

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 27, 2015
County Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Howard Bridgeman, Conservation Commission
Mr. Bob Jackson, Summerville Town Council
Mr. George Bailey, Dorchester County Council
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Bailey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the December 2, 2014 meeting be approved as written. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made at this time.

BLUEWAYS UPDATE:

Mr. Bridgman showed a video from the paddle the Ashley River/Oyster Roast event which was held in November. There is a tri-county initiative that is pushing for access to blue ways and other water access which is in line with a current state and national push for the same objective. There is an intern working to map the Ashley River which may make it the first to be completed in our state. We also watched a video from American Rivers which highlighted a project that they completed in Rockingham, North Carolina.

Mr. Bridgman talked about a piece of property that the county owns in Dorchester Estates. It is located near Slands Bridge on 17A, which is the planned blue trail's starting point. There is a developer in the area that is interested in the property. The county may be able to work with him so that it will allow access to the Ashley River. There are some property line issues. The national park service has guidelines to make access points for kayaking and this may be a help to the county.

COMMISSION MEMBER OUTING:

Commission members have been invited to North Myrtle Beach to see and experience the GO APE attraction that has been installed there. We will also tour North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex while there. The tentative date for this excursion is March 13, 2015.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS:

After talking with the county attorney Mr. Davis reports that attending a meeting by phoning in is acceptable. Mr. Byars stated that even though this is allowed it is important for us to be at the meetings in person as much as possible.

Forestry/Land Management RFP:

Mr. Davis reported that Sabine and Waters were the only submission received by the county. They have worked through contract and insurance issues involved. Mr. Ward stated that he wants it to look better than it presently does. Mr. Davis also presented a tentative schedule for the actions projected to take place on the St. George property. The timeline has been pushed out a bit. Mr. Brown asked what our options will be if the property is still too wet after all the work is completed. Mr. Davis answered that we will have to scale back the plans for the park area there. We will have to redesign a whole new conceptual. Mr. Brown asked if we can partner with the high school because they have a parcel of land that is currently not being used. The Athletic director at the school thinks the parcel is big enough for softball or soccer fields. Mr. Byars said that it would be worth investigating this possibility. He also stated that we are trying to partner with the town of St. George to work together on the courthouse property. This may make us eligible for some USDA grant monies. Mr. Bailey has been pursuing this avenue for awhile now. Mr. Montei asked if Mr. Davis thinks that it will be possible for the timber cut to happen in June. Mr. Davis responded that the county will sign an agent agreement with them allowing them to represent the county in the timber sale. They recommend that the cutting take place in June when the ground is traditionally drier. It depends on the weather. If we have a really dry spell the wetlands delineation will be able to be done first. If not, it will be done after the cutting. County Council has been talking with our state legislative delegation in regards to having that part of the county removed from the more restrictive coastal zone in regards to wetland permitting. They are working on this for us.

Highway 165 Pedestrian Crossing:

There are currently no plans with DCTA for a crossing underneath the bridge on 165. A crosswalk is questionable. They said that a traffic study did not indicate the need for a signalized crosswalk at the site. County Council will explore other options that will allow Rosebrock Park to be connected to the new Ashley River Park.

PARD:

PARD funding comes from the state bingo tax. Dorchester County got just under \$40,000.00. St. George had applied for \$20,000.00. The county and town of Summerville will share the remaining \$20,000.00 to improve the Sawmill Branch Trail trailhead at the Oakbrook YMCA area. MeadWestvaco is offering \$4,000.00 trees for \$800.00. Some of the monies may be used for purchasing some of these trees for that site.

Update on Pine Trace Park:

The PUD amendments to the project have been recommended to Town of Summerville Council for approval. One requirement in the amended PUD is a bike and pedestrian trail from Beverly Drive to the back of the proposed school building. The army corps of engineers were scheduled for a site visit but this had to be postponed due to the bad weather we have been experiencing. This causes at least a sixty day delay on this project.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE:

We have been awarded a Community Pride grant that will allow us to install some interpretive signage at Rosebrock Park. The work and installation must be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Davis is hoping that it can be done by this year's Riverfest, which will be held May 16th, so that we can have a ribbon cutting with the public. Mr. Davis is looking into several different options for this project.

GEO-CACHING:

Mr. Davis has met with some volunteers about this subject. They are willing to hold a Geo-caching 101 seminar for the public. It will probably take place at Rosebrock Park sometime in March.

RIVERFEST 2015:

Mr. Jackson reported that Riverfest will be held on May 16 this year. Mr. Davis would like to see Rosebrock Park included in the activity this year. Mr. Jackson said that is a good idea and will work to incorporate it in the plans. There is a master naturalist association in our area and they may be able to provide us with some volunteers for the event. It was asked if there will be a kayak put in for the event. Mr. Jackson is looking into that possibility. Mr. Jackson stated that he would like the commission to have a presence at Riverfest.

Mr. Davis encouraged us to communicate with the commission if we hear of any activities that are scheduled and include our parks or future park plans. He encouraged us to take ownership and maybe head up some activities. Mr. Byars suggested an activity that would involve making your own hiking stick. He will head this up and

schedule it to be held at Rosebrock Park in the spring. It was reported that the Audubon Nature Walks typically held in Azalea Park will be relocated to Rosebrock Park.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Davis to hold off on presenting this until next month's meeting. Mr. Davis will present the projected plan to County Council at their March meeting. We were given a draft of the master plan. We are to review it and make any comments or suggestions that we have at our next meeting. No budget figures are in the handouts that we were presented. It is a five year plan.

There was no further discussion at this time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Montei. Four voted in favor, three were absent and 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm by Chairman Byars.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck".

Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 3, 2015
County Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 PM.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. Howard Bridgeman, Conservation Commission
Mr. Bob Jackson, Summerville Town Council
Mr. Ackerman, Mayor of Harleyville
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Byars

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Brown made a motion that the minutes from the January 27, 2015 meeting be approved as written. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. Three voted in favor of the motion, three were absent, one abstained and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgeman wanted to make sure the commission is aware of the fact that the Summerville Anglers are holding a cleanup at Jensen's Boat Landing on March 21, 2015 at 9:00 am. He also noted that there will be a Geocaching 101 seminar at Rosebrock Park that same day. He suggested it would be nice to see some of the commission members at these events.

NEW COMMISSION MEMBER: Mr. Edward Tupper was introduced as the newest member of the commission. He was appointed by Councilwoman Duncan. He has lived his entire life in Summerville and is happy to be a part of the commission.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

POTENTIAL SD4 PARTNERSHIP @ WOODLANDS HIGH SCHOOL: Mr. Davis met with the Woodland High School athletic director and chief of operations and the financial officer. They have a six acre grassy area near the football field which they think can be used for additional fields that would serve students and the public. They are interested in a partnership to pursue this endeavor. There could be basketball courts nearby also, and they have a maintenance team already in place. Mr. Ward would like Mr. Davis and the commission to continue to look into this possibility.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK UPDATE: Duck boxes have been installed around the pond. Mr. Davis is going to investigate some kind of park outing with a master naturalist. This would be open to the public.

PINE TRACE UPDATE: Summerville Town Council has had the first reading on the PUD amendments. The wetlands delineation was not able to be done as it is too wet. They will wait approximately sixty to ninety days. The county has to install a multiuse path that will connect Beverly Drive to the back of the school if the amendments pass as written. The purchase price of the tract being sold to Mungo Homes and the layout of the homes can't be determined without the wetlands delineation. The county has asked the town to delay the second reading of the PUD until these matters can be taken care of. They have agreed.

ROSEBROCK PARK UPDATE: The County has received an \$8000.00 grant which can be used toward signage. Mr. Davis will meet with a graphic design class tomorrow. They may make this a class project which will save the county approximately \$1,500.

GEOCACHING 101: As stated above there will be a volunteer led geocaching class at the park on March 21, 2015. People have already signed up on the website.

BIRD WALKS: Audubon Society will lead bird walks at the park on the second Saturday of the months. The first one will take place on March 14, 2015.

TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS: ON March 4, 2015 a Boy Scout troop will undertake trail maintenance at Rosebrock Park. This will take place at 4:00pm.

BLUEWAYS UPDATE:

Mr. Davis met with DNR. They are providing a letter recommending that there be a small boat ramp and put in at Bacons Bridge and a canoe/kayak throw in at Swan Drive.

TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES AND PARK CONNECTIVITY: The County already has a transportation impact fee in place. It has raised one million dollars. Rules governing usage won't allow for it to be used for hiker/biker trails. The planning commission is looking into revising the ordinance so it can be used for this purpose. This would allow for the development of a hiker/biker that would connect to Ashley River High School. The town residential impact fees may also be used.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

See handout. Mr. Davis reviewed this with the commission members. We will have more detail available at our next meeting.

Mr. Davis reminded the commission members about our field trip to experience the GO APE tree top adventure in North Myrtle Beach which will take place on March 13, 2015. There was no further discussion at this time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Five voted in favor, two were absent and 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm by Chairman Byars.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 24, 2015
County Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Ms. Ashley Demosthenes, Lowcountry Open Land Trust
Mr. Garrett Budds, Lowcountry Open Land Trust
Mr. Mike Dawson, Conversation Commission
Mr. Howard Bridgeman, Conservation Commission
Mr. Jason Carraher, Public Works
Mr. Ackerman, Mayor of Harleyville
Ms. Jenna Harris, Summerville Journal Scene
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Byars

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from last meeting were not available at this time. They will be approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments offered at this time.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS AND PUBLIC PARKLAND: Ms. Demosthenes and Mr. Budds made a PowerPoint presentation explaining what a conservation easement is and how one goes about putting one in place for park lands. They also showed some examples of how this has been done for other parks in our area. Following the presentation there was a question and answer period and some discussion about

putting an easement on the Ashley River Park property. It was noted that the design and easement process should run parallel. However, the easement should be in place prior to finalizing the conceptual design for the park.

REQUEST TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS:

Mr. Davis has been in contact with the DNR to discuss the possibility of having them help with putting in two access sites on the Ashley River. In order to receive federal dollars the sites must meet some requirements including a ramp. The first proposed site would be at the site of the Bacons Bridge Road bridge that is currently under construction. The ramp would have to be at least ten feet wide, there would have to be public parking, no entry fees could be charged for access and it has to be available to the public twenty-four hours a day. There would have to be appropriate signage and emergency vehicle access, also. The second proposed site would be at Swan Drive. The partnership with DNR would provide extra funding for the park projects.

The commission had quite a bit of discussion about the pros and cons of partnering with DNR and the pros and cons of a boat ramp at the Bacon's Bridge site. Some ideas specifically addressed were:

Keeping it small.

The county is responsible to manage the site once completed and open.

Signage to warn away bigger boats.

It must be ADA compliant.

The DNR has to design it or approve our design.

The commission also had discussion on the Swan Drive site. Most notably:

It would be for canoe and kayak use only.

It must be ADA compliant.

It should have 50 ft wide access swath.

We have to work with the adjacent land/owners.

Mr. Davis would like to make a presentation of all of the above to county council so that it may be addressed by them.

Mr. Skipper made a motion that Mr. Davis present the information gathered and recommend to County Council that they move forward with DNR and work with them to design and partner with the county to construct boat access at the Ashley River Park/Bacons Bridge Road site and the Swan Drive site based on DNR recommendations. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion. Two were absent. None were opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will make his presentation to county council at their April 6th meeting in St. George.

Mr. Davis led a final review and discussion of his updated master plan. He would also like to present it to county council.

Mr. Skipper made a motion that the commission approve the updated master plan giving council the ability to approve it with a four to six millage range for a possible future property tax dedication for park and recreation funding. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two were absent, and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will be presenting the updated master plan to County Council at the April 20th meeting.

After more discussion about funding for our future parks Mr. Skipper made a motion that we recommend that County Council start doing research and development to form a nonprofit group or foundation to support our existing and proposed parks. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will start working on this.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Carraher also informed the group that there have been eight SCDOT Transportation Enhancement Grant projects approved to be started by Public Works. Among these is the Sawmill Branch Extension Project. The commission and Mr. Davis are hoping that this project can be at the top of the list when the work actually begins.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

ROSEBROCK PARK UPDATE: Volunteer work day with the boy scouts has taken place. They got a lot of work done. The geocaching class has also taken place. It was well attended and another class is scheduled to take place in May. Audubon also reported that the bird walk went well and they will continue with them. Nation Trails Day is approaching and Mr. Davis will see about scheduling something to coincide with this event.

2015 ASHLEY RIVER FEST: Mr. Davis reminded us of the upcoming River Fest. He asked for volunteers to man the booth that the commission will have. Mr. Debney and Ms. Ranck said they will be able to help with that. Mr. Davis will be at the event also.

PRC RIVER PADDLE OUTING: Mr. Davis reminded us that we are going to schedule an outing to paddle on the Ashley River on a Friday afternoon. He asked for suggestion as to when would be best to schedule this. After discussion it was decided that we will wait until after the River Fest.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Skipper. Second was made by Mr. Debney. Five voted in favor, two were absent and 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm by Chairman Byars.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 28, 2015
County Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Member (via phone)
Mr. Howard Bridgman, Conservation Commission
Ms. Jenna Harris, Summerville Journal Scene
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the March 3rd meeting was made by Mr. Skipper. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Five voted to approve the minutes as written. Two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written. A motion to approve the minutes as written from the March 24th meeting was made by Mr. Skipper. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Five voted in favor of the motion. Two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgeman offered a reminder that River fest will be held on May 16th from 10 am to 4 pm. He is hoping to see members of our commission there.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE BRIEFING—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

At their April 20, 2015 meeting, county council approved in concept, by a 6-1 vote, the master plan that we submitted. The plan is now posted on our website. Mr. Davis is working on a survey which will be accessed from a link on the website. We will also hold public feedback meetings in North Charleston, Harleyville, St. George, Ridgeville, and Summerville over the next three months.

BOATER ACCESS POINTS UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

At their April 6th meeting county council approved our moving forward with our recommendation for a boat ramp at the Ashley River Bacons Bridge and Swan Drive locations. For the Ashley River/ Bacons Bridge site a request for \$400,000.00 has been made by the legislative delegation. \$100,000.00 may be available through the state water funds and \$300,000.00 may be available through the state fish fund. The DNR will assist us in putting in restrooms, 10 parking spaces, an access road, and a ramp which we will request will not be wider than ten feet. We will also inquire about extending the no wake zone. OCRM will weigh in on this project.

At the Swan Drive site \$100,000.00 has been requested through state water access funds. The sight will have to be ADA compliant according to the 2010 law. We will need a survey and a title research which will cost at least \$5,000.00. Mr. Davis will check to see if we can use the bond monies for this purpose as there is no allotment for this in the current budget. If we can't access the bond monies we might have to wait until next year to get this done.

PARK FRIENDS GROUP UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

County Council has permitted us to move forward with the forming of a friends group for our parks. Representative Chris Murphy will help pro bono to form the nonprofit corporation. We will also need the help of an accountant. We will have to get incorporated, get an EIN, name an agent or incorporator who will sign articles, come up with a name for the group, develop a mission statement and form the structure of the group. We will start this process with Mr. Davis being the primary contact and agent. We will then also need to get people outside our commission involved in this group.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY STEWARDSHIP EVENT < JUNE 6, 2015:

Public will bring a bobcat out to Rosebrock Park. They will be working on cleaning up the trail. Free mulch will be provided by Mike Russell from Natural Directions Tree Service.

2015 ASHLEY RIVER FEST: Ms. Ranck said she will be able to help with that in the morning. Someone else will need to be there in the afternoon. Mr. Davis will be at the event also.

PRC RIVER PADDLE OUTING: Mr. Davis reminded us that we are planning an outing on June 12, 2015. He suggested that the kayak rental service that is going to be at River fest may be able to give us a good deal for this.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Davis will be meeting with the conservation commission to start drawing up plans to provide conservation easements for the appropriate park properties that we have acquired.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL MAP FUNDING:

We got some funding from MeadWestvaco to help with this project. They have contributed \$5000 for map and rack card development and printing costs. We have also applied SC Sea Grant Consortium for \$2500 to supplement the MWV funds.

EDISTO RIVER PROPERTY:

There is an 800 acre tract on the Edisto River that is going to be put on the market. Mr. Davis and Mr. Dawson were approached by the owner as he is interested in seeing it become a park property. They looked at the property earlier today and agree that it would be great to have as park property. The Low Country Open Land Trust has also been approached about the property.

Our next meeting will be held in the county building in Summerville at 5:30 pm on May 26, 2015

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Skipper. Five voted in favor, two were absent and 0 opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm by Chairman Byars.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 26, 2015
Dorchester County Human Services Building
County Council Conference Room
5:30 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Member (via phone)
Mr. Howard Bridgeman, Conservation Commission
Mr. Kevin Szostak, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Vice Chairman Montei.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown

HAND OFF OF VICE CHAIRMAN POSITION FOR THIS MEETING:

Mr. Montei made a motion that the vice chairman position be handled by Mr. Debney for this meeting as Mr. Montei was driving. The motion was seconded by Mr. Welch. There was no further discussion. Seven voted in favor of the motion and none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the April meeting was made by Mr. Tupper. Second was made by Mr. Welch. Seven voted to approve the minutes as written and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgeman reported that this year's River fest was successful. They had over one hundred people out on the river. The four boats that were there were going all day long.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY STEWARDSHIP EVENT:

The date for this event has been changed to June 20, 2015. At this point they are waiting on the delivery of the mulch that will be put on areas that need it.

2015 ASHLEY RIVER FEST:

Mr. Davis reports that the event was a success. There were approximately two thousand people in attendance. The hope is that next year's event can be held at our Ashley River Park site. Mr. Davis offered his thanks to Ms. Ranck and her husband who helped with the event in the morning and to Mr. Skipper who helped in the afternoon.

PRC RIVER PADDLE OUTING: Mr. Davis reminded us that we are planning an outing on June 12, 2015. We will meet at 1:00 pm. We will meet at the Ashley River Park and take a bus to the Jensen Boat Landing. We will then kayak back to the Ashley River Park. Mr. Davis would like us to let him know if we will be able to attend and how many will be in our party.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Davis, Mr. Debney and Mr. Skipper have been working with this committee. Everyone is on the same page as their major goal is to protect the Ashley River and its overlay.

SEA GRANT MINI-GRANT:

The \$2,500 in monies for this grant have been received. MeadWestvaco is also supplementing it with \$5000.00. The monies will cover the costs of Ashley River Blue Trail map development and also a kick-off event which will jump start some more public interest for blue trail.

MASTER PLAN PUBLIC FEEDBACK MEETINGS AND SURVEY:

The survey has been posted on the website. Mr. Davis will conduct public information meeting during the month of June. They will be held at various locations throughout the county. The commission will be able to gather information from these meetings. Mr. Davis would like at least one commissioner to be present at each meeting. He also needs help in getting the word out to people about the meetings. There is a link on the facebook page and the Journal Scene will run an article about the upcoming meetings tomorrow. Mr. Davis will also contact the Eagle Record to see if they will run an article. Mr. Davis will have the conceptual drawings of the major park sites available to take to the meetings.

PARK FRIENDS GROUP:

All the paper work to incorporate this group has been filled out. Mr. Davis expects that he will have the necessary check by Wednesday and he will mail it all out. After incorporation, the next step will be to secure nonprofit status with the IRS.

PINE TRACE:

Matt Halter with Mungo homes is ready for the Army Corp to come out and do the delineation.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

A PO will be issued for the delineation this week. We will be using \$5,000 in bond proceeds to cover the cost for this work.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

County Council approved up to \$7,500 in bond proceeds to be used for delineation here. The estimate is for \$6,100.

ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITES AND DNR ASSISTANCE:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service---whose funds were used to build Jensen's boat landing and accommodates medium and large motorized boats----had a conference call with Mr. Davis this morning. It is possible to use their funds to build a facility even if it's only for small motorized boat launch without a ramp. This would make the site available to untrailered water craft only. The federal funds could possibly still be available for this also. This would accomplish the original interests for this site. DNR will have to appeal to the fish and wildlife service to get all this put in place. Mr. Montei made a motion that we recommend that County Council look into working with DNR to get a non-trailered boat launch at the Bacons Bridge/Ashley River Park Site considering the new information we have received. Mr. Skipper seconded the motion. There was some discussion on the matter followed by a vote. Seven voted for with none opposing. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to County Council.

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM:

Mr. Davis and Mr. Montei attended a program for receiving grants for trails. 2015 and 2016 will be combined. They will look at each year and put forth ideas of what we should pursue.

PRC MEETING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Davis feels that we should look into having a bigger meeting room for our July and August meeting as they will be after the public feedback meetings and we may have more public in attendance. He will look into having council chambers as a backup should there be an overwhelmingly large group of people wanting to attend the meetings.

Our next meeting will be held at the Human Services Building on July 28, 2015, at 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Montei. Seven voted in favor and none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm by temporary vice chairman, Debney.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 28, 2015
Dorchester County Human Services Building
Planning Commission Meeting Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Alec Brebner, Dorchester County Planning Director
Mr. Robbie Robbins, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the May meeting was made by Mr. Tupper. Second was made by Mr. Welch. Five voted to approve the minutes as written two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written.

PARK FRIENDS GROUP:

Mr. Davis reported that the articles of incorporation for this group have been sent to the state and approved. It is therefore officially incorporated. The next step is to become a 501C3 entity. Thanks were given to Representative Murphy and Jan Waring Woods for their help with getting this accomplished. The next step is to have bylaws written up so that everything can be submitted to the IRS. Tom O'Rourke, with Charleston County, suggested we set the group up as a member organization. We can start by making the commission the sole member of the friends group so as to maintain control. Mr. Davis would like us to see about asking County Council to jump start the finances for the friends group with a \$3000.00 kitty from previous recreation funds. Nothing would be taken from the current operating budget.

After discussion, Mr. Montei made a motion that Mr. Davis goes before County Council to ask for a \$3000.00 donation to get the friends of the parks group started. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ranck. Five commission members voted in favor of the motion, two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries and Mr. Davis will make the request before Council on August 10, 2015.

RECREATION, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE:

There is assistance with RTCA through the National Park Service. They help communities with projects through technical assistance. Mr. Davis has very little time to devote to this. He would like to use Accommodations Tax monies to hire a graduate level student for an internship position to support development of an Edisto River Recreation Management Plan in partnership with NPS. The intern would be given a \$2500.00 stipend plus be covered under the county's insurance. The remaining \$500 would be put toward project costs such as meetings, advertising, etc. The intern could work on developing a recreational management plan for the Edisto River. It would increase use of this resource. Possibilities for recreation there would be river canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and tubing. It could be better marketed as a tourist attraction and economic driver. Colleton County already supports a similar type venture through the Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Commission. They are excited about participating in the plan. Mr. Davis reported that he submitted the application to get these funds today. Mr. Montei made a motion to recommend to County Council to approve accommodation tax monies to fund an intern as noted above. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two were absent and none opposed. Motion carries Mr. Davies will address this issue with Council at the August 10, 2015 meeting.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE: PUBLIC MEETING AND SURVEY RESULTS:

Mr. Davis had compiled pie charts from each of the public meetings that were held in the month of June. We went over all the data. He also reported that 173 people responded to the on line survey and a total of 90 individuals attended at least one of the meetings.

Mr. Davis is still working on the possibility of us receiving grant monies from the USDA for the courthouse property.

Mr. Davis was contacted by the Low Country BMX group. They are interested in helping to build and operate a track in the Eagle Run Property.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

PINE TRACE:

There has been some back and forth action with the Army Corp concerning the wetlands on this property. It was originally thought to be about 36%-38% wetlands. It has now gone up to a minimum of 52%-54% and may go even higher. There is going to have to be a contingency plan for this property if this comes to fruition. Mungo Homes has asked for an extension to their contract while everything is being finalized. It has been determined that construction of the trail from Beverly Drive to the school should be put in their contract.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

There will be a site visit here next Tuesday. Hopefully it will be determined that we can build on the Northeast side of the property. Tree thinning will take place after the site visit.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

A large gum tree has fallen on the gazebo. It was not insured. We may need to plan a commission work day if it is deemed if it is salvageable. Public works has mowed on the property to prepare for the USACE visit. It has been reported that there is another rope swing coming off our dock and there is increased dumping of trash at the gate. Mr. Davis asked about the security cameras and if they are still in place and working. Mr. Brebner said he will look into it.

ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITES AND DNR/UFWS ASSISTANCE:

SCDNR stated they are going to petition to get USFWS funds for a ramp-less landing per the Dorchester County Legislative Delegation's Request.

ASHLEY RIVER SWEEP SEPTEMBER 19:

Miriam's river sweep will be held on September 19, 2015. It is being organized and hosted by Keep Dorchester County Beautiful. They anticipate that there will be 300 volunteers there. KDCB has asked that our group support them in their effort.

PRC MEETING SCHEDULE:

We will return to having our meeting at the SWAMP starting with the next meeting. Mr. Davis plans to make adjustments to the master plan so we can review it and he can get it to County Council for their approval within the next month or so.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Welch. Second was made by Ms Ranck. Five voted in favor of, two were absent and none opposed the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm by Chairman Byars.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 25, 2015
Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Howard Bridgeman, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Ms. Ranck, Secretary

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:

In the absence of the chairman and the vice chairman Ms. Ranck called for a motion to appoint a temporary chairman. Mr. Skipper made a motion to appoint Mr. Debney as acting chairman for this meeting. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries and Mr. Debney will act as chairman and run the meeting from this point on.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the May meeting was made by Mr. Skipper. Second was made by Mr. Tupper. Six voted to approve the minutes as written one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgeman reminded us that this year's River Sweep will be held on September 19, 2015 at 8:00 am. He hopes to see some of the commissioners there.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK WORKDAYS:

Mr. Debney, Mr. Byars, and Mr. Davis met on Friday to discuss possible projects that could be done at the Ashley River Park property. They also discussed possible fund raising opportunities. We need to get people out to the park. Perhaps we should consider opening the property one day a week. Mr. Davis reported that a lot of work would need to be done first as the property is quite overgrown at this point. The boardwalks and the gazebo are in a state of disrepair. There are a lot of invasive trees that would need to be cleared out. The liability to the county would have to be assessed. Mr. Davis is hoping that we can schedule some fall and winter work days in preparation for a spring event that we can hold on the property. The road construction company is still using the property for storage. They have been given a short extension to allow for this. Mr. Debney asked if they will consider helping with a project on the property in exchange for the use of the land. Mr. Davis will look into this possibility.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

PINE TRACE:

There has been no progress with the delineation work with the Army Corps. A soil expert was hired. There is a lot of land that is considered marginal but it wouldn't be enough to refute the rulings of the CORP. The contract with Mungo Homes may be dead. Mr. Byars and Mr. Davis will have a meeting with Mr. Ward concerning the property next week. Without the sale of part of this property there will be no early debt retiring. It may be possible that a few acres with road frontage may be sold for commercial purposes. Mr. Skipper volunteered to get some comps.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

A site visit was done. It was a pretty favorable call for the park section. The results will be resubmitted to the Army Corps. They will switch from accurate wetlands to approximate wetlands. The next step is to have a surveyor. They will start tomorrow. It will require three days in the field, three days in the office and then the report should be done in a month producing an approved letter. Mr. Davis is working with Ms. Lindsey Culley in applying for three USDA grants. They may produce a barn type structure, exercise equipment, and playground equipment for this park.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

A letter has been written to the Army Corps asking for wetlands approval.

ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITES AND DNR/UFWS ASSISTANCE:

Mr. Davis is running into problems with this project. No one has been returning his phone calls. Our legislative delegation is trying to help get this resolved.

ASHLEY RIVER SWEEP SEPTEMBER 19:

Miriam's river sweep will be held on September 19, 2015. Mr. Davis will bring the conceptual drawings out to Jensen's boat landing for the volunteers to view.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROGRESSION:

Mr. Davis will be presenting the results of the surveys and meetings at County Council on the 8th. An amended version of the master plan will be done in the New Year.

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT:

A letter of intent should be going in to improve trail heads and improve Rosebrock Park. It can be made more ADA accessible. There is trails funding available which can be used to supplement Sawmill Branch Trail Extension. The plan was written eight to ten years ago. Work will be done on two projects so the funds can be maximized. The work must be done in a year and a half. The question if the funds can be used for river trails was asked. Maybe it can be used for river trails and for a ramp then use local DNR funds along with the trail grant. The decision of exactly what will be done needs to be made by the next meeting.

Bids are being gathered for the Slands Bridge survey work.

The Friends of the Parks group has a bank account. The seed money came from County Council approving the direct assistance from the Recreation Fund balance. There will be a meeting next week to start to fill board positions for this group.

We will need to pick a date for a spring event at our next meeting. It will be a fund raiser for the friends group and will bring exposure to them and the parks in general.

Ashley Jacobs will be leaving her position as Deputy Administrator in three weeks.

There was no further business or discussion at this point and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Skipper. Mr. Welch seconded. Six voted in favor, one was absent and none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 22, 2015
Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chairman Byars

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the August meeting was made by Mr. Welch. Second was made by Mr. Skipper. Four voted to approve the minutes as written three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments offered.

OUTDOOR POOL FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS:

The speakers for this topic were not able to attend tonight's meeting. We will attempt to reschedule them for another meeting. They have made it known that they are interested in operating an outdoor pool in the western part of the county. It was noted that the Oakbrook pool that they operate runs at a \$20,000 per year loss. A plan that has a pool of more than twenty-five meters and operates off of memberships and has some other features such as spray zones may draw bigger crowds which may make the operation a profitable venture. We can't commit to any partnership for a pool with the YMCA until a study is done. We are willing to discuss the matter more in-depth with the YMCA board, but this will probably require a specially called meeting as their board

meetings are the same nights as our meetings. Mr. Welch commented that we don't have the funds to invest in a pool project at this time. The discussion of a pool project is the result of comments made during the information meetings of the master plan that were held in June. The constituents in the western part of the county expressed an interest in having a pool so that the children who reside there would have a place to learn to swim. Mr. Brown and Mr. Welch agreed to talk with the constituents to get more information. They will report back to the commission. Mr. Davis will get more information on this topic and present it at next month's meeting.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK WORKDAYS:

Mr. Davis presented the idea of having the commission members and public who are interested come out to Ashley River Park for work days. There are people who have expressed an interest in doing this. There are projects that could be done this fall. We might be able to schedule workdays on Saturday mornings. It was suggested that Mr. Davis pick five projects that need to be done, figure out how long it will take to complete the projects, then pick a day and get volunteers enlisted. Mr. Byars reminded us that Public Works will probably be able to help with some projects in January and February as these are slower times for them. They may be able to clear the pond area. We may also be able to use some of the inmates that are allowed to do community projects. Mr. Davis will contact Mr. Edsel Taylor to see if we can schedule this. We were given some more free wood duck boxes. They will be put in the park.

We are tentatively scheduling a Spring Event to be held in this park on April 16. Details will follow as they become available.

ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITES AND DNR/USFWS ASSISTANCE:

Mr. Davis reported that he has heard back from DNR. He spoke with Derrick McGee. He said that engineering can't design or work in development of a smaller ramp project since it wouldn't be a regular ramp. There is an archeologist in house that will assist with the State Historic Preservation Office clearance, but they can't give us a completion date. We would have to have an outside engineering firm to help with design and we would need to have everything in place before we go to the fish and wildlife service. We wouldn't know if it would be approved and if it wasn't we would have spent all the money to design and draw up plans that couldn't be used. Mr. Byars stated that we need to have county council revisit this issue. We need to see if it is possible to put in the original type of ramp that was presented to us so that we do not incur extra expense or spend money foolishly. Since we won't be using federal funds on the Swan Drive ramp we don't have any issues there, though SHPO clearance is required and will be provided through DNR if desired. Exceeding 2010 ADA won't be required at this site.

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT:

A letter of intent for which project(s) we want to accomplish is Due November 4th. Mr. Ward suggested that we put in for assistance with work on the Eagle Chandler Creek Trail. He wants this because there will not be enough DOT funds to complete this and with the grant money it would be enough to complete it. This project will be handled by Public Works.

The commission would like to use the other application for walking trails in the Courthouse Park Property. This will give the western part of the county the opportunity to have a walking trail. We have to have matching funds in hand to receive this grant. The projects need to be completed within eighteen months of receiving the grant monies. The commission believes that these requirements can be met with the two projects listed above.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

PINE TRACE:

The contract with Mungo homes is dead because of the new wetlands map. A soil scientist came out and took a look. He viewed some of the areas as marginal, but not enough evidence exists to refute the USACE's ruling. It's still considered a wetland. There was a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineering and we are now looking at the possibility of using this property to mitigate impacts to wetlands in the other park and county-owned properties so that we can proceed with plans for those properties. We could use this for the Ashley River Park property, the Courthouse Park property and the Winding Woods Industrial Park properties. Sabine and Waters are working on this for us. Eagle Run may also be able to be included in this mitigation. It could likely show fifty percent more wetlands than it did in the 2009 master plan. All wetlands have to be delineated before we can start any development. Sabine and Waters are working on a proposal to complete this task.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

There will be a meeting with the surveyor on Thursday to finalize the wetland plat to be submitted to USACE.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The wetland survey project for this property was awarded to Parker Land Surveying. There will be a site visit next Tuesday that Mr. Davis will attend.

FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS:

The application was sent in this afternoon. Jan Waring Woods helped with this project on a pro bono basis. The commission thanks her for her generous donation of time and skill. The process takes up to ninety days. There are two possible board members. They are Lindsay Cully and Joe Debney. There needs to be more members and Mr. Davis encouraged us to recommend people we know. Mr. Davis will resign as a member as the board fills. He will stay involved as a staff member.

Mr. Davis informed us that county council has approved an intern to be hired to support The Edisto River Recreation Management Plan project. He needs a graduate student. The \$3000.00 stipend was also approved.

There was no further business or discussion at this point and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Welch. Mr. Brown seconded. Four voted in favor, three were absent and none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rita" being the most prominent.

Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
October 27, 2015
Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Lindsay Cully, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Mr. Howard Bridgman, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Byars

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes as written from the September meeting was made by Mr. Welch. Second was made by Ms. Ranck. Two voted to approve the minutes as written two abstained, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgman informed us that the American Rivers group has invited us to take part in their Ashley River Blue Trail paddle and oyster roast event that will be held on November 21, 2016. If we want to paddle on the river we need to let him know early so that they can arrange to have enough boats/kayaks available. He thinks that it would be a good idea to have the posters of the proposed park sites available for viewing. He also informed us that there is a College of Charleston student that is making an app for river recreation information that will be available for download. It should be available soon.

Mr. Bridgeman also mentioned that the community infrastructure report will be due next October.

FLOOD OF 2015:

We have damage in the Ashley River Park property. All the boardwalks have been severely damaged. The preliminary estimated cost to repair and or replace them is \$67,500.00. We have applied to the FEMA Public Assistance program to access funding to help with the repairs. They will cover seventy-five percent of the costs and we are responsible for the rest. It is estimated that our part will be about \$16,000.00. The dock is also damaged. It is currently sitting on the bank. The pilings have been displaced. Mr. Davis made a Public Assistance claim to get that repaired also.

There is also some damage to Rosebrock Park. It involves the pedestrian bridge that is located down by the river. Public Works has already come in and fixed that for us. All the mulch that was put down by the Boy Scouts was washed away.

The pedestrian bridge located on the Sawmill Branch Trail connecting the trail to the Ashborough neighborhood was misshaped by the water. We will not be able to get monies from FEMA to repair this because proper ownership of the bridge is not documented. The County or Town must have had ownership of the bridge at the time when the damaged was incurred

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

COURTHOUSE PARK:

We received our approved Jurisdictional Determination letter from the USACCE ten days ago. We can now move forward with timbering. It might start next week depending on the weather. They will clear cut all the high areas within the park footprint, which will save us money when we start the park construction. They will also clear cut the corner where the welcome to St George sign is.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The site visit was completed. Mr. Davis participated and met USACE Agent Steve Currie. Mr. Davis provided us with a handout showing the added wetlands that were identified during the site visit. The increase was not too much and we will continue moving forward with park development. We will have a surveying crew on site in the next week or so, and will send the plat to the Army Corp for final review. After that engineering can be started on this park. Phase 1 of development will probably be bare bones only. We will focus on basic infrastructure such as vehicular access, parking, and trails necessary to provide the public some use of the park. We are still interested in doing a conservation easement on this property, but want to do this as part of a larger land management plan being developed in conjunction with our consultant, Sabine and Waters.

ASHLEY RIVER WATERWAY ACCESS SITES AND DNR/USFWS ASSISTANCE:

There have been no changes in our dealings with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Davis and Ms. Culley are working on some additional grants based on the assumption the USFWS funding will never become available for the Bacon's Bridge

Access Site. One is with DHEC OCRM. They give up to \$50,000.00 per site to develop access to waterways within the coastal zone. The second grant is with The National Heritage Corridor. They have up to \$100,000.00 for development of tourism attractions. They especially like to deal with projects that are geared towards nature and outdoor recreation. Depending on grant specifics, Mr. Davis and Ms. Culley may also apply to the NHC for a barn like structure and a sign for the courthouse park property.

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Mr. Davis had a meeting with Sabine and Waters. They are encouraging us to look at all our properties as one and to come up with an overall plan for impacts and mitigation of wetlands. They will give us a proposal in one to two weeks. There is a possibility that there may be a change in which agency is responsible for approving wetland delineations in the near future and they are proposing that we take a step back on mitigation strategies to find out if this is going to occur.

FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS:

Our forms for a 501C3 have been submitted with the IRS. The friends group met yesterday. They need to add more board members. We have to decide if we will have an event on April 16, 2016. If we do will the purpose of the event be to get more board members, to get people out to the park, or to raise funds for park projects? The commission is concerned about the logistics of having a large event on site in the spring as there currently is not a lot of area for parking. Mr. Davis feels that a late summer event on property may be more feasible for a large scale event. The idea of having an event on April 16, 2016 that would be open to individuals that purchased tickets as a fund raiser for the Park Friends group would be feasible. A second event at the end of the summer that would be open to the general public as a kick off for the park was discussed. After this event the goal would be to open the park on a limited basis – perhaps Sunday afternoons or weekends. There were no final decisions made on these topics. The friends group and the commission need to research and discuss these topics more before any final decisions can be made.

Mr. Davis informed us that capital requests are due now. Funds for Parks and Recreation Department capital improvements come from the Recreation Fund rather than the general fund. Mr. Davis suggests that the commission look into asking county council to increase the percentage of the cable franchise fees allocated for Parks and Recreation. This would allow for the basic operation and maintenance of Rosebrock Park, Ashley River Park Phase I, Courthouse Park, and Ashley River Blue Trail Access Sites absent of any future operating millage.

Mr. Davis has received five applications for the intern position. He will be setting up interviews very soon.

It has been reported that Public Works no longer thinks that they will need additional Recreational Trails Program grant monies for the Eagle/Chandler Trail project. Mr. Davis plans to apply instead for RTP monies to improve the trailhead at Rosebrock Park, primarily through building a permanent restroom facility in Rosebrock Park.

There was no further business or discussion at this point and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Debney. Mr. Welch seconded. Four voted in favor, three were absent and none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 24, 2015
Public Works Building
Conference Room
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, the Dorchester Eagle Record, the Summerville Journal Scene, and the Post and Courier were notified and a notice was posted on the bulletin board 24 hours before the meeting.

PRESENT:

Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Byars

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Skipper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes with one correction from the October meeting was made by Mr. Debeney. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Four voted to approve the minutes with one correction, two abstained, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries, minutes approved with one correction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mott was out in Rosebrock Park and he would like to see the canal path put back in.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR ALLOCATION OF BOND FUNDS FOR ROSEBROCK PARK TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENTS:

We have applied for a \$100,000.00 grant from the Recreational Trails Program to use in Rosebrock Park. A \$25,000.00 local match is required. Some of that can be sweat equity from perhaps Public Works or the public in general. Mr. Davis handed out a drawing with the proposed changes. Mr. Montei made a motion that Mr. Davis go before County Council and ask them to set aside \$25,000.00 of the bond monies to have for matching funds in the event that we get the grant from Recreational Trails Program. Mr. Skipper seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent, and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will present to County Council on December 7, 2015.

REQUEST TO APPROVE 2016 PARKS AND RECREATION SCHEDULE:

Discussion about next year's schedule took place. Mr. Montei made a motion that we accept the schedule as presented by Mr. Davis. Mr. Skipper seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the

motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. We will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Public Works Building. The meeting will be changed to the third Tuesday of the month in the months of February and December.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

Grants Update:

RTCA for Edisto River. The intern has accepted the offer for the position. We will begin working on project scoping immediately.

Mr. Davis has made an application for the following grants.

National Heritage:

\$100,000.00 Swan Drive River Access

\$100,000.00 Bacons Bridge River Access

\$100,000.00 Barn like structure for the Court House Park Property

All of the above require a match and were chosen partially based on the match for these projects being in place already. We should hear by next month if we have qualified to receive these grants. We will have one year from the time of the grant being awarded to complete the projects.

OCRM DEHEC water access

\$50,000.00 can be used for either Swan Drive or Bacons Bridge access.

Mr. Davis is working on \$200,000 in Recreational Trail Program Grants for the trailhead at Rosebrock Park and the walking trail in the Courthouse Park. Applications are due in February.

The grant cycle for Land and Water Conservation Fund should be in 2016. This is for \$250,000.00 and will require matching funds.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

The interpretive sign project for this park has been delayed. A student was supposed to be designing sign layouts, but he failed to produce anything by the deadline. The professor will design the drawings for us, pro bono. We need a short extension to get the signs in place as the grant was requiring that they be installed in December. The scouts did more work spreading mulch.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

We are waiting on the loggers. Mr. Ward doesn't want to make a muddy mess. An RFQ for an engineer and design contract is currently being put together. We were working with Mr. Locklair. Mr. Davis would like to start out fresh with a new contract since he was not involved with the original vendor selection and since much has changed with the project in general.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The field work will be finished this week. It will take one to two weeks to finish the Plat. We should receive a letter from the Army Corp within the month after submission of the plat. Then there will be an RFQ put out for an engineering and design firm.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

The map launch and oyster roast were a big success with about 16 paddlers attending the pre-roast trip.

Dick Byrd requested Mr. Davis put all requests and questions regarding Bacon's Bridge and USFWS funding into an email to him that he will respond to.

Mr. Davis is moving forward under the assumption that USFWS monies will not come to fruition and is seeking alternate funding sources in order to get the project moving forward.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

The goal is to have the current plan finalized in February or March. From now until the presentation we need to rank the projects. Mr. Davis suggested three or four tiers.

Top Tier: this would be for the projects that are already in the works.

Middle Tier: this would be for projects that are in the plan and that the public rated as a high priority during the meetings we held this past summer.

Bottom Tier: this would be for projects that we could put off until a later date or that were low priority for the public.

Consideration as to projected costs will need to be considered when ranking the projects.

Mr. Davis informed us that there has been no friends meeting since last month.

Mr. Davis informed us that he has begun speaking to groups to generate support for the proposed parks and rec referendum in November 2016. He spoke to Rotary of Summerville this month. He is hoping to have at least one speaking engagement a month.

There was no further business or discussion at this point and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Monte. Mr. Welch seconded. Six voted in favor, one was absent and none opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita May Ranck, secretary