

City of High Point

*Municipal Office Building
211 S. Hamilton Street
High Point, NC 27260*



Minutes

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

9:00 AM

Council Chambers

Prosperity and Livability Committee

Wesley Hudson - Chair

Michael Holmes

Cyril Jefferson

Monica Peters

Jay Wagner, Mayor (Alternate)

Britt Moore, Mayor Pro Tem (Alternate)

Prosperity and Livability Committee - Council Member Wesley Hudson, Chair

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

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.

Attachments: [High Point City Lake Park Update.pptx March 2022](#)

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.

Attachments: [Tree Plan Powerpoint](#)

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

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

Attachments: [KHPB Strategic Plan](#)

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 22nd 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.

Attachments: [High Point Uptowne Social District Map - 2-22-2022](#)

[High Point Catalyst Social District Map - 2-16-2022](#)

[NCRMA Social Districts Summary](#) [NCLM](#)

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 21st 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:

Wesley Hudson,
Chairman

Attest:

Mary S. Brooks, CMC
Deputy City Clerk