



**MINUTES**  
**Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Department**  
**July 9, 2020**  
**5:30pm**  
**ZOOM**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Amanda Sawyer**      **Nicholas Harvey**  
**Merwyn Smith**      **Sue Ellen Maddux**  
**Dr. Gary Wojeski**    **Christopher Bradshaw**  
**Kelly Jarman**        **Jeremy Barnett**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**Dr. James Sylvia**    **Sonya Berry**  
**Felicia Solomon**    **Rosalyn Yarus**

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The July, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chair, Amanda Sawyer. A motion was made to approve the March, 2020 minutes. (No meetings were held in April, May, or June due to COVID-19).

Motion – Harvey; Second – Wojeski; Vote – Unanimous.

There were no committee reports.

Corey Povar discussed the recent openings of Holloway Pool, Fairfield Splash Pad, and Lions Water Adventure Water Park. Corey Povar issued a formal apology to the commission for lack of communication regarding this and any Parks & Recreation activities. Corey explained that he was not directly involved in the decision making process due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was guided by the City Manager's and City Council's decision to open Lions Water Adventure. Corey wanted Holloway Pool and Fairfield Splash Pad to open at the same time to better serve the community. Corey stated that things were going well at Holloway Pool and Fairfield Splash Pad. Both sites are limiting visitors to 50% capacity. All staff members, including lifeguards, are required to wear face masks unless the lifeguard is on deck. Visitors of Holloway Pool and Fairfield Splash Pad are met with an attendant who takes each individual's temperature with a temporal thermometer. Each individual is then required to fill out a waiver of liability and sign in. Initial visits to either Holloway Pool or Fairfield Splash Pad require the waiver of liability, temporal scan, and sign in/out. Subsequent visits only require a temporal scan and sign in/out.

Lions Water Adventure Water Park is operating at less than 50% capacity of visitors due to adapting to 50% capacity of the pool, not including deck capacity. Normal capacity is 1200 visitors; current capacity is 350 visitors. The operating hours did include a morning and afternoon session with sanitation efforts between times but due to low participation, the operating hours changed to one session per day; open Thursday – Monday, closed Tuesday & Wednesday. There are multiple sanitation stations, the chairs are set up to promote social distancing, as well as social distancing signage and decals throughout the park. Nick Harvey stated that he had noticed new shade canopies at the water park and that it should help with social distancing, and asked if the Recreation Department had paid for them. Corey Povar stated that the Recreation Department was fortunate to receive allocated money to refurbish the water park, which included the additional shade.

Dr. Gary Wojeski asked if we were able to start opening up activities such as baseball, softball, etc. Corey Povar discussed voting on the ability to rent ball fields for tournament play because the Recreation Department has received multiple phone calls from tournament providers wanting to hold tournaments in Kinston/Lenoir County. Nick Harvey stated that at this time, the school ball fields could not be used for game play. They were restricted to only work outs for the athletes per the NC

High School Athletics Association guidelines. Corey stated that we could make use of our Recreation locations; Fairfield, Bill Fay, Holloway, and Barnett Park. Dr. Gary Wojeski stated that we need to come up with specific guidelines to be voted upon to move forward. Sue Ellen Maddux asked who would be responsible at the tournaments to enforce the guidelines. Corey stated there would be a Recreation employee assigned to manage each site and to ensure that guidelines are being followed. That upon any request to rent any of our fields, that a policy would be put into place that they would need to submit their COVID-19 safety guidelines and a contact person for any communication concerning these guidelines. Nick Harvey asked the commission their thoughts on any shared burden of liability with or without waivers. Amanda Sawyer stated that with the Top Gun Sports Association, a waiver had to be signed for each player stating that the parents took full responsibility if anything were to happen. Dr. Gary Wojeski stated that we should move forward, with a waiver, and that we could take the necessary precautions with outdoor sports. Sue Ellen Maddux stated that the risk is the same with allowing the pools to be open as it would be with playing baseball and that the sponsoring agents need to be held responsible for all safety guidelines to be followed. The Recreation Department should only be responsible for providing the site. Dr. Gary Wojeski made a motion that a set of COVID-19 safety guidelines should be created and that the commission should meet again after to finalize the procedures. Amanda Sawyer asked if there should be a subcommittee and Sue Ellen Maddux thought it would be good idea. Corey Povar stated that if the Recreation team was going to be putting together the guidelines, that it would be helpful to have a subcommittee for feedback before bringing it before the entire commission. Sue Ellen stated that it shouldn't wait a month for the next Recreation Commission meeting, that there should be a called meeting before that time; Amanda Sawyer agreed. Dr. Gary Wojeski made a motion that the commission reconvene with guidelines within 1-2 weeks; Second - Smith-second; Vote - Unanimous. Corey Povar stated that Scott Alston, Recreation Superintendent, along with program staff would compile a list of COVID-19 procedures to send to the subcommittee. The subcommittee would include Amanda Sawyer, Sue Ellen Maddux, and Jeremy Barnett.

Corey Povar asked the commission members for support with recruiting applicants for the two vacant city Recreation Commission seats. Nick Harvey asked if Felicia Solomon had been replaced by another City Council member. Corey stated that the City Council required a letter to the mayor, from the Recreation Commission Chair, requesting that a new City Council member be appointed to the Recreation Commission. Corey will present this at the next council meeting if possible.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion – Harvey; Second – Wojeski; Vote – Unanimous.

Melissa McCoy

Secretary to the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Commission