

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 28, 2020
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. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman (late arrival)
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member (late arrival)
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member (late arrival)
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

ABSENT: Mr. John Welch

CALL TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Davis noted a spelling error in Mr. Burt Connelly's name. A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting with a spelling correction was made by Ms. Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Four voted to approve the minutes, three were absent, and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved with one correction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Eric Davis introduced Amy Evans, the new Parks and Recreation Director for the Town of Summerville. Ms. Evans received a warm welcome from those present.

PRESENTATION: NEW GRASSROOTS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INITIATIVE:

Jon Franko, 116 Drayton Drive, Summerville, spoke on behalf of the newly formed group Bike/Walk Summerville. This is a grassroots organization that is advocating for safe multimodal streets.

They encourage mobility by foot, bicycle, and public transit for the improved health and well-being of Dorchester County. Their goal is to create a thriving pedestrian, bike and

multimode access culture within Dorchester County. The recent traffic death of Megan Jenkins, a guidance counselor, assistant track coach at Ashley Ridge High School and accomplished tri-athlete became a catalyst for the formation of the group. The group was specifically approached by Ashley Ridge High School to assist them in the planning and design of specific events in honor of Ms. Jenkins in cooperation with Ashley Ridge High School teachers and the Jefferson Memorial Student Leadership Group. They will Conduct a bike safety presentation to 10th graders and future drivers on February 4, 2020. They will hold a ride of silence on May 20, 2020. They will continue to look for other opportunities to bring awareness of their goals to more community groups as the opportunities become available.

The group will be meeting with the Town of Summerville and Mr. Davis. They are developing safety rules, signage and trail system branding to be placed on the Sawmill Branch Trail. They have a proposal from a consultant. It is estimated that it will cost a total of \$15,000.00 to complete this project. The Town of Summerville and The Leadership Dorchester Class of 2014/Greater Summerville-Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce have agreed to contribute to the funding of this project. Mr. Tupper made a motion that we recommend to County Council that they contribute \$5000.00 from the undesignated monies from the 2010 bond fund to help fund this project. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. A vote was taken and six voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Mr. Davis will make the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting.

PARK OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PLANNING:

Mr. Davis informed the group that with the anticipated ground breaking for the two parks happening soon he will need to submit an operational budget to the county. He will need to do this by February 7, 2020. There will be a new maintenance crew set up for the lower county. It will consist of a crew leader and three to four workers. He also advised that he will need a landscape manager for fiscal year 2021 and an administrative assistant that will start mid-year. The upper part of the county will need two new grounds crew members.

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:

The drawings are complete. Everything is ready to be put out to bid. Mr. Davis is waiting for the town of St. George's new consultant to review the plans. They were submitted on December 2, 2019. Mr. Davis is hoping that he will be finished by the end of this week. The Invitation For Bid doesn't include the plans for the interactive fountain or the veteran's memorial for this park. Mr. Davis will submit a change order when the plans for the fountain and memorial when they are complete.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Things are a little further behind on this project. The consultant said things should be complete in four to six weeks. Mr. Davis hopes to have it out to bid by 2/28/2020. Mr. Davis has been talking with CPW about charges related to their supplying water to the fountain.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Mr. Davis informed the group that Mr. Richard Rosebrock passed away on 1/13/2020. He was 92 years old.

Mr. Davis paid tribute to Mr. Rosebrock by reminding us that the first county park in our county is named in honor of Mr. Rosebrock because he was instrumental in helping to stop the development of condos that were planned for the site. He served many years on County Council where one of his main objectives was to get water and sewer to the upper part of the county. He also served many years on the Keep Dorchester County Beautiful Board bringing community awareness to litter control.

He was remembered by Ms. Ranck as being a true Christian southern gentleman and thanked him for nominating her to be on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Davis has been in touch with the playground manufacturer. They said that the playground should be in the warehouse by March 3, 2020. Installation should begin by the second or third week of March. The Dorchester Trust Foundation, George McDaniel, and Beech Hill Elementary staff have been participating in planning add ons to this project, which will include a conservation and environmental message. Mr. Burt Connelly is already working on programs that can be implemented in this park.

RIVERS AND WATERWAYS:

ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:

Forty-six racers have already signed up for the race. Twelve fun floaters have also signed up. Prices will go up starting February 2, 2020. A dozen rooms have been booked at Middleton Place. The county will get hospitality tax dollars from this also. Tickets for the after party are available. Mr. Davis has been in talks with Dukes BBQ about sponsoring the food. Mr. Davis does need volunteers to help with the event. The principle need will be kayak lifters to help racers to get prepared for the paddling leg of the race. Because some racers complained about their times being slowed down due to a back up of getting their kayak in the water last year, this year their time will stop when they have completed the run and will not start again until they are in their kayak on the water. Edisto River Adventures will have kayaks available for rent.

POTENTIAL LAND ACQUISITION:

The county has been looking into purchasing a 45 acre tract along the Ashley River. There are seven heirs that have a claim on the property and one will not consent to the sale at this time. The county will not be able to proceed with this purchase at this time.

ASHELY RIVER RECREATION MASTER PLAN:

ARRMP workshop agenda met with stake holders on December 4, 2019 and documented concerns and needs. They developed a vision statement: *The Upper Ashley River is a historic waterway with remarkable cultural and natural attributes. This plan serves as a community-driven guide for thoughtfully enhancing recreation, education and tourism opportunities in the corridor while promoting stewardship of the features that make it exceptional.*

Mr. Davis reminded the Commission that a grant from the National Park Service was the catalyst for this project. It is essentially on hold until the National Park Service finalizes their current year budget allocation for the project.

BROSNAN EVENTS:

The children's fishing tournament will be held on April 4, 2020 from 8:00 am to 11:30 am. The Evening at Brosnan event will be held May 2, 2020. It is going to be a bit different in nature this year. It will be the kick-off naming rights event. Not as many tickets will be available for the general public. The Friends of The Dorchester County Parks are considering a Kentucky Derby pre party theme to attract sponsors.

Mr. Donehue asked about the monies that need to be spent before they are lost on May 1, 2020. Mr. Davis said the county officials are aware of the need to spend the monies and are looking at several options that can be funded with the monies. They can be used for consultant fees, the playground equipment, the renovations at Texas Park, and there is a \$700,000.00 conservation project that maybe able to be funded with these monies.

Mr. Davis said that the updates for Texas Park are out to bid. There will be a site meeting next week. The project will get underway very soon.

The Ridgeville slide is here and will be installed on Wednesday.

Pine Trace will be put out to bid after the first two projects are underway.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was no further discussion so Mr. Tupper made a motion that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and all voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 25, 2020
County Council Chambers
500 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. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

ABSENT: Mr. Mike Montei, Mr. Wesley Donehue, Mr. Jay Byars

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MOTION:

Ms. Ranck made a motion to appoint Mr. Debney as acting chairman for this meeting. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted to pass the motion and none opposed. Two were absent. Mr. Debney will preside over tonight's meeting.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Debney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting with three corrections was made by Ms. Ranck. Second was made by Mr. Brown. Five voted to approve the minutes with the three corrections, two were absent, and none opposed. Motion carries; minutes are approved with the corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Ackerman (Town of Harleyville) thanked Mr. Davis and the commission for the work done for the Town of Harleyville Park in the recent past. He said the fields are being well used and even teams from Summerville are coming up and using them.

DAVIS- BAILEY PARK:

The project is out to bid. The plan has been updated to have the interactive water fountain moved next to the picnic pavilion and across from the playground. Work

continues on the Veterans Memorial. This feature will be installed where the interactive fountain was taken from. Proposed schedule for this park is:

2/18/2020 invitation for bidding goes out
3/10/2020 pre bid conference
3/17/2020 question deadline
3/31/2020 bidding opens
4/07/2020 intent to award contract will be issued
4/15/2020 contract will be issued
4/23/2020 potential groundbreaking ceremony to be held
6/01/2021 substantial completion date

The cost estimate for the project is \$6,000,000.00

The only thing waiting to be done before start of work is getting approval from the town of St. George that the park conforms to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

TEXAS PARK BUILDING REPAIRS:

Project was put out for public bid. Tupco will be awarded the contract, which will be executed this week. Funds will be used from the 2010 bond monies so that they are used prior to May 1, 2020.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Proposed schedule for the park is:

2/13/2020 Invitation for bidding goes out
2/20/2020 pre bid conference
3/5/2020 question deadline
3/11/2020 final addendum completed
3/17/2020 bidding opens
3/25/2020 intent to award contract will be issued
3/30/2020 contract will be issued
4/09/2020 potential groundbreaking ceremony to be held
7/01/2021 substantial completion date

The cost estimate for this project is \$13,000,000.00.

Mr. Davis reported that there was a good turnout for the explore a future park events that he has been hosting. He also reports that he recently got a new inflatable archery game that is very popular. There will be no more explore a future park events at ARP as construction mobilization will begin soon.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Mr. Burt Connelly has been talking with some eagle scouts about doing some projects in this park. Possibilities discussed have included adding some boardwalks or installing a swing down by the river. A nature art in the park program is to start in April. Mr. Connelly continues to work with teachers and students at Beech Hill Elementary school. They are addressing clean up and are having a t-shirt design contest.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

Mr. Davis submitted a conceptual plan for this property. County Council requested more details regarding project status. There is a wetland permit already in place. The road crossings and other wetland impacts are finalized under the permit, otherwise there is more flexibility in design and park amenities for this property.

The front seven and a half acres consist of five acres of high dry land and two and a half acres of wetlands. The Town of Summerville is considering a new fire station to be built here. Also, the Town and County are working together to consider a new senior center for this property. Exercise and activities are the focus for this site.

Proposed schedule for this park is:

4/2020 issue RFQ

5/2020 award design contract

11/2020 complete design and permitting

01/2021 award construction contract

2/2022 substantial completion

The cost estimate for this project is \$4,500,000.00

ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:

Mr. Burt Connelly was able to negotiate a deal with a local radio station for some advertising for this event. March 3, 2020 will be the deadline to register for the event and be able to receive a t-shirt in your size. Registrations after this date will be given t-shirts on an available basis. Registration prices will go up starting March 4, 2020. There are already ninety-seven racers registered and eighteen floaters. There is lots of room in the relay and tandem categories. Fifty-four of the registrants are from Dorchester County.

The next need is to nail down volunteers to work the event. The biggest need for volunteers will be to help get kayaks loaded into the river when the participants are finished the running portion of the event. Mr. Davis estimates that he will need at least twelve strong able-bodied persons.

TRAIL SYSTEM STUDY AND REPORT:

Mr. Davis made a presentation at the Summerville Chamber of Commerce Power Hour last Wednesday. Mr. Jon Franko and Mr. Russ Cornette also presented. The Sawmill Branch Trail has 7.7 miles of existing trail and the Gahagan area of town has another 5.3 miles of existing multi use paths. This gives a total of thirteen miles of existing paths. There is three miles of extensions planned which would bring the total to sixteen miles.

There is a possibility of another four and a half miles with the Eagle Chandler Trail. This is not currently funded.

Once all these projects are completed our area would have twenty and a half miles of trails making it the most connected trail system in the Lowcountry, connecting all park properties and three retail areas.

FUTURE PLANS:

Long range plans for multi-use paths include areas around Lincolnville Lakes, extending the Sawmill Branch trail to the north, and extending road side multi use paths along Dorchester and Orangeburg Roads and Highway 61.

Possible funding sources for these projects could be the Oakbrook TIF, the 2020 bond referendum, the Hospitality Tax, sponsorship and partnerships and grants.

Mr. Welch asked if there will be any further changes or delays to the Davis-Bailey Park once the designs for the interactive water fountain and veterans memorial are completed. Mr. Davis replied that the only possible delay would be if bids came in too high and there aren't sufficient monies in the budget or if the town of St. George planning commission wants to make some changes to the proposed plans.

There was no further discussion or business. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Tupper. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and unanimously agreed to. Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 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
June 23, 2020
County Council Chambers
201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC 29477
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. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman, by phone
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member, by phone

ABSENT: Mr. Joe Debney, Mr. Wesley Donehue

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Mr. Montei.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Montei.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no comments offered from the public.

DAVIS- BAILEY PARK:

Mr. Davis presented a power point for this project. The total estimated cost for this project is \$6,000,000.00. All bids have come in and are under the cost estimate. A contract for \$4,200,000.00 was signed with Hill Construction. There are \$1,800,000.00 in owner provided items some of which includes LED lighting with remote phone controls, bleachers, scoreboards, playground, splash pad, veterans memorial and shade structures.

The playground design is almost complete. A change order was put in for the splash pad.

There will be a meeting with Councilwoman Holman next week regarding the veterans memorial. Mr. Davis feels as though there is a good conceptual plan for this feature. Everything for the design of this feature should be completed in the next month or two, and at that time a change order will likely be executed with Hill construction for the work. The clearing and grubbing have been completed. They are working on digging out and cleaning up the old pond. They will be able to use the dirt that is removed from the pond in other areas, which will save money.

The building pads and foundations are the next items to be worked on. The storm pipes were delivered today.

This project is still on track to be completed in April of 2021.

The ground breaking for this project was canceled due to an illness in the Bailey family.

Mr. Davis hopes to reschedule it for late July or early August.

Mr. Davis reported that County Council allocated \$750,000.00 of the 2010 bond monies, the bulk of which was originally allocated to David-Bailey Park, to municipal projects around the County. \$400,000.00 was given to the Rosenwald School restoration project, \$100,000.00 was given to the Saul Alexander Park Extraordinary project, \$90,000.00 went to the Reevesville Park for amenity improvements and \$80,000.00 was given to both the Ridgeville and Harleyville communities.

Mayor Ackerman has already started work using the Harleyville donation.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The cost estimate for this project is \$13,000,000.00. A contract was signed with Edcon Inc. for \$10,400,000.00. There will be \$2,600,000.00 worth of owner financed items which will include playground equipment, the splash pad, the picnic shelter, the maintenance shed, and the climbing wall. The climbing wall has proved to be difficult to plan due to the Covid virus, but Mr. Davis continues to work on this item.

The clearing and grubbing will be completed this month. They will then be working on the building pads and foundations. After that they will be working on the pond bulkheads and piers. Drone shots of the property were done and will be done again after all the clearing is done. This project is still slated to be completed July 1, 2021. At the present time work is slightly ahead of schedule.

The groundbreaking was postponed due to inclement weather. Mr. Davis will reschedule.

TEXAS PARK BUILDING REPAIRS:

The building updates will be completed today or tomorrow. The porch was fixed up to include new lighting, vinyl and soffit. The project came in at \$143,000.00. This included all the renovations, including the central heat and air conditioning, the engineered septic system and an ADA parking space.

There will be a meeting with Mr. Ward, Councilwoman Holman, and Mr. Byars to discuss the county taking over a greater role in maintenance of this property. Mowing, by the County, should start in July.

There will be a dedication and reopening ceremony for the park sometime in the fall.

Mr. Davis will send out invites to the companies that made generous donations to the renovations for this project. They include Banks Construction, Paragon, Dorchester County Public Works and others.

When the Davis-Bailey Park is up and operational the same workers will assist with operating both facilities.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

The playground opened on June 11, 2020. It is located by an existing playground shelter and has lots of afternoon shade. Many improvements have been made recently: landscaping was added, the parking area was reconfigured with concrete wheel stops and added an ADA parking space. The trail head was moved to higher ground, there are new signs and a larger clearing was put in. Mr. Davis informed us that Mr. Jay Byars made a video announcing the reopening of Rosebrock Park. Mr. Connelly will be holding a drop in event sometime during the summer. He will have local children put painted handprints onto the playground structure. Watch for the upcoming announcement for this event.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

On Call Landscape Architecture and Engineering Service contracts should be executed soon. It will be finalized in the next week or two. As soon as executed, County will select one of the firms to complete design of Pine Trace. Wetland permitting is already in place for the property so design should move quickly.

EDISTO RIVER PARK:

This is the property on Wire Road, also known as the old Barry Stephens property. It is centrally located in the county. It was purchased by the Audubon Society a few years ago. We are looking to form a partnership with the Audubon Society to develop a public park facility. Mr. Davis will have a meeting on the site next week. The county may purchase some of the front portion, one hundred twenty-five acres, to develop into an active county park. The rest of the property would be open to the public through a land use agreement with Audubon. A traditional park with camping and fishing would be a good fit for this property. Acquisition of this property was included in the 2021 capital improvement plan.

ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:

There have been no meetings about this race since it was canceled. It has been rescheduled for November 14, 2020. Right now, the governor has limited all gatherings to two hundred fifty or less people. 80% of the participants registered for the race have changed their registrations to the new date instead of asking for a refund.

TRAIL SYSTEM STUDY AND REPORT:

The Town of Summerville, Chamber of Commerce and County each contributed \$5,000 in funding for development of the Sawmill Branch Trail Branding, Safety and Design Guidelines Master Plan. A steering committee has been formed and a kickoff Zoom meeting was held. Base maps have been created. Consultant will visit next week for a group bike ride to identify issues/areas of concern.

2020 MASTER PLAN:

The Master Plan has been updated (first draft) from the 2016 to reflect changes and progress since that time. Mr. Davis will be working on the operations and personnel

section for next month. He will have meetings with Mr. Ward in mid-July, incorporate his feedback and get it to the Commission for review.

Mr. Byars commended Mr. Davis and all those involved in the tremendous amount of work which has been completed on all the projects for all the properties in the recent past. He said all have done a great job.

There was no further discussion or business. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brown. It was seconded by Mr. Welch and unanimously agreed to. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 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
MINUTES
August 25, 2020
County Council Chambers
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. Eric Davis, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

ABSENT: Mr. Edward Tupper

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Mr. Byars

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Mr. Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mayor Ackerman from Harleyville thanked the Commission, Mr. Davis and the County for their parts in helping with the improvements that have been able to be made in the Harleyville Community. They have purchased three pieces of exercise equipment that have been installed in the park area. They are hoping to purchase two more. They have placed wood chips around the equipment and are ordering more rubber mulch. They have purchased fencing but it is not installed yet. They installed a shade apparatus over the sandbox and have installed a pickle ball court. The pickle ball court has proved to be so popular that they are considering installing a second one. They have also repaired one light which is now fully functional.

All updates have been funded with the \$80,000.00 grant given from the 2010 bond funds and donations from the Friends of the Dorchester County Parks.

DAVIS- BAILEY PARK:

The following items have been completed:

Stone base parking lot and basketball court

Pond excavation

Baseball fields and multi-use field rough grading

Site Lighting and electrical plan

Recharge well issue (The town of St George has an ordinance in place which states no new wells may be put in. Variance was granted for the park)

The following items are currently underway:

Building footings

Root zone mix spreading

Site electrical conduit

Water tap/pressure test

Major change orders for owner provided items have been completed:

Bleachers \$50,000.00

Playground \$248,000.00

Sports lighting \$333,000.00

Splash pad \$358,000.00

Veterans memorial \$250,000.00

The committee, led by Councilwoman Holman, has been meeting via email and phone. The design of the memorial is almost complete. They will be meeting with Mr. Davis the middle of September and will hopefully complete design at that meeting.

Mr. Davis has started meeting with the leaders of the local sports leagues. They are looking at potential schedules. The goal is to start reserving times for each league to be able to hold their activities.

The park is still on course to be completed by April of 2021, however sod will be laid in May and the fields will not be able to be used until July as they need three months to take root.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

The following items have been completed:

95% of clearing

Outfitter footings/slab

Restroom footings

Sanitary Sewer for the outfitter and restrooms

The following items are currently underway:

Storm drainage

Grading the outfitter area

Site electrical

Pavilion stake out

Sanitary sewer and water to the pavilion

Pond bulkhead

Road undercut and fill

Major change orders for owner provided items have been completed:

Playground	\$350,000.00
Picnic shelters	\$219,000.00
Site lighting (20 yr lease)	\$194,000.00
Maintenance shed	\$200,000.00
Splash pad	\$400,000.00

There will be sewer run for a bathroom in the maintenance shed.

Mr. Davis has a site meeting tomorrow.

There will be another change order to allow for a fence around the playground area. The project is still on track both for time and budget.

TEXAS PARK BUILDING REPAIRS:

Everything for this park has been completed, including the installation of an eighteen-inch rock border around the building and installation of a dumpster and port-a-let. Mr. Davis has allowed for mowing of the property in this fiscal year's budget. When the Davis-Bailey Park opens County staff will be responsible for the maintenance of both properties and will also manage the park rentals and programs.

Mr. Davis will schedule a community event in the fall which will allow the donors that helped with these projects to be thanked.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Mr. Connelly held the handprint painting event. Thirty-eight children placed their hand prints on the playground structure. There have been some calls asking if they are going to hold another event so that more children can participate. Mr. Connelly is going to handle this. There are two eagle scouts working on projects in this park. One is installing benches and the other is working on the trails and boardwalks.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

ADC Engineering has been contracted to develop a master plan for this property. They will be providing a proposal soon. This property is projected to have a disc golf course, a pond for bank fishing, trails and a large dog park. Other possibilities are a playground, a bike skills course and a pump track. Mr. Davis feels that the county will need another maintenance shed to be placed here. As soon as the proposed master plan is completed it will be put out for public comment via the website. The public will be encouraged to participate in a survey. Information gathered from the survey will be put in the finalized master plan which will be presented to the commission for their review so that they can make recommendations to County Council. Mr. Davis projects that everything will be ready to present to county council in February. Mr. Davis states that as much of the tree canopy as possible will be kept in place. No more wetlands can be disrupted as they have been used for mitigation of wetlands on other park properties.

Mr. Debney stated that he has gotten several calls asking for dog parks in the area. Mr. Byars asked about the possibility of having exercise equipment installed either on the trail or other designated areas of this property. Mr. Byars also stated that the Town of Summerville maybe contacting Mr. Davis about working with them on the expansion of their skate park.

Mr. Donehue stated that he would like to see exercise equipment be installed somewhere as there aren't many areas like this here.

ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:

The race is currently scheduled for November 14, 2020. The Friends of Dorchester County Parks group has been expressing concerns over holding this event because of the Covid 19 and ongoing construction at Ashley River Park. The options are to cancel, hold virtual, or have timed starts to keep participants social distanced. Mr. Davis feels that rescheduling the event for March of 2021 is probably the best option. Two possible dates for the event would be 3/13/2021 or 3/27/2021 because of the tides. The commission was in agreement that the event should be rescheduled for the March 13, 2021 date. Mr. Davis will meet with the Friends of Dorchester County group and they will be contacting the participants and the sponsors.

TRAIL SYSTEM STUDY AND REPORT:

The Town of Summerville, Dorchester County and The Summerville Chamber of Commerce have all contributed funds totaling \$15,000.00 for work on the trails. A study to produce a master plan for the Sawmill Branch Trail is being worked on. There have been some virtual meetings held and the whole trail was ridden on bike.

Some of the suggestions for the master plan include:

Improving parking near the soccer fields.

Adding bike repair stations

Water fountains

Improving the trail heads

ADA parking

Improve crossing areas

Improve the areas around the underpasses

The biggest obstacle to implementing any improvements on the trail will be the fact that neither the town nor the county owns any adjacent lands. Owners will have to be contacted and agreements made with them.

Dorchester County will continue to work with the Town of Summerville on this project.

The first draft of the master plan should be completed by the end of September. This plan will include probable cost, phasing, branding, safety design, guidelines and details.

A one-mile extension to the Sawmill Branch Trail and construction of the Eagle Chandler Trail is being considered in the master plan. It will bring the total miles of trails in the Summerville area to fifteen. The steering committee that is heading up the efforts will come to a meeting to share the master plan with us.

ASHLEY RIVER RECREATION MASTER PLAN:

A survey has been put on the website by the rivers and waterways commission. So far fifty people have filled it out. The results of the survey will be presented the first Wednesday in October. After that changes will be incorporated into the master plan and the consultant will present the first draft.

ARP-ROSEBROCK PARK CONNECTOR:

An RFQ will go out for this project after things at Pine Trace Natural Area are up and running.

EXTRAORDINARY PLAYGROUND:

This project is being spearheaded by the Summerville Miracle League. It will be located in the Saul Alexander Park. The old playground will be taken out and the new will be installed. The project received a \$100,000.00 grant from the PARD in addition to the \$100,000 contributed by the County. The planning committee has visited other sites, reviewed the plans for the project, talked to the design firms, and met with the Town engineer to talk about improving the parking lot. \$40,000.000 in private funds have been donated to this project. \$20,000.00 in in-kind donations have been promised. The project should be started around December of this year. A charette will be held on Thursday from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Cutberth Center and another one will be held at Saul Alexander Park at 5:30 pm.

2020 MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

Mr. Davis has met with County Administrator to review the first draft. Significant changes are being made. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Davis to complete a county wide facilities inventory to include discussions with the school administrators to see what facilities and equipment could be shared. Mr. Ward also requested that another public survey be held before finalization of the updated master plan. A survey will be put on the website for one month. Everything should be completed by December will be ready for presentation to Council at the start of 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ms. Ranck made a motion that the Commission go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter involving the potential acquisition of real estate for recreation.

Mr. Debney seconded the motion and all voted in agreement. The commission entered executive session at 7:18 pm.

The commission came out of executive session at 7:32 pm. Mr. Debney made a motion that the commission recommend that the County purchase TMS: 116-00-00-026 at the appraised value of \$4,637.00 per acre or a total of \$575,000.00. Mr. Montei seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendation. Mr. Davis will present the recommendation to County Council at their next meeting.

There was no further discussion or business. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Welch. It was seconded by Mr. Donehue and unanimously agreed to. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Secretary