

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**500 N Main St., 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. Mike Montei, Commission Member  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director  
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Dorchester Parks & Recreation Staff  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member  
Mr. Howard Bridgman, Public  
Mayor of Harleyville, Mr. Charles Ackerman, Public

**ABSENT:** Mr. Jay Byars, Mr. Fred Skipper, Mr. John Welch, Mr. Edward Tupper

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Mr. Mike Montei

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Mr. Montei who also led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting was made by Mr. Brown. Second was made by Mr. Debney. 3 voted to approve the minutes, 4 were absent and 1 abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor of Harleyville, Mr. Charles Ackerman thanked the Commission for the County's contribution towards the renovations and improvements to the community playground. He updated the group on the progress of the playground. He also reported on the next steps to finalize the work.

**2016 BOND REFERENDUM:**

Mr. Davis stated that there has been no communication from the SC Supreme Court on the lawsuit but we are ready to go to bid when the ruling comes down from the SC Supreme Court.

### **ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:**

Ms. Zanowski, Race Director, gave an update on the Adventure Race scheduled for Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The race is a 5k trail run through the future Ashley River Park followed by an 8.5-mile paddle down the Ashley River to the post party hosted by the Inn at Middleton Place where there will be food, beverages, entertainment and the award ceremony. She showed the group the registration web site and gave updates on registration, sponsorship, volunteers and specifics of the event. Sponsors are still needed. Edisto River Adventures will have kayak rentals available. A Fun Float will also offer an easier way to participate with a 4.5 mile paddle from Jessen Landing to the Inn.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:**

#### **ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that we have received the 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. We are in the process of finalizing bid documents. Everything is in place to start building the park.

#### **SWAMP FOX DRIVE PROPERTIES:**

County council agreed to purchase the properties for \$145,000.00. The tracts total 6.9 acres. They are in the floodway but may provide access to join Rosebrock Park with the Ashley River Park property. Closing will be in March. The closing attorney is confirming the legality of public access via Swamp Fox Drive before closing.

#### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that he has a meeting this week with Edward Tupper and Missy Hopkins to discuss and finalize specs and drawings for the Rosebrock rest room construction. Construction will start soon as the project must be completed in May. He also has a meeting with a future Eagle Scout looking for a project. Mr. Davis will discuss relocating the Rosebrock Park sign and landscaping to the corner of the property, so it could be seen from the intersection and frees up additional space in the center of the parking lot. Mr. Davis is also meeting with the Master Gardener group to talk about constructing a community garden.

#### **TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that County Council approved the land use agreement with the Texas Recreation board. They still need to provide proof of liability insurance.

#### **PINE TRACE:**

Mr. Davis reported that we received the 404 permit.

#### **FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS:**

Mr. Davis updated the group about the upcoming programs and events. The Ashley River Adventure Race will be held Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fish Brosnan and the Evening at Brosnan will be held Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Ticket prices are \$50 each or \$85 per couple. We are currently working on sponsorships. Palmetto State Armory has doubled their

sponsorship commitment this year. Mr. Davis stated that we need to fill an opening on the Friends board if anyone knows someone who may be interested.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Debney and unanimously agreed to. Meeting was adjourned at 6:31 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**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**500 N Main St., 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. Fred Skipper Commission Member  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member  
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director  
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Dorchester Parks & Recreation Staff

**ABSENT:** Mr. Jay Byars, Mr. Mike Montei

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Ms. Rita May Ranck. Ms. Ranck made a motion to approve Mr. Debney as the acting chair in the absence of Mr. Byars and Mr. Montei, Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney who also led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting was made by Ms. Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Tupper. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. John Mott spoke about the impact the Berlin G Meyers road construction project will have on the Sawmill Branch Trail. He asked if there was a chance other trails may be open to compensate for the closing of the Sawmill Branch. Mr. Davis reported that there may be funds available starting in 2020 for new trail development.

**2016 BOND REFERENDUM:**

Mr. Davis stated that there was still no update on the lawsuit but we are ready to go to bid with both major park projects when the SC Supreme Court rules.

### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that construction for the restrooms was awarded to Tupco who had the low construction bid of \$104,000. Total cost of the project will be around \$117,810. Permit was pulled today and construction should be complete by the deadline at the end of May. Mr. Davis reported that Caden Cranford completed his Eagle Scout Project at Rosebrock. He dismantled the landscaping and sign that was located in the parking lot and constructed a new sign base and landscaping to the corner of the property to be more visible for those driving by. Mr. Davis said this was the best Eagle Scout project he had been involved with.

### **REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNTY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE \$50,083 FROM CONTINGENCY FUND TO BE USED FOR ROSEBROCK PARK RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION, VEHICLE ACQUISITION, AND DISC GOLF BASKET ACQUISITION:**

Mr. Davis reported that funds were no longer needed for a new vehicle. They rebuilt the engine on the vehicle he currently drives. Approval was not needed for the \$25,000 in gap funding for the Rosebrock Park restroom construction. Mr. Davis reported that we have an opportunity to buy a set of disc golf baskets at a discount of around \$4800 to be used in Pine Trace. Funding would come from current fiscal year Recreation Fund contingency. Ms. Ranck made a motion to recommend to County Council to purchase the disc baskets. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORT ON SPECIAL EVENTS:**

Ms. Zanowski gave an update on the recent special events hosted by DCPRD and Friends of Dorchester County Parks. The Adventure Race which was held on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was a great success. We had 185 racers and 250 attended the post party at the Inn at Middleton Place. The majority of our racers came from the tri county area, but we did have a good number from outside this area and some out of state folks as well. Ms. Zanowski reported that the race with sponsorship raised over \$9000, we had over 40 volunteers help with the event and a number of local agencies provided support and safety personnel on land and on the water. Ms. Zanowski reported that on March 16<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the Fish Brosnan and An Evening at Brosnan events at Brosnan Forest, thanks to Norfolk Southern Railroad. About 135 youth came out to fish with prizes being donated by Palmetto State Armory. Ms. Zanowski reported we had about 225 people come out to An Evening at Brosnan, where guests enjoyed a BBQ meal, beverages, entertainment by the Lawmen and an opportunity to bid on silent auction items provided by Palmetto State Armory. Over \$12,000 was raised for this event. Proceeds from these events will go towards the Friends' initiative of supporting our communities' park and recreation needs.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:**

#### **ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that the board walk ramps have been completed and next we will work on finishing the cross bracing and making the pier more secure. The MS4 permit has been received.

#### **DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that a new wetland delineation study was done. There is some extra land and we will start master planning to decide what that land will be used for. Mr. Brown asked how much extra land there was? Mr. Davis said there was about 54.4 acres and 9.3 were wetlands.

**SWAMP FOX DRIVE:**

Mr. Davis reported that 2 parcels totaling 6.9 acres across from Ashley River Park were purchased by the County on March 1, 2019 for \$145,000.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA**

Mr. Davis reported the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants was received from USACE and executed by Mr. Ward. They will be recorded when all have signed.

**TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that Swamp Fox Contractors is finalizing the site work for the new track. Banks Construction is donating the asphalt and Paragon Construction will lay the asphalt to complete the track. Mr. Davis reported that a meeting was scheduled with some playground manufacturers to update the equipment. The Texas Park Board has also provided a certificate of liability insurance so the Land Use Agreement is now valid.

**RIVERS AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION:**

Mr. Davis reported that County Council recently appointed the new commission. The commission will meet briefly tonight with County attorney John Frampton and then schedule a formal meeting for next month.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Welch made a motion to hold the next scheduled meeting in St. George. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**COMMISSION DIRECTION:**

Mr. Davis reported that Mr. Skipper would be leaving his position on the Park & Recreation Commission after 5 years of service. He thanked Mr. Skipper for his support and wished him well with his other endeavors. Mr. Davis asked the Commission to consider a replacement for Mr. Skipper.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Welch. It was seconded by Mr. Tupper and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 23, 2019**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**201 Johnston St, St George, SC 29477**

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, Chair  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member  
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director  
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Dorchester Parks & Recreation Staff  
Ms. Barbara Jones, St George Tennis Center  
Mr. Allen Brownlee, St. George Tennis Center  
Mr. Clarence Hughes, Mayor of the Town of Ridgeville  
Mr. Len Coburn, Public

**ABSENT:** Mr. John Welch, Mr. Mike Montei, Mr. Edward Tupper

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown who also led the Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting was made by Mr. Debney. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Motion was passed unanimously with Chairman Byars abstaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Lynn Corbin, 233 Two Church Road, Harleyville, SC, spoke to the committee about the Elem Community Park which is in Harleyville. It is a community park in development. Mr. Corbin is acting as chairman of the community group that is working to improve the park. He advised the Commission that they are in need of some dirt to use as fill in the park. Mr. Davis stated that there has been a considerable amount of dirt removed during the walking trail renovation that is in progress at the Texas Community Park. He will ask if there are any plans for the use of that dirt and will follow up with Mr. Corbin.

### **St. George Tennis Center – Ms. Barbara Jones**

Ms. Jones was representing the St. George Youth Sports League and the St. George Tennis Center. Ms. Jones gave the history of the tennis center and the programs offered. The courts are owned by the school district but leased to the Town of St. George. Since 2010, they have been providing the only public tennis program in upper Dorchester County. In 2011, they became a 501C3. The center offers Spring and Fall Junior Tennis sessions, as well as a summer camp where they partner with the summer feeding program for a nominal fee. They offer a middle school jr tennis program, working with St. George Middle School and Harleyville/Ridgeville Middle School. The program relies on volunteers and they do not have any paid staff. They serve youth ages 5-18 and have a diverse group from all over the county and some from outside the county. Ms. Jones presented a slide show of the tennis programs and the courts. Ms. Jones stated that 2 of their courts are not playable and have not been repaired in 45-50 years. Mr. Allen Brownlee spoke on behalf of the growing adult tennis program and the need for the regulation courts to be repaired so they are playable for the adults and for tournaments. Ms. Jones presented a copy of the center's budget and requested \$20,000 from the county to help rebuild the 2 courts and additional lighting. Mr. Davis reported that the \$20,000 would be taken from the remaining \$88,000 2010 bond balance. Chairman Byars asked who would oversee the project. Mr. Mark Carter, an engineer who has been helping the center with the project said he would be available to continue to assist with the project. Chairman Byars asked who would be handling the funds. Ms. Jones stated that all money is managed by the Town of St. George. Mr. Debney made a motion to recommend to County Council that they use \$20,000.00 from the unallocated 2010 bond monies to help complete the renovation of tennis courts 1 & 2 in the town of St. George. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting, May 6, 2019.

### **Ridgeville Town Park - Mayor Clarence Hughes**

Mayor Hughes gave a slide presentation showing the Town of Ridgeville Park. He stated that the town does the maintenance for the park. The park is well used by the community. There are no lights in the park because they don't want people in there at night. They currently lock the bathrooms at night also.

Mayor Hughes is asking the Commission if the county can help to provide additional play equipment (specifically a new slide) for the park. He had talked with Mr. Davis about the issue earlier and Mr. Davis informed him that there is a sale on right now. A new slide can be purchased for the cost of \$7,656.09. Mr. Byars suggested that the Town of Ridgeville provide for half the cost and that the County provide the other half if the Council agrees to it. Mr. Byars asked Mr. Davis who would oversee the purchase and installation of the equipment. Mr. Davis stated the Parks and Recreation department would. Mr. Byars made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to County Council that they provide \$3828.05 from the unallocated 2010 bond monies account to purchase a new slide for the Town of Ridgeville Park. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to the County Council at their next meeting, May 6, 2019.



### **2016 BOND REFERENDUM:**

Mr. Davis stated that there was still no update on the lawsuit.

### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that construction has begun on enclosing the outdoor classroom and converting it into restrooms and a storage. The septic portion of the project will take the longest and construction should begin around May 3. Mr. Davis also reported that a local scout demolished and moved the Rosebrock sign to be more visible to passing traffic. The scout did this as his Eagle Scout project. A floodlight has also been installed in the parking lot. Mr. Davis reported they may look at constructing some raised beds for community gardens and/or possibly put in a small playground area. Dorchester Trust Foundation would have to grant approval for the playground as they own the property and Mr. Davis will reach out to them to have this discussion. Chairman Byars asked if Mr. Davis thought the playground would become obsolete when Ashley River Park opened. Mr. Davis stated he did not think so because it would offer people a smaller option with no cost. Mr. Davis stated that Tupco plans on completing the project by May 24<sup>th</sup> and then we will discuss a ribbon cutting.

### **NEW PROGRAMMING PLANS**

Mr. Davis reported that the department is working on some programming ideas to get people out into the parks. We would need to bush hog Ashley River Park throughout the summer so people would have access. The bush hogging would cost \$2500 each time and this is currently not budgeted. Mr. Davis asked if we wanted to request from County Council transferring money from the contingency fund to cover the bush hogging to do fishing and other programs throughout the summer. Mr. Davis stated they are considering a fishing day at the end of May or early June. Mr. Brown asked if the County had its own bush hog. Mr. Davis said they do, but do not have the time to take care of the park all summer. Chairman Byars said he would like to see a fishing day at the end of May and then we could look into other programming from there. Mr. Debney made a motion that the Commission recommend to County Council that they approve up to \$10,000.00 to be used to bush hog the Ashley River Park property so that some public events can be held there in the coming months. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting on May 6, 2019.

### **TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:**

Mr. Davis reported that the public works department has obtained some local contractors to donate time, work and materials for the new track. Paragon will be paving the track on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Davis has obtained some quotes for new playground equipment. When the equipment is delivered, they will have a community install. The cost will be approximately \$24,990.43.

The board of the park is going to be responsible to mow the property and do small repairs. The county will be responsible for any major repairs to the property.

The building that was condemned will need about \$55,000.00 additionaly for renovations. County Council has designated \$30,000.00 for the project and Mr. Davis has approached

the state representative, Ms. Kimmons, to get the PARD application for grant monies, submitted to the delegation last July, approved. She is going to check and will get back to Mr. Davis when she receives the information.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Debney made a motion that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Ranck and all present voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**May 28, 2019**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**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, County Council and Commission Chairman  
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chair  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. John Mott, Public  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

**ABSENT:** There were no absences for this meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney who also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. John Mott, 244 Luden Drive Apt B, Summerville, spoke about the latest master plan putting an emphasis on greenways. He is hoping that future plans will include enough funding to make this plan come to fruition.

**2016 BOND REFERENDUM:**

The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff and agreed that the bond questions should have been separated. Mr. Byars stated that this will provide the parks and recreation department with new opportunities. Mr. Byars conducted a straw poll of Council and all seem to be in favor of new parks. The Trust for Public Land is helping

with research for a probable new referendum to be on the ballot this coming November. Ashley River Park and Davis-Bailey Park will be ready to go to bid for construction as soon as bond monies become available.

County Council must pass three readings of any proposed referendum before it can be put on a ballot. These three readings must take place before August 15, 2019. Right now research is being done to vet the way the question would need to be worded, the dollar amount needed and the projects to be included. Mr. Byars will get the information to the commission members as soon as it becomes available so that they can review it.

Mr. Byars made a motion that the commission have a specially called meeting on June 13, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Summerville County Council Chambers to discuss the details to be included in the bond referendum that will be recommended to County Council. Mr. Debney seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Mr. Davis confirmed that the Council Chambers in Summerville will be available for the emergency meeting.

#### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE—MR. ERIC DAVIS:**

##### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Davis received a certificate of occupancy for the new restrooms. He will have a soft opening of the restrooms on Thursday. Ashley River High School art students will be painting a mural on the road side of the building. When it is completed Mr. Davis will schedule a grand reopening for the park.

When we received the PARD grant for the bathroom project Mr. Davis knew it wouldn't be enough to cover all of the project costs. We received \$100,000.00 and the project came in at \$113,098.00. Mr. Davis asked the Commission to consider making a motion that County Council use the recreation fund contingency account to pay the balance of the monies needed to cover this project. There is approximately \$155,000.00 in the fund for this year. Mr. Monte made a motion that the commission recommend that County Council approve moving the monies needed for the balance of this project from the recreation fund contingency account. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ranck. Six voted in favor of the motion and one abstained. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to Council at their next meeting.

Mr. Davis said that there have been several requests to have some playground equipment at this park. The agreement for this property having a park at this site states that it must be passive recreation use. Mr. Davis said that he has done some research and thinks that he can present an option for playground equipment that will fit into the passive category, but will continue to research and discuss with Dorchester Trust Foundation, Lowcountry Land Trust, and their attorney. Mr. Davis anticipates that the funding for this can come from the 2010 unallocated bond monies.

##### **TEXAS COMMUNITY PARKS:**

The playground equipment has been ordered. It will be installed the beginning of June. It will be a joint effort between county employees and community volunteers.

Mr. Davis is planning for a ribbon cutting ceremony in mid to late June. The track has been repaved and Mr. Davis is hoping that the sponsors that made this possible will be able to attend the ribbon cutting.

Mr. Davis is still waiting to see if a PARD grant will be awarded to complete renovation of the restrooms at this park.

**EXPLORE A FUTURE PARK SERIES:**

The first event was held on May 18, 2019, at Ashley River Park. It was a carp tournament, although none were caught on that day. There was a good size bass caught. There were around one hundred participants. Some came to just walk in the park, too. Twenty five dollars was raised for the Friends of Dorchester County Parks.

Mr. Davis said the next event is scheduled for June 8, 2019, at 7am.

**RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:**

There was a meeting called by local stakeholders and held on May 16, 2019 at Givhans State Park. There have been quite a few incidents reported to law enforcement and DNR. Staff is looking into getting some sort of patrol out on the waterway especially on Saturdays and Sundays. The Sheriff will be presenting a proposal for the cost to do this. DNR also suggests putting in some no wake zones to slow the boat traffic down in certain areas like the State Park and the main sand bar. They also suggested that residents witnessing incidents video them and submit them to authorities afterwards as the perpetrators can be prosecuted from video evidence.

This group is in the planning stages for a paddling, river exploration and music event to take place on October 11 and 12, 2019. Mr. Davis will keep the commission informed as plans for this event are finalized.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Welch made a motion that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Tupper and all present voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC 29477**  
**June 25, 2019**  
**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. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman  
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Ms. Ranck

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Welch who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:**

Ms. Ranck made a motion that Mr. Debney be appointed as acting chairman for this meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries and Mr. Debney assumed the duties of acting chairman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Brown made a motion that the minutes from the May meeting be approved as written. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**ROSEBROCK PARK:**

The public restrooms opened the last week in May. There are still a few items left on the punch list that need to be completed along with some cleanup. The art students of Ashley

River High School have completed a mural on the side of the restroom building. Mr. Davis said it has been too hot to have a ribbon cutting. He will do a press release only. He will make sure to commend the art students for doing the mural and also the Eagle Scout who moved the park sign as part of his project.

#### **TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:**

Mr. Davis and some county staff members and six or seven community men will work to install the playground equipment tomorrow. They will also build a kiosk. There will be a rededication of this park so that the community and corporate donors can be recognized for all they did in the upgrading of this public park.

#### **EXPLORE A FUTURE PARK SERIES:**

The second event was held on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Forty-four people attended. Bad weather was predicted so that may have kept some people away. The next event will be held on July 13, 2019. It will run from 7 am until noon.

#### **RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:**

Planning has started for the Edisto Blackwater Boogie Event to be held October 11-13, 2019. It will hopefully become an annual event. The Rotary Club of Summerville will partner with them for this event. The whole park (Givhans Ferry State Park) will be rented out for the event. Participants will have a variety of options for attendance. There will be one-day tickets, two-day tickets, or camping reservations - RV or tent. This will be a family friendly event. Mr. Davis explained that the organizers will need a little seed money to make this event successful this first year. He asked the commission for a motion to recommend to County Council that they use the new hospitality tax fund for this purpose. The tax is projected to bring in approximately \$1.2 million this year. This would be a one-time allocation. The cost to rent the stage and production costs for the event are \$7,500.00, the cost for marketing the event is \$2,000.00 and the cost for renting out the entire park is \$4,000.00. A portion of event proceeds will be dedicated to Givhans Ferry SP improvements and the remainder will be carried over to 2020 to be used to run the event. Mr. Debney made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to County Council that they use up to \$13,500.00 dollars as a one-time allocation of seed monies for the Blackwater Boogie event scheduled to be held this October. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will take the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting.

#### **CAPITAL FUNDING FOR PARKS:**

Mr. Davis said that considering the Supreme Court overturning the decision about the last bond referendum it will be necessary to have another bond referendum. The library has already made a request for a \$30M bond referendum to be on the ballot for this November. Mr. Debney made a motion to recommend that County Council have a referendum on the upcoming November ballot for no less than \$30M and up to \$50M for parks. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Debney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Ranck and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rita May Ranck, Secretary



**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC 29477**  
**August 27, 2019**  
**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. Burt Connelly, DCPRD Operations Manager  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman, by phone

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice-Chairman

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Ms. Ranck

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPOINTMENT OF A TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN:**

Ms. Ranck made a motion that Mr. Debney be appointed as temporary chairman for this meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries and Mr. Debney assumed the duties of temporary chairman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Brown made a motion that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as written. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**BOND REFERENDUM:**

The third and final reading of the bond ordinance for a referendum on the November ballot was passed by county council. The referendum will ask for \$38,000,000.00 for parks. A separate referendum for libraries will also appear on the November ballot.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

If the referendum passes this November all phases of the park will be able to be worked on immediately. Mr. Davis requested a recommendation to County Council that they approve additional monies for a design of an interactive water feature.

Interest in a veterans memorial feature for this park has been put forth.

Mr. Tupper made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to council that they approve \$12,292.00 for design of a veterans memorial for this park and 18,222.00 for the design of an interactive water feature. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to Council at their next meeting on September 3, 2019.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

If the referendum passes this November all phases of the park will be able to be worked on immediately. Mr. Davis requested a recommendation to County Council that they approve additional monies for a design of an interactive water feature. Ms. Ranck made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to county council that they approve \$11,980.00 for the design of an interactive water feature for this park. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. Ms. Ranck asked if the same design could be used for both parks. Mr. Davis said that because of the differences of site characteristics, such as topography, stormwater management, and drainage, this is not possible. There was no further discussion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to Council at their next meeting on September 3, 2019.

**EXPLORE A FUTURE PARK SERIES:**

Mr. Connelly will assume the responsibility for the planning and implementation of these events. There will be activities held at the Ashley River Park on September 9, 2019, October 26, 2019, November 16, 2019 and December 14, 2019. Mr. Connelly is working with Cheerwine to help provide drinks and is also hoping to be able to provide hot dogs for sale to participants. Mr. Connelly is also working to include some interactive gaming software that can be used for scavenger hunts in the Rosebrock and Ashley River Parks.

Other projects Mr. Connelly is working on include nature walks by Beidler Forest staff, interactive games through DNR, and getting drone pictures of the parks. All information for these events can be found on the Parks website.

**ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Connelly is working on getting new signs for this park. There was a new trail added and rules need to be updated. The new signs will feature the new county logo.

The drain field has been seeded.

This year's Dorchester County Leadership Program class has adopted this park as their project. They are looking to buy or build eight to ten benches to be installed along the trails of the park.

**RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:**

Through a National Park Service grant, the Rivers and Waterways Commission is serving as the steering body for the development of an Ashley River Recreation Management Plan. They are currently holding stakeholder meetings to identify Plan priorities, issues and themes and will develop a vision statement for the plan after reviewing information from the interviews. They have met with the Town of Summerville and Colonial Dorchester Historic Site. They will be meeting with DNR, Middleton Place and Inn, and Charleston Woodlands. They will meet with the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow. The planning for the Boogie Blackwater Nights Event, to be held on October 11-12, 2019, is well under way. Showa Denko has signed on as the title sponsor. Enough money to cover expenses has already been raised with existing sponsors and ticket sales. Volunteers are still needed for this event.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Tupper and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 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**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC 29477**  
**October 22, 2019**  
**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. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

**ABSENT:**

none

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER:**

Mr. Davis and Mr. Byars introduced the newest commission member, Mr. Wesley Donehue.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Welch made a motion that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two abstained due to absence none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**BOND REFERENDUM:**

November 5, 2019 is Election Day and the parks referendum will appear on the ballot. There is a need to direct folks to the website to get the facts about the parks and the referendum out there to counter the misinformation that has been put out. Mr. Byars challenged all commissioners to remind people to get out and vote.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

The county will hold its first ever Veterans Day Celebration on November 11, 2019. There will be a parade starting at 2:00pm which will end at the Courthouse. Beginning at 3:00 pm there will be music, games, and vendors. Mr. Davis was able to access some monies from the hospitality tax to mulch the entire park area prior to the event.

There will be a kick off meeting for the changes to the park to accommodate a veteran's memorial and water feature in the near future.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

There will be a kick off meeting for the changes to the park to accommodate an interactive water feature.

**EXPLORE A FUTURE PARK SERIES:**

Mr. Davis and Mr. Byars have discussed the possibility of a camping event to allow the community to explore a future park. This is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2019.

The next explore a park event will be held on October 25, 2019 at the Ashley River Park site. It will be a fishing and trail exploration event. It will be held from 8:00 am to noon. Mr. Davis is looking for volunteers to help as Mr. Connelly will be unavailable.

**ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Mr. Davis reminded the Commission that we do not own the land that this park occupies. We have a long term lease with the Dorchester Trust Foundation. It is protected by deed restrictions and has to have passive recreation that will ensure conservation of the land. Due to public demand, Mr. Davis approached the Foundation members about the possibility of adding a small playground. The Foundation has agreed that a small Robinia wood only play structure can be put in the parking lot corner by the existing shelter. Mr. Davis researched some small playgrounds and found the price to purchase a suitable structure, shipping and installation for this park is approximately \$66,000.00. There is no current funding source for this except the \$30,000.00 unallocated bond monies left from the 2010 bond and possible some hospitality tax revenue.

Mr. Debney made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to Council that they allocate the \$30,000.00 unallocated monies from the 2010 bond and use \$40,000.00 hospitality tax monies to install the playground and associated features including a fence. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion.

There was much discussion about possible funding options and design. After discussion ended a vote was taken and all voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Davis will take the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting.

**RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:**

There was a large tree blocking the Edisto River which needed to be removed. Dorchester County paid \$3,750 towards the cost for this. Colleton County helped in the disposal of the trees once they were removed.

The Deck the Hulls event will be held on December 7, 2019. This event will be organized by the Friends of the Dorchester County Parks.

**EDISTO BLACKWATER BOOGIE:**

Mr. Davis reported that this event went well for the first year. There were no major hitches. He has heard a lot of positive feedback. It is estimated that six to seven hundred people attended the event. It was slow on Friday. Over \$11,000.00 were raised. Over half of the profits will go to the State Park and will be used to create a river bluff trail in the park. There will be a non-profit formed to manage the event for next year.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Ranck and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 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**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483**  
**November 26, 2019**  
**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. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member (arrived late)  
Mr. Bert Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

**ABSENT:**

none

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the October meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this time.

**BOND REFERENDUM:**

There were 17,386 votes cast for the referendum on Election Day. 11,582 voted yes and 5,804 voted against. It broke down to 67% in favor and 33% against. The election was certified on

November 18, 2019. Since the election was certified County Council passed a reimbursement resolution which will allow them to take funds from the general budget to fund park projects until the bonds are sold. Once bond monies are available the general fund would be reimbursed for any funds spent on the parks. County Council approved up to \$20M to be available for the initial resolution. Mr. Davis is working with the purchasing department to get bids out for Davis-Bailey Park and Ashley River Park in January. After the bids go out there is a one month waiting period until they can be awarded and then ground breaking should occur around two weeks after awarding of the contract. That puts possible ground breaking for Davis-Bailey Park around March or April followed shortly by the ground breaking for Ashley River Park.

The design for the Pine Trace Property should begin in March. Mr. Davis said he has been speaking with possible corporate and individual sponsors for this property.

#### **ADOPTION OF 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Davis gave us a proposed meeting schedule for 2020. The proposed dates are January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, November 24, and December 15. The March, June, September and December meetings are proposed to be in St George. The rest are proposed to be in Summerville. Mr. Davis noted that the September proposed date is the fifth Tuesday and not the usual fourth. Mr. Tupper made a motion that the proposed September date be changed to the fourth Tuesday which would place it on September 22. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the commission members.

#### **DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

The County was able to get everything mulched in time for the Veteran's Day celebration. There were approximately one thousand in attendance for the event.

Drawings for the interactive water feature to be added to the park plan are being worked on. The drawings for the Veterans Memorial are on hold as Councilwoman Hollman is going to form a veterans group to work with the design aspect of this feature. The bid for the park will be put out without the Veteran's Memorial and when the design for it is ready it will be put out to bid separately. This will allow work on the park to begin without the design for the Veterans Memorial holding it up.

Mr. Davis is waiting to hear from the Dorchester County Water Authority so that they can let him know how much water they are going to be able to provide for the water feature.

Mr. Davis has been researching liabilities associated with re-circulating water features versus pass through water features. There is less liability with the pass through design so this is what type will be put in the design.

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held prior to work starting on the park. Friends of Dorchester County Parks will help with this under the direction of Mr. Davis and Mr. Connelly.

#### **REALLOCATION OF 2010 BOND PROCEEDS FOR POTENTIAL LAND ACQUISITION:**

There are unspent allocated funds left from the 2010 bond referendum. They need to be spent by May of 2020 which is the ten-year anniversary of the awarding of the bond. Any monies not spent by March will be subject to financial penalties.



The Conservation Commission has toured a 45 acre plot located on the Ashley River near Rosebrock Park. The plot has been appraised at \$153,000 which works out to be \$3,300 per acre. They will be recommending that County Council purchase this property using unspent monies from the 2010 bond funds. This cannot happen unless County Council approves reallocation of the funds. Ms. Ranck made a motion that Mr. Davis recommend to County Council that they reallocate up to \$160,000.00 to purchase the 45 acre plot on the Ashley River. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Mr. Davis will take the recommendation before council at their next scheduled meeting. There are also approximately \$64,000.00 unallocated funds left from the 2010 bond monies. Allocated fund that haven't been spent are approximately \$560,000.00. These are the funds that must be spent by March 2020.

#### **ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

The design for the interactive water feature in this park is being worked on by Seamon Whiteside. It will be a pass through water system. Mr. Davis presented a visual of what is being considered so far. It has a very educational theme which will be able to be used in winter as well as the warmer seasons. It interprets the entire Ashley River watershed. Mr. Davis estimates that the bid for the park will go out by mid January and groundbreaking will take place sometime in March or April after the Ashley River Adventure Race.

#### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

The recommendation for the playground funding that the commission made last month did not go before county council as the county administrator would like to have the whole project funded with monies from the 2010 bond. Mr. Tupper made a motion that we recommend that \$70,000.00 from the 2010 bond funds be used to fund the playground project for Rosebrock Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Debney. The vote was taken and was unanimous in favor of the recommendation.

Mr. Davis met with Mr. George McDaniel who would like to see a bigger emphasis on conservation and environmental education in this park. He is putting together a group of like minded people and will head up this group. Mr. McDaniel has contacted Beech Hill Elementary school and they are going to be involved in this project. He also has had contact with some individuals who may be interested in sponsoring some of the improvements to the park. Mr. Davis will continue to work with Mr. McDaniel on these projects.

#### **RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:**

The Deck the Hulls event will be held on December 7, 2019. This event will be organized by the Friends of the Dorchester County Parks. Mr. Connelly has been able to get sponsorship from Sticky Fingers for the barbeque. He has also been able to get donations for the beer and wine. Middleton Place is on board as the presenting sponsor, and will provide over \$3,000 in rooms free of charge to be used as packages for the Ashley River Adventure Race.

The Ashley River Adventure Race will be held on March 21, 2020. This event will be organized in conjunction with the Friends of the County Parks, as will the Evening at Brosnan event to be held on May 2, 2020.

Mr. Byars thanked Mr. Bridgeman, who was present, for his continued leadership, support and work on behalf our efforts to get things done along the Ashley River and surrounding areas.

Mr. Davis brought to our attention that the Ashley River Recreation Master Plan steering committee, which is the County Rivers and Waterways Commission, will be meeting on December 4, 2020 at 6:00 pm. The National Park Service will be at the meeting along with a consultant. After a vision statement and priority topics are developed, there will be opportunities for public feedback via a survey and drop in meeting. This will lead to adoption of a plan.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on December 17, 2019. Mr. Byars thanked the commission members for their nine years of work and support for the parks. He also thanked Mr. Donehue for his work on the campaign for the parks referendum.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Ranck and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rita May Ranck. Secretary