesses would have to opt in to be apart of the Social Districts.*

*Mr. Ferguson Greg explained the requirements that customers would have to follow regarding required containers/cups that contained alcoholic beverages; and that customers could not bring their own personal cups.*

*Meghan Maguire, Assistant City Attorney, said that the cups from establishments would have to have the property identification; and meet the 16 oz non glass requirement according to law.*

*Committee Member Holmes asked if all businesses were contacted regarding the creation for Social Districts. Mr. Ferguson said that working groups were formed that reached out to surrounding businesses; spoke to the outreach efforts that focused on uptown; discussed the process for the ordinance that would have to be adopted; and said that the ordinance could be changed after adoption.*

*Committee Member Holmes inquired on the creation process for the Social Districts. Mr. Ferguson replied that council would vote for initial boundaries; and stated that if the city moved forward with this request that temporary signs and containers would be used.*

*Committee Member Jefferson voiced safety concerns regarding walkability on Main Street; requested staff come back with comparables with other communities regarding walkability investments.*

*Committee Member Peters recommended having more street parking uptown that would assist with walkability safety.*

*JoAnne Carlyle, City Attorney, advised the committee that the ordinance for Social Districts would come before full council at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.*

**Committee Member Jefferson moved to forward this matter to the City Council with a favorable recommendation. Committee Member Holmes made a second to the motion. Following a roll call vote by Acting Chairman Peters, the motion carried by the following 3-0 unanimous vote:**

Aye (4): Chairman Hudson (see note below), Committee Member Holmes, and Committee Member Peters, and Committee Member Jefferson

***Note: Prior to voting on this matter, Chairman Hudson departing the meeting without being officially excused; therefore his vote was recorded as a 'yes' pursuant to N.C. General Statute 160A-75.***

*Mr. Ferguson advised that staff could delay the uptown district to conduct further work regarding the safety concerns for pedestrians; and said that safety was important.*

*Committee Member Holmes requested to couple walkability with social districts to address safety concerns without delaying any plans.*

*Committee Member Jefferson stated that he would not want to delay any plan as well.*

*Ms. Maguire clarified that once the borders were established that those businesses choosing to be a part of the Social Districts would be required to register and follow all rules/regulations in place, and any business could opt out and not participate if they so choose.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Prosperity & Livability Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Wesley Hudson, Chairman

Attest:

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Mary S. Brooks, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk