

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 28, 2017
County Council Conference Room
500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29485
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
Mayor Ackerman, Town of Harleyville
Mr. John Mott, Public
Mr. Earl Johnson, Edisto River Adventures
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:14pm by Mr. Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Tupper.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting as written was made by Mr. Tupper. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Four voted to approve the minutes, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mott asked if there could be a DCTA 2 to allow trail projects to be funded. Mr. Davis said there is no plan for that at the present time.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

COURTHOUSE PARK:

ADC has completed all the design documents and new cost estimates. There are some savings and some higher costs so it averages out between 4.2 and 4.4 million dollars to complete. There will be a separate RFP for the playground and adult fitness area likely put out to bid next month. Final work with the Army Corps for wetlands pertaining to the

ditch on the property still needs to be completed. Once all permits are obtained work can begin. If the lawsuit is not settled by the time we are ready to bid out construction, then monies from the 2010 bond will be used to get as much work completed as possible such as site prep and clearing and grubbing.

Mr. Travis Hughes is the new director of the Army Corps. Things are moving slower these days. There are anticipated changes in the rules with the election of a new president.

The county has signed a new contract with a different timbering company. They will finish the timbering. They are local. About 70% has already been done under the old contract, which leaves just 30% for the new company to complete. As soon as the area becomes dry they will finish the job. It is close to being dry now. It should be completed by early spring.

The National Heritage Corridor called Mr. Davis and asked him to submit another grant for the pavilion. They have grant monies available again.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

At last Monday's County Council meeting the design contract for Seamon Whiteside was approved. The regulatory work with the Army Corp has started. We hope to use land in Pine Trace to mitigate wetland impacts to the ARP property.

The boardwalk demo and removal are almost done. The design work is almost complete. Construction is supposed to be started tomorrow. Projected completion is set for April 28, 2017.

Mr. Davis has been visiting rental sites in Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission's system to better understand what they have available and what the price is for rental. He will compile this data for us for future reference.

An RFP for an aerial adventure course and climbing wall public private partnership has nearly been completed. This will be a private public partnership.

Tours of the property can be set up if any of us know anyone that might be interested in being a donor to the parks project.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL ACCESS SITES:

Everything is all but complete with the regulatory issues. There had to be an amended plan to have the ramp grade changed. We need approval from the DNR, since its Water Recreation Fun is a major project funding source, then it will be put out to bid.

There was a public meeting to hear what the public had to say about the site. There was some opposition because of the fear of increase traffic, litter, and crime in the Teal on the Ashley neighborhood. Mr. Davis was able to answer all these concerns in a satisfactory way.

There are plans for a vegetative buffer between the houses and the site.

The purchase of the adjoining land is moving forward. The closing was pushed back to the end of March due to the survey not being completed.

Mr. Davis participated in a work day last Wednesday. They went from Swan Drive to Bacon's Bridge clearing downed trees, branches and debris. Mr. Davis anticipates one more work day will be needed to complete the clearing.

EDISTO RIVER AND SC NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR:

The first draft of the new website will be ready next week. It provides a ton of information for planning paddle trips in the Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Trail as well as provides a map, links to outfitters, and the things that are there to do along the route. The map will be completed after the website.

This is all being done through a grant in conjunction with Colleton County and the National Heritage Corridor.

FY18 BUDGET UPDATE:

County is in budget planning right now. July first starts new budget. Mr. Davis reports that he has limited funds available for operations. There is \$48,000.00 available for operations after personnel costs and debt service is subtracted from annual cable franchise fee proceed allocation. Two thirds is transferred to capital projects. He is going to ask county council for an increase. He is going to ask for an administrative assistant starting July 1, 2017. Mr. Davis has been discussing the idea with Administration of the parks department being funded through the general fund and abolishing the recreation fund. The maintenance and facilities department has been overhauled and has been a big improvement, and could be expanded to take over park maintenance as new facilities come online.

FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS:

The fundraiser at Brosnan Forrest will be held April 22, 2017. If you had purchased tickets for the event in October they will be good for this date. The DNR will be on site for a kids fishing rodeo during the day (kids will range from 15 years old and younger). They will be able to fish from 9 am until 12 pm. There will be an awards ceremony. There will be no cost for the fishing rodeo. There will be a dining and dancing event in the evening from 6 pm to 10 pm. Cost for this part of the event will be \$40 per person. Tickets will be limited to 200. Deadline to purchase tickets is April 14, 2017 as a count will need to be given to the caterer. Additional information concerning this event or other parks information can be found at dorchesterparkfriends.org.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Debney and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 25, 2017
Jennie McMahan Library
506 North Parler Avenue, St. George, SC 29477
6:30 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. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mayor Ackerman, Town of Harleyville
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Mr. Earl Johnson, Edisto River Adventures
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

APOPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR:

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Ms. Ranck made a motion to appoint Mr. Debney as temporary chair to run the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Welch. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent, and none opposed. Mr. Debney will act as chair for tonight's meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mr. Debney.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting with one correction was made by Mr. Welch. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Four voted to approve the minutes with one correction, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved with one correction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Mott informed the commission that the Council of Government's Walk + Bike BCD Plan rated the Eagle/Chandler Trail project as a medium priority. The presentation of the complete draft plan will be held on May 24, 2017 at the Park Circle Community Center.

Mr. Johnston reminded the commission that there will be an Edisto River Stewardship Day on May 13, 2017. It is listed on the Parks and Recreation website and Facebook page. There may be a scout group coming to volunteer. Volunteers are needed. Trash pickup will be a priority. Lunch will be served.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

BOND REFERENDUM:

The county is working on settling the lawsuit, over the bond, out of court. The evidence has been presented to those involved. The county is waiting to see if the lawsuit will be dropped.

County Council has passed first reading of the ordinance for the issuance of the parks and libraries bonds, so that when litigation is no longer pending, sale of the bonds can take place immediately. Two more readings must be passed.

COURTHOUSE PARK:

This project is currently in permitting phase. Design is 90% complete. It's still a couple months till it will be out to bid. After it is out to bid there will be at least a forty-five day time period to select a builder.

There were changes made to the wetlands delineation maps which is holding up the permits. The changes need to be submitted in writing in order to proceed.

The timbering is sixty to seventy percent completed. It was almost ready for completion before the recent rains. We now have to wait for it to dry out again.

Mr. Davis has applied to a National Heritage Corridor Grant for the proposed pavilion on this property. He was informed that he could ask for more than the usual \$150,000.00 limit. He asked for \$250,000.00 which would be half the cost of the proposed pavilion.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Mr. Davis had a meeting with the landscape architect to present more details for the proposed park. They have adjusted the outfitter building and proposed a pole barn for storage of canoes and kayaks.

The county is now thinking that it will do maintenance of the parks in house. There is a new facilities and grounds director and CFO that have spurred this initiative. Discussions are ongoing.

Architectural design has been started. The proposed building at the front of the park has been moved behind the fence line. Mr. Davis has a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers on May 9, 2017. It is to introduce them to the mitigation plan for Ashley River Park, which involved mitigating for impacts by protecting lands at Pine Trace, and is very complicated. Mr. Davis projects that it won't be more than three or four acres of impacts. He projects that the ARP project is about nine months away from completing the permitting process.

The rebuilding of the boardwalks is in progress. Pilings have been driven and framing started. It is expected to be completed by the end of May.

The Audubon Society is doing a bird walk on the property on Thursday April 27, 2017.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

The delineation has been completed and will be presented at the May 9, 2017 USACE meeting. Mr. Davis feels that we are proposing the maximum mitigation value possible. The property will have trails, a disc golf course, pond, picnic shelters, dog park, and possible a bike skills training course. Mr. Davis took a disc golf course designer to the property. He was impressed and thinks he will be able to install an 18 hole disc golf course.

Mr. Davis will be hosting a walk of the property on April 27, 2017 at 8:30 am.

Mr. Davis informed us that there are old rice field dikes still on the property. This may be used as an educational component for the property development.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

All the permitting for these projects have been completed. We still have to get DNR approval as they are a major funding source. He is working with Dick Byrd on this.

The projects have to be put out to bid as soon as possible since we have grant monies that need to be used before the end of summer.

We have \$350,000.00 that have been set aside for these projects.

EDISTO RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK TRAIL:

The intern has completed all the work for the Edisto River Recreation Management Plan and has graduated. The website is almost ready to launch. Maps are in final development and almost ready for printing. There will be a launch party sometime in June.

The Colleton County Edisto River Canoe and Kayak Commission has asked to combine with Dorchester County to work on future plans and projects. They have two members on their commission right now. This venture will promote recreation and tourism for the Edisto River area.

BUDGET UPDATE:

Mr. Davis had requested an administrative assistant. Administration was resistant. They are considering someone starting in December of 2017. They asked Mr. Davis to put together a proposed daily activity report for this position.

The monies from the 2010 bond referendum must be spent as soon as possible. It will be used on the Courthouse property to start, perhaps combined with the SCNHC grant to go ahead and construct the pavilion.

The Conservation commission also has approximately \$270,000.00 that has to be spent.

FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS:

The fishing rodeo and gala were held at Brosnan Forrest this past Saturday. There were between sixty and seventy children present for fishing. The DNR representatives were very happy with the turn out and want to make it an annual event. There was also a skeet shoot which went very well.

The evening event was well attended. One hundred fifty tickets were sold and one hundred thirty were in attendance. Duvall catering did an excellent job. Thanks to Palmetto State Armory that provided great items for a silent auction and the Lawmen did a great job with the entertainment.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 30, 2017
County Council Conference Room
500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483
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. Jay Byars, Dorchester County Council
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Jenna Ley Harrison, Summerville Journal Scene
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Mr. Byars..

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting, as written, was made by Mr. Debney. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Six voted to approve the minutes as written, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

BOND REFERENDUM:

The county has heard back from the plaintiff. They are not willing to settle at this point. There are still areas of contention that concern them. The county will ask for a quick court date and summary judgment to get things settled as quickly as possible. Council has passed the required three readings to issue the bonds so that when everything is settled they will be ready to go forward without delay.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

COURTHOUSE PARK:

Mr. Davis continues to work with the Army Corp to resolve issues concerning the water pond and the drainage ditch which surrounds this property. They need to be included in the wetlands delineation. The ruling has been worked out, we are just awaiting the final determination letter before ground disturbance permitting can begin.

The design work for the park is about 90% completed. A new schedule has come out from ADC. It is projected that the notification to go out to bid will take place in mid July of this year, the contract will be awarded mid September and construction will start within seven to ten days of notice to proceed. It is projected that it will take nine months to complete the build which puts the projected completion date in July of 2018. All of these schedule projections assume the lawsuit being resolved and 2016 Bond Revenues being available for park construction.

Timbering is still not completed due to the wet weather. Completion of the timbering does not hinder work in the park.

Mr. Davis thinks that we will be awarded \$150,000.00 for completion of the pavilion from the National Heritage Corridor grant that he applied for, although there has been no official word on it at this time.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The boardwalk project was substantially completed today.

Overall park design work continues. We are also still working on the wetlands permitting and mitigation plan. We are proposing to use the Pine Trace property as mitigation for the wetlands that will be affected during construction of this park. It is a very complicated process and has a major impact on project schedule. It does speed up the process of the Pine Trace property because delineation will be completed for this property in conjunction with the ARP permitting process.

Mr. Davis projects that permitting will be completed in January of 2018. At that time the notice to bid will be issued. He estimates that this project will take nine to twelve months to complete. This puts the completion date around January 2019.

Mr. Davis is requesting that we consider a recommendation of four items as change orders to the design contract with Seamon Whiteside that is currently in place.

The first item is to consider allowing Seamon Whiteside to develop design, manage construction and provide a one year warranty for the grassed medians on Bacons Bridge Road and the corner of Rosebrock Park. The tree mitigation fund would be used to purchase the plant material. The cost for this design work and change order item project would be \$35,500.00.

He would also like to add a feasibility study to look at how Rosebrock Park and the Ashley River Park could be connected for bicycles and pedestrians. This would give Seamon Whiteside the opportunity to rank potential options and do a basic plan for each option along with a cost estimate. The cost for this change would be \$14,050.00.

A third item for consideration would be adding park gate house and maintenance shed design to the contract. The maintenance shed would be a prefabricated metal structure. The cost of this change is estimated at \$18,580.00.

A fourth change would be to put the Pine Trace conceptual design into a CAD program. This needs to be done in order to use the property as mitigation for wetlands in both the Ashley River Park property and the Pine Trace property. Seamon Whiteside would use the conceptual and survey which they already have for this purpose. The cost estimate for adding this item to the change order would be \$9,750.

This brings the total cost estimate for all four change orders to \$77,880.00. We currently have \$56,000.00 left over from the monies designated for this project. That would put the additional overage at \$21,345.00. This money would need to come from the 2010 bond monies. There is a balance of approximately \$300,000.00 of undesignated monies left of this bond.

Mr. Byars will address the landscaping of the medians with Mr. Ward. He will see if some of this project can be done in house. No action was taken on recommending this item.

Mr. Skipper made a motion that Mr. Byars contact the Dorchester County Delegation to ask if PARD funds can be used for the improvements of the trailhead area of Rosebrock Park, to include landscaping, parking lot reconfiguration, and a restroom building, as well as the feasibility study for the possible bike/ped connection of the two parks. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will provide information on these projects to Mr. Byars, who will contact the delegation.

After the discussion Ms. Ranck made a motion that we recommend that County Council approve a change order for adding the gate house/maintenance shed item and for converting the Pine Trace master plan into CAD using the 2010 bond monies. Mr. Skipper seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent, and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to Administration.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

This project has been tied closely with ARP. They will be submitting the wetland delineation verification request soon. The Army Corps has changed their verification processes and should make this project go a little smoother.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

The bid package is in purchasing and the lawyer is looking it over. It will take a month or month and a half before awarding the bid. There will be site meetings then the project will be awarded. Construction will start within seven days of notice to proceed.

EDISTO RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK TRAIL:

The new website is up and running. The site is ERCKtrail.org. This project has been a joint effort between Colleton and Dorchester Counties and the National Heritage Corridor. There will be some kind of launch event in July, as the governor just designated July as national paddle month. Mr. Davis is expecting that Colleton County and Dorchester County will officially form a joint commission to work on future projects concerning the Edisto.

EAGLE/CHANDLER TRAIL:

This project did not get approved for funding. It was ranked down in the middle. Only projects in Berkeley and Charleston County were funded. Phase two and three will be put on hold as they will cost approximately \$1,000,000.00 to complete. Design and permitting work continues on Phase I.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Mr. Davis is getting cost estimates to enclose the classroom building that is on this property. It can no longer be used as a classroom because of its proximity to the new five lane road. Once enclosed, it will be used for storage of maintenance equipment and supplies. This will allow the part time employees to better help with the grass trimming and upkeep of the property.

BUDGET UPDATE:

Mr. Davis reported that an administrative assistant made it into the budget. Because of funding, the position cannot be filled until January 2018.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Debney and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 25, 2017
County Council Conference Room
500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29485
6:30 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. Jay Byars, Dorchester County Council, Commission Chair (via phone)
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Chair, vice-chairman
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Patty Boyd, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Ms. Shannon Raglin, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Mr. Howard Bridgman, Public
Mr. Robbie Robbins, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Mr. Montei.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Montei.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgman wanted to inform the group about the Spirit of the River Fest which will be held at Givhans Ferry State Park on Saturday, August 12, 2017. It is an all day event. There will be activities on the water and land including food, drinks and music. More details can be found at www.ERCKtrail.org.

BOND REFERENDUM:

The county has asked for a summary judgment in the lawsuit. The case has been moved from Dorchester County to Orangeburg County. The county attorney feels confident that we will prevail and thinks that the request will be heard within the next few weeks.

Mr. Davis asked if the judgment can be appealed. Mr. Byars was not sure of the answer to this question, but will find out.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:**COURTHOUSE PARK:**

The construction drawings are one hundred percent done. Land disturbance permits are submitted so that as soon as the lawsuit is settled work can begin. ADC is moving forward. We have a \$100,000.00 grant for the trails on this property. It has to be used soon or we will have to give the monies back. We also received a \$125,000.00 grant from the Heritage Trail for the pavilion on this property. It has to be used within one year. Mr. Davis will work with ADC to see if there is a way we can spend this money as well as remaining 2010 Bond proceeds to construct a portion of the park as a contingency to the 2016 bond referendum proceeds being held up in the lawsuit indefinitely.

The playground and lighting for this property are not included in the bid. Mr. Davis thinks it is more advantageous to have them on a separate RFP. Mr. Davis has compiled drafts of these, which will be posted as soon as the lawsuit is settled and the bond monies become available. Mr. Davis informed us that donor guides are now available for this property. Mr. Welch will be taking some to hand out to his contacts in the western end of the county. All other commission members are encouraged to hand them out, too.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The RFP's for the ropes and climbing course have been closed. Wild Blue Ropes submitted the proposal that was deemed most advantageous to the County by the selection committee. The agreement will require the concessionair design, build and operate the course and wall. The contract requires a \$12,000.00 a year concession fee and gives the county a seven percent cut of the net revenues. The county will provide space for the course and office space and will share marketing efforts. Wild Blue Ropes would like to have a ten year lease with an almost automatic renewal option or a fifteen year lease. The contract has not been signed yet as they are still in negotiations over some points in the contract. Wild Blue Ropes has not provided us with their fee schedule yet. When they do submit it it has to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. Seamon Whiteside has begun work on design. They will have a meeting on Thursday July 27, 2017. The ropes course is not holding up the design work for this property. Wetland permitting is ongoing.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

Good progress has been made on quantifying our wetlands impacts on this property. Seamon Whiteside is doing the work needed to get the information CAD, which is really

turning out to be a master plan. This will save us some money, at this property, in the long run. Mr. Davis provided those in attendance with a handout showing what is proposed for the property. The wetland delineation has been submitted for verification by Army Corps.

There is a piece of the property along Miles Jamison Road that we are trying to pull out of the mitigation so that it can be used for a structure for the park in the future or be sold for a commercial site.

EDISTO RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK TRAIL:

There was a launch party for the new website, logo, and paddling map on July 19, 2017. It was very well attended and got good press. Approximately fifteen canoes and kayaks went for the two mile paddle. ABC news 4 was there and aired a piece on their morning show July 20, 2017. The Journal Scene also did a very nice article with pictures. A reporter from the Colleton County Press and Standard was not able to make it to the event on the 19th so she came out on a different day to gather information for a story for that publication. Palmetto Magazine will also come and gather information for a story for that magazine.

On a side note, Mr. Davis informed the group that Mr. Earl Johnson has a very nice place for canoe/kayak rental and facilities on his property adjacent to the Edisto. All information for the above can be found on the new website: www.ERCKtrail.org.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

Construction for the two new access sites have been out to bid. Only one bid came in. It was pretty high at just over \$500,000.00. The county has been negotiating back and forth with them. They are currently around \$435,000.00 for both projects. Swan Drive site is a bit pricier. The estimated cost for that project is now \$282,000.00 for Swan Drive and the estimated cost for the Bacon's Bridge Road site is \$153,000.00.

DNR water rec has given us a \$200,00.00 grant, DHEC a \$50,000.00 and The Heritage Corridor has also given a \$100,000.00 grant. The shortfall could be covered by unallocated funds from the 2010 bond monies and/or additional water recreation funds. There is approximately \$300,000.00 left in the 2010 bond that has not been designated for a project. That figure does not include the monies that are designated for the conservation commission or the monies that have been designated for the Courthouse Park property.

Mr. Davis reminded us that we have to spend the 2010 bond monies soon as the county attorneys have notified him that penalties could be incurred if the money is not spent soon.

There is no deadline for the monies from the water rec bond. It just stipulates that it has to be used for water recreation. It does have a requirement that people have twenty-four hour access to the completed property. We could potential use that money in the Ashley River Park property.

The winning bidder for these projects doesn't have a problem with signing individual contracts for these two projects. The commission members think that that would be a good idea so we are not forced to spend more than anticipated just to get everything done.

PARD PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE:

Mr. Davis met with Representative Murphy to present our suggestions for the two projects that we would like help in funding for, i.e. a feasibility study for connecting Rosebrock Park and the Ashley River Park properties and improvements to the front area of Rosebrock Park. Representative Murphy wanted to contact the town of Summerville to see if they have any shovel ready projects before the delegation decides on how much funding they can provide for our projects. Mr. Davis talked with Mr. Best and he said that the town has one small project that they are asking help with and that along with his request he will send a letter recommending that the delegation help with our projects.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and approved by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

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
September 26, 2017
Jennie McMahan Library
506 North Parler Avenue, St. George, SC 29485
6:30 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. Jay Byars, Dorchester County Council, Commission Chair
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Patty Boyd, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Mr. Byars.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made.

BOND REFERENDUM:

Mr. Davis reported that there was nice support for the defendants at the court proceedings. There has been no ruling yet. The plaintiffs expressed their desire to have a trial to settle the matter.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

COURTHOUSE PARK:

The permitting is just about finished. Comments came back from state and local agencies and have been addressed in the plans. Dorchester County Planning Department had no questions. The bid documents are ready to go out. The playground and fitness RFP's are completed. They have been sent to our Business Services Department for review. The \$100,000.00 grant for trails is still in place and Mr. Davis asked about getting an extension for the time frame for it to be used. They said they will work with us. The \$125,000.00 Heritage Corridor deadline is next October. Mr. Davis contacted them and they agreed to work with us also.

The RFP for the sports lighting will be done separately and has been started.

The forester for the logging crew is coming out to walk the property. If it stays dry the timbering will be completed next week.

Mr. Davis will organize a ground-breaking ceremony at the appropriate time.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The property flooded again with the last storm. The boardwalks held up. The reimbursements are almost completed.

Mr. Davis presented a handout for the new master plan for this property along with handouts of the floor plans for the outfitters building and the pavilion.

Mr. Davis reported that a wetland permit application and associated mitigation plan will be submitted on Wednesday of next week. It was delayed by one month due to delays in determining the location and footprint of the ropes course and climbing wall. The ropes course people are consistently working on their design. Mr. Davis projects that the bid for this project would be posted around May of 2018 if all goes smoothly with wetland permitting and construction funds are available. Regarding next steps in the wetland permitting process, the US Army Corp of Engineers will review the submittal, a meeting will take place with USACE and their comments will be addressed, and then the application will go out for 45 days of public and interagency comment. Next, USACE will review comments and decide if they will require any changes to the application or mitigation plan based on these comments. We will then provide a final submittal for final review by USACE.

Twenty-five people came out for the latest bird walk that was held on this property. There were also over one thousand views of the volunteer-produced promotional video on Facebook.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

Mr. Davis has received the wetlands verification on this property. He has been contacted by local real estate agent Mr. Foster Smith. He is interested in purchasing a portion of the property that is adjacent to Beverly Drive. Mr. Davis will have to meet with him to discuss this in more detail before any action can be taken.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

Construction starts tomorrow on the boat landing at Bacons Bridge boat launch. It is estimated that it will be completed in three to four weeks. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 2, 2017 at 10 am. Friends of Dorchester County Parks will sponsor it. The theme will be "Deck the Hulls".

Mr. Davis suggested that the site be named after Mr. Howard Bridgman due to his long advocacy for a public access at Bacons Bridge. After some discussion Mr. Tupper made a motion to recommend to County Council that the site be named for Mr. Bridgman. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion and one was absent. None opposed. Mr. Davis will relay the recommendation to the proper county officials. He will also contact Mr. Bridgeman's family to work on the details with them in an effort to make this a surprise.

PARD PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE:

Mr. Davis submitted the applications for this on August 15, 2017. He heard back from Representative Murphy concerning the submission but it will be awhile before divisions on fund allocations will be made.

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:

David Ramage wants to make a video of the progress of the boat landing build and the section of river it serves.

Larry Maras has a garage woodshop and has installed some bird boxes at Rosebrock Park. He is interested in also building benches for the trail in the park.

Girl Scout Troop 652 will be building a kiosk for the boat launch site.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Welch and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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
December 5, 2017
County Council Conference Room
500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29485
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. Jay Byars, Dorchester County Council, Commission Chair
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Fred Skipper, Commission Member
Ms. Patty Boyd, Friends of Dorchester County Parks
Mr. Howard Bridgman, Public
Mr. John Mott, Public
Mr. Earl Johnston, Edisto river Adventures
Ms. Arlethia Lemon-Cusack, Texas Community Park
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Ms. Ranck.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bridgman expressed thanks to everyone involved in the process of naming the new river access site after him. He was very surprised and humbled by the great honor. He then asked Mr. Davis if the amount of rubber on the ramp is final. Mr. Davis said that it is at this point but that he did see how when the river was at its very highest tide this weekend the water was above the edge of the rubber. This may be something to look at in the future.

Mr. Mott likes the possibility of going from the Swan Drive access to the Jessen boat landing access. He said it is the right amount of time to be able to use the tides to your advantage when going both ways.

BOND REFERENDUM:

Mr. Davis received an email from the county attorney via the clerk of court office. It stated that they are expecting a ruling on the lawsuit this week.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:

COURTHOUSE PARK:

The timbering is completed. It netted a total of \$38,372.77. These funds will be put back in the park and recreation fund and will be designated to be used for the Courthouse Park Property only. There is also over \$500,000.00 in the account that has been previously designated for this park. This could allow some work to begin on this park property before the ruling on the current lawsuit.

There have been a lot of rumors circulating in the western end of the county about the funds designated for this park and their use. Mr. Davis is going to meet with the County PIO in an effort to use the press to get out the truth about the situation.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Mr. Davis had a visit with the Army USACE of Engineers on November 14, 2017. He submitted the proposal for mitigation of the wetlands for this property and the Pine Trace property along with preliminary design plans for both properties. The USACE was very impressed with the approach being taken with these properties. They are only going to require a buffer around the wetlands which will free up some more areas of usage and flexibility to change usage in the future without filing for adjustments. Mr. Davis and the consultants are in the midst of revising our application. He hopes to be able to submit it to the USACE on December 15, 2017. After USACE receives it they will review it and then release it for a thirty day public comment review. A notice will be sent to all property owners that are adjacent to both properties. This will be quite a large number of residents. Mr. Davis projects that the thirty day period will start sometime in January of 2018, with the permits being issued around May of 2018.

Mr. Davis has instructed the design company, Seamon Whiteside, to do fifty percent of the design work and submit it to the TRC committee so that it can be on the agenda of their February meeting.

Mr. Davis had a meeting with the architecture firm for the property. Adding the extra toilets as discussed in the previous meeting raised the cost by about \$116,000.00. When the design is completed there may have to be adjustments made to phasing of the plan to allow for this and other overages.

Mr. Davis also met with the marine engineering sub consultant. They are looking at options for boardwalks and fishing structures.

Mr. Davis reported that the last bird walk for the season was filled to capacity. There were also over one thousand views of the promo video that advertised the walk on Facebook.

Mr. Davis reported that public works bush-hogged the property last week in anticipation of the river access site opening. They also spread additional stone for overflow parking and for the driveway. Mr. Davis suggested that we be more vigilant of trespassing on this property now that the river access is open.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

As mentioned above this USACE is happy with the plans for this property and are allowing the wetlands to be buffered instead of placing all high ground under protection. This will allow for more usage and flexibility with the property.

The sewer line that runs across the property, which are owned by CPW, from the Costal Center and Sires Elementary School never had an easement put in place. This is being worked on and also the lines are going to be moved about ten feet.

ASHLEY RIVER BLUE TRAIL:

The Ashley River Blue Trail Howard Bridgman Access has been opened. Construction actually finished at dusk on 12/1/2017 before the opening on 12/2/2017. The ribbon cutting was well attended and there were more boats on the river than Mr. Davis anticipated, so it was a big success.

Mr. Davis thanked all those that helped during construction and the event:

Girl Scout Troup 652 for installing the kiosk; Jim and Rita May Ranck for helping with parking and waivers at the opening; Earl Johnston, of Edisto River Adventures, for providing the shuttle on Saturday; Pam Zanowski, Shannon Raglin, Amanda Davis and Mariella Davis for decorating the Boat Club. Pam also filmed one of the promo video on Facebook; Edward Tupper for acquiring an oyster roaster and steaming the oysters; Mike Montei for signing the alcohol permit so that beer and wine could be served for the event and picking up the oysters; and lastly, Public Works for spreading stone in the parking and driveway areas.

Mr. Davis hasn't had the final walk through yet for this project, but he anticipates that he will get this done soon and the project will be closed out.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:

Mr. Davis received a call from Ms. Lemon-Cusack in October inquiring about improvements to this park. She informed Mr. Davis that the county owns this property. Mr. Davis did some research and found that the county does indeed own this property and is therefore responsible for the condition and any needed repairs.

Public works has already gone in and removed recreation equipment determined to be unsafe.

Mr. Davis is working on a cost estimate to bring the building and recreational equipment back to the condition it was in before it fell into disrepair. It is estimated that playground equipment replacement will run approximately \$15,000 – \$20,000.

The building will also need major repairs. This is a priority as this building is used for the Summer Feeding Program for children during the summer months. Missy Hopkins with Building Codes has already looked at it. Electrical needs to be rewired, plumbing needs repairs, and there are access issues to be addressed. The septic tank and drain field need to be inspected and repaired or replaced. Mr. Al Jenkins from Senator Scott's office

has been contacted as has State Senator Matthews. They will help with any possible funding sources.

Mr. Davis reported that he is also looking at replacing some playground equipment for the St. Paul Park and that we may be able to get a price break if we purchase the equipment for both projects at the same time. County Councilman Davis is very supportive of the St Paul's project and may be able to help in finding community resources.

Mr. Davis informed the group that we need a gate/fencing company that can provide a W-9 and certificate of insurance so they can add a gate to the Texas Park property and do the fencing work at St. Paul's Park. Mr. Byars asked if it has to be a fence company. Mr. Davis said no. It was suggested that he contact the feed store in St. George.

Summerville Soccer Club Property:

The county owns the soccer club property and has been contacted by the Charleston Battery. They would like to take on the youth soccer program. When this happens the Summerville Soccer Club nonprofit organization will be dissolved. County council has approved the agreement with the Battery although it isn't a done deal yet.

The Battery will also be branching out to the western end of the county in the future. This type of partnership is becoming more common all over. Mr. Davis has talked with someone from Colleton County and they are considering using this approach also.

There was no further discussion or business at this time. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Skipper. It was seconded by Mr. Welch and approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rita May Ranck, Secretary