

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 26, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**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. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mr. Burt Connelly, Parks & Recreation  
Ms. Taylor Varner, Parks & Recreation

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Charles Brown due to technical difficulties.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 by Chairman Byars.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Tupper made a motion that the minutes from the December meeting be approved as written. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, one was absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

David Colon of 90 Cross Timber Drive, Summerville, wants to make the County aware that he wants the Chandler Bridge/Eagle Creek Paths to be prioritized and expedited.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

Mr. Davis presented photos to show the progress being made on this site. It is still on track to be completed by April. The budget is also still looking good. Mr. Davis thinks the buildings at this

site will receive a certificate of occupancy on April 1, 2021. The Friends of Dorchester County Parks Group is forming a committee to assist with a possible Memorial Day Grand Opening celebration. The Commission will be asked to volunteer to help with this event. Mr. Byars asked if the fields will be ready to be used on this date and Mr. Davis said that he believes they will be but will check with the landscape installation crew after the sod is installed.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Mr. Davis presented photos to show the progress being made at this site. Mr. Davis is going to ask that a portable restroom facility be purchased for this park. It will be able to be moved around as deemed necessary to accommodate all activities within the parks. The project is still on budget. The completion date has been moved to July 19, 2021 due to the multiple rains we have experienced and the necessity for extensive amounts of fill dirt needed due to bad soil conditions. Mr. Davis informed the group that there are lots of pictures of the park's progress on the Seamon/Whiteside website.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

The survey has not been completed. The date for the Commission's review of the master plan has been moved out one month. The updated Master Plan will be posted on February 1, 2021. It will be open for public comment via an online survey for two weeks. The plan with comments will be provided to the Commission at the February meeting. Mr. Davis had a site visit with the landscape architect, and all were impressed with the tree canopy (a lot of which is beech) on the property and is going to preserve as much of it as possible.

**ARP-ROSEBROCK PARK CONNECTOR:**

Mr. Davis had a meeting with the consultant. He will be sending up a contract for master planning phase services which will include the wetland delineation survey. Consultant will meet with the relevant regulatory agencies to determine feasibility of a various options for making the connection.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

This project is in the master planning phase. The geotechnical work and wetlands delineation survey have been completed. The plan is to expand the parking area since the property size has increased with the purchase of additional acreage. Mr. Davis is planning a site visit in the near future. A draft master plan will then be put out for public review and comment.

**EDISTO LAKES PROPERTY:**

The survey has been completed. Our portion of the property includes two lakes and approximately one hundred twenty-five acres of high ground. SC Audubon is also drafting a land use agreement that will allow additional public land and lake access to the property they retain, which will be approximately four hundred six acres and four additional lakes. This will be a great site for bank fishing. Also, this is an amenity that is in short supply in our County at the present time. Mr. Davis is working on getting drafts of the land use agreement and sale terms to the attorneys so everything with this property can be finalized. He projects that closing on this property will take place soon.

**SUMMERVILLE CPW PROPERTY ON BACONS BRIDGE:**

Chairman Byars reported the County is looking at purchasing 15.56 acres of uplands and additional wetlands on this site. There is money dedicated for land purchase in the 2020 bond referendum proceeds. The County may be able to put one of the proposed libraries on this site which would carve out five acres. Summerville CPW would retain the water tower and five acres around other active operations on the site. The CPW has gotten an appraisal of the property, proposed a best final offer that the County is agreeable to, and the County is now performing due diligence on the site. If a library can be constructed on this site, monies for the purchase of that portion of the property would come from the library, and the park portion from the parks bond referendum proceeds. A wetland delineation and cultural resources study will be done on the property. Mr. Davis expects a decision and contract to be finalized on this property within ninety days.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Montei and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita May Ranck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**February 23, 2021**  
**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. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mrs. Taylor Corbin Varner, Parks & Recreation

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Mike Montei, Mr. Edward Tupper, Mr. John Welch.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Ms. Ranck who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the January meeting be approved with one correction. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved with one correction.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Beverly Stewart, 238 Eagle Ridge Road, Summerville expressed concerns about the Pine Trace Property both in the survey and in person to Mr. Davis. Her property adjoins the Pine Trace Property and she would like to see a solid fence erected between the private properties and the park property. Her other concerns were addressed by Mr. Davis as long as these plans and policies are enforced.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

Mr. Byars reminded the Commission of the history of the property. It was purchased in 2011 from the State for three million dollars. A parcel of the property was designated for Sires Elementary School which is now fully operational. The remaining property consists of three hundred and six

acres which is almost completely forested with a pond. Mr. Davis then presented on the plan specifics. A major goal for this property is to maintain as much of the tree canopy as possible. The property will include a disc golf course which will be the first of its kind in the County. The layout of this course will be designed with the help of a professional in the sport. Another goal is to lengthen the hiking trails and provide connectivity with a multi-use path for the Eagle Chandler Trail and The Sawmill Branch Trail. Boardwalks will be installed on the paths where they cross wetlands and the property will also include a small and large dog park. A forty foot by sixty-foot maintenance building which will hold equipment and offices will be located on the property as well. Clemson Extension may open an office here which will be good for management of community gardening. There will be a playground and perimeter hiking trail. The property has a six-acre pond which will allow for fishing from the piers. There will also be an ADA kayak launch as well as a gazebo with picnic tables. The far eastern side of the property will have a multi-use trail to Beverly Drive which will be for pedestrian and bicycle use only. A youth camping area is also proposed, and there will be a large natural area left for enjoyment of the public.

There are no plans to have any amenities next to the properties of homeowners. There will be at least a fifty-foot buffer between their properties and the amenities located on the park property. Any roads on the property that cross wetlands have already been permitted. The existing road will be continued further into the property. Eighty-one acres of historic rice fields are perpetually protected through deed restrictions. This is a national protected area. Phase Two of this project may include a Fire and EMS station which will be constructed by the Town of Summerville with frontage on Miles Jamison Road, and a future recreation center is called out in the plan next to the fire station.

The survey results showed great public support for this project. There was an overall satisfaction rate of 84% being very or slightly satisfied. The disc golf course and the camping sites were given the highest ratings. Connectivity with other areas was significant concern of the respondents. Of the 13% reported being slightly or very unsatisfied with the proposed project, their biggest concerns were the buffer area, accessibility and trespassing.

This property will be patrolled by DNR, volunteers, and the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office. There will also be Park Ranger Patrol as they will have staff housed on site at the maintenance building.

Ms. Ranck made a motion to approve the Master Plan and to recommend that County Council approve the plan as well. Mr. Donehue seconded the motion. All unanimously approved the motion and Mr. Davis will present the Master Plan to County Council at their next meeting.

After County Council approves the Master Plan, design work will begin and should take approximately three to four months. Mr. Davis expects the project will be ready to be put out to bid by the end of summer.

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

This project is still on track for time and budget. Mr. Davis expects that he will receive a certificate of occupancy for the buildings by the end of March. A committee has been formed to plan a grand opening event for the park. The tentative date that has been chosen is June 5, 2021. Mr. Burt Connelly is working with this committee to spearhead the event. It will most likely consist of a ribbon cutting ceremony, a three-on-three basketball tournament, kick ball, and whiffle ball games. The event would be capped off by a concert on the great lawn in the evening. Mr.

Connelly will be looking for sponsors to help with the costs of this celebration. Mr. Brown made a motion that the plans for the grand opening event be approved. Mr. Donehue seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Due to the overwhelming amount of rain that we have experienced, site work here had to be halted. Work on the buildings has continued. There is no firm schedule for completion right now as we await the impacts of the wet weather. Mr. Davis predicts it will be in August.

**ARP-ROSEBROCK PARK CONNECTOR:**

JNT Engineering firm is working on a couple of different concepts for the connector. The wetlands delineation is being included in this process. Mr. Davis expects to have a completed plan in about forty-five days.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

A draft Master Plan is being developed for this property. The process for review and approval will be similar to that of Pine Trace. The Master Plan will be put out for comment by the public shortly. It will be open for two weeks and will be presented to the Commission at the March meeting.

Ms. Ranck asked about the progress on the Edisto Lakes property. Mr. Davis said that the County is still working out the particulars with the SC Audubon.

Ms. Ranck also asked about the CPW property. Due diligence is still underway.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion and Mr. Brown 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".

Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**201 Johnston Street, St. George, SC 29477**  
**March 23, 2021**  
**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. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Ms. Taylor Varner, Parks & Recreation

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Jay Byars, due to technical difficulties and Mr. Wesley Donehue.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Because of technical difficulties the meeting was called to order at 6:06 by Vice Chairman Montei.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All present 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 meeting.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

Mr. Davis gave a brief history of this property. In the mid 2000's the County cleaned up the site and took over maintenance. This site is five miles upriver from the Howard Bridgeman Landing. Originally the plan for this site consisted of eight parking spaces. The project was put on hold due to the high costs for the plan. When the recent bond passed, funds became available to revisit the plan. Mr. Davis informed the Commission that DNR funds will not be able to be used

for this project as they require twenty-four-hour access. Five-hundred thousand dollars have been allocated for this project from the recent bond monies.

Sandtec is currently working on design and a Master Plan concept. They are going to make sure they use a pervious ground substance so that run off doesn't fall into the river. There will be no concrete slab for river entry; the entry will have to be through a side channel. The site will also be ADA compliant, include a small restroom, as well as be closed overnight. Water and sewer are available here. This access will be labeled as an intermediate level for kayakers due to the flow of the tide which results in lower water levels and less maneuverability. It will be very difficult to paddle down river and signs will be posted alerting the public.

Mr. Davis stated that the survey had two-hundred and four responses. Sixty-nine percent expressed satisfaction or slightly satisfied while nineteen percent expressed dissatisfaction or slightly unsatisfied. Eleven percent remained neutral.

Access for the site will be through the Teal on The Ashley neighborhood. It will be maintained by Dorchester County Parks which will be stationed in Ashley River Park. When the parks are ready to open, the County will hire Park Rangers. They, along with Dorchester County Police Department and DNR will regularly patrol the site. 'No Parking' signs will be put on the main street of the neighborhood alerting anyone using this site of the parking restrictions in place.

Mr. Debney made a motion that the Commission approve the Master Plan and recommend that County Council do the same. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Davis will present the Master Plan to County Council at the next meeting. He projects a timeline of sixteen to eighteen months from approval to opening. Permitting will take up most of that timeline due to wetlands and the Army Corp of Engineers being backed up due to COVID. The Rivers and Waterways Commission will meet next week and will also review the plans for the site.

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

This project is still on track for time and budget. Mr. Davis expects that he will receive a certificate of occupancy for the buildings in the next two to three weeks. He will start the process of outfitting the buildings at that time. Irrigation will be hooked up this week and then the sod will be installed as well. Mr. Davis showed video photos of the progress.

A grand opening for the Park will be held on June 5, 2021. Mr. Davis will make a request that hospitality tax funds be used to fund this event so that it can be free to the public. There will be a basketball and kickball tournament, bingo, food trucks, and vendors at the opening. There will also be a concert starting in the midafternoon throughout the entire day featuring three different bands. It will feature a variety of music genres. Mr. Davis will make a request to council at the April 5, 2021 meeting so that he can hire staff and maintenance equipment.

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

Mr. Davis presented a video update for this site. Due to the park being in a flood plain and the excessive rain during the month of April, the project is still behind on the site work. He expects an early August completion date but should know more in a week or two.

#### **ARP-ROSEBROCK PARK CONNECTOR:**



This project has been delayed due to the consultant waiting for surveys for the wetlands. As soon as the surveys come back, JNT will draft two concepts for review. SCDOT and Charleston Water Service will be contacted to make them aware of the plans so they can approve use of their property. Mr. Davis projects that this project will take two and a half to three months for completion.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

County Council approved the Master Plan for this site. ADC was hired to provide the scope of work to complete the project. Once this is done, Mr. Davis projects that it will be ready to bid out in about four months.

**TRAIL SYSTEM BRANDING:**

There is a group working on creating some branding for the Sawmill Branch Trail and future trails. They have been meeting and are still working on an appropriate logo and name for the trail system. Mr. Davis urged the Commission to submit any suggestions or ideas that they may have so that they can be reviewed by the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Welch. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. Those who were able proceeded to take a tour of the Davis- Bailey project.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**April Meeting Cancelled**

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483**  
**May 25, 2021**  
**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. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Mr. John Welch

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Brown made a motion that the minutes from the March meeting be approved as written. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, one was absent, two abstained and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

The ribbon cutting is scheduled for June 4, 2021 at 9:00 am. Tours will be given after the ribbon cutting and the grand opening is scheduled for June 5, 2021. The scheduled activities will be as follows:

9:00-till Willie R. Davis 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

9:00-11:00 Senior Center bingo and trail walk  
3:00-9:00 Food trucks (3)  
3:00-4:00 Lovely Hill Baptist Association Gospel Fest  
3:00-8:00 Laugh N' Leap Amusements  
3:30-8:00 Good Clean Fun Children's Entertainment  
5:00-6:30 Jason Lee Cook Band  
7:00-9:00 The Secrets Band

The park will be open on regular operational hours starting June 6, 2021. The Veterans Memorial will be dedicated at a later date, likely Veterans Day.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Much progress has been made on the site work as it is almost completed. Mr. Davis is projecting a mid to late August completion date. This will put the grand opening in late September. The Bridgeman River Access site is closed for now due to site work in the parking area.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

County Council approved the Master Plan with no changes. This stretch of river will appropriate to paddle seasonally due to low water levels during certain periods. There will be signs posted with information informing the public of appropriate water levels for paddling this stretch.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

County Council approved the Master Plan with no changes. Summerville Town Council also approved the Master Plan as presented. Mr. Davis informed the Commission that he is going to try and get the pond at this site certified to use for swimming. The bike playground course designer held her initial site visit and was impressed with the opportunity. Mr. Davis estimated that construction at this site will begin in January 2022 and will take six to nine months to complete.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Montei. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brown. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**June Meeting Cancelled**

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**County Council Chambers**  
**500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483**  
**July 27, 2021**  
**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, via phone  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary, late arrival, viewed meeting on YouTube

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Joe Debney and Mr. Mike Montei

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Welch.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting show Mr. Welch as both present and absent. The minutes will be corrected to show that he was absent at this meeting. Mr. Tupper made a motion that the minutes from the May meeting be approved with the aforementioned correction. Mr. Donehue seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, three were absent, one abstained and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved with the correction.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

The ribbon cutting was held on June 4, 2021 at 9:00 am. The grand opening was held on June 5, 2021. Mr. Davis presented a video and photos of the two events.

The park has been open almost two months. Mr. Davis reported that it is getting a good amount of use.

Staff is currently working with the library. They are bringing the book mobile out to the park and are having children's story hours. They are also working on planning some fall activities which will include the dedication ceremony for the veteran's memorial.

Mr. Davis has put in an order for an inflatable movie screen which will allow for movies in the park events starting this fall.

Finishing touches are being done. The fence cap for the fence around the ball field is being installed as well as the netting around the soccer field and pond. The silt fencing is being removed today.

There is an urgent need to fill some part time positions. Requests to rent out the pavilion can't be fulfilled without the proper staff in place and reservation software up and running. There have been several requests for the pavilion. People are being instructed that they can use the pavilion for free but can't be guaranteed exclusivity. Mr. Davis hopes that the ability to accept pavilion rentals will happen next week.

Mr. Welch stated that he has heard several comments about there being no shade around the splash pad. Mr. Davis informed him that he has been looking at some options to remedy this as there is some left over funds from the project. He will present some different options at the next meeting. He will also look into the possibility of obtaining more benches for the area around the splash pad and playground.

Mr. Davis asked if anyone knows anyone looking for part time work to send them to the county website. Jobs are posted there for a park attendant and park operations aide.

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

Design consultant, Seamon Whiteside, was at the park recently and Mr. Davis presented some drone footage that they took. The site lighting has been installed by Dominion and the power line that ran over the pavilion event lawn was buried. The recycled asphalt has been put down on parking lot one and three. The eastern fishing pier on the pond has been completed. The slag pathway around the pond is installed. The splash pad is completed except for grouting of the blue tile. The picnic shelters are completed as are the large and small playgrounds and the zip line. The event pavilion is coming along. The zinc plated roof is being installed this week.

Mr. Davis hopes to be able to reopen the Bridgeman River access this week. It has been closed longer than anticipated due to problems with the road elevation at the park entrance.

Work is being done to complete flood proofing issues with the outfitter building and the restroom building. It will take about eight to ten weeks for the materials for this to come in. A certificate of occupancy will not be issued until the flood proofing project is completed.

Mr. Davis stated that he will put out a request for volunteers to clear the path that runs next to the river. It has become overgrown due to lack of use during construction.

#### **SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

Mr. Davis presented a tentative schedule for this project. Design and construction documents are in development now. When that is finished there will be approximately six months of permitting. Wetlands permitting is the most time consuming part of this step. He hopes to be ready with the design and construction documents by April 1, 2022. The project will be put out

for bid, contracting and negotiations the same day. July 1, 2022 is expected to be the start day of construction with completion happening around the end of 2022.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

Mr. Davis has been waiting for the topography survey and geotechnical report to be completed. It was finished yesterday and the kick off meeting for design, permitting and bidding was held yesterday. He projects that the construction documents will be completed in December. The project will be put out to bid after the holidays with ground breaking occurring two to three months after that.

**ASHLEY RIVER PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR:**

JMT consulting is finishing developing a master plan. It should be done in about a month. They presented two options to connect the Ashley River Park with the Rosebrock Park without having to cross Bacons Bridge Road at grade. It was originally thought that a board walk could be installed under the bridge but this proved to be unfeasible due to floodway issues. The first option presented is to place an elevated crossing over Bacons Bridge Road. The cost associated with this option would be approximately four million dollars. Mr. Ward, County Administrator, rejected this option. The second option is to put a tunnel or culvert under Bacons Bridge Road. It will be lighted and there will be cameras there to ensure safety and it will be ADA compliant. The cost associated with this option is about half of the other. This is the option that Mr. Ward wishes to pursue.

JMT should be finished developing the master plan for this option in about a month. They are in talks with the Department of Transportation, the owners of the properties on the Rosebrock Park side of the Road and Charleston Water System.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Welch. It was seconded by Mr. Brown. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Rita May Ranck, Secretary



**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**County Council Chambers**

**500 North Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483**

**August 24, 2021**

**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, via  
phone Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman

Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice  
Chairman Mr. Charles Brown, Commission  
Member

Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member

Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission  
Member

Mr. Burt Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation

Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy

Administrator Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission  
Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Joe Debney and Mr. John Welch

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Ms. Ranck who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Tupper made a motion that the minutes from the July meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion, two were absent, one abstained and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

The outfitter building and the restroom building have been required to have flood proofing. The flood proofing plan and certification have been approved by DNR. The needed panels will be ordered ASAP, but there is a ten week lead time to get them. There will be no certificate of occupancy issued until they have arrived. All other areas of the park will continue to move forward during the waiting period. A mid to late October timeframe is expected for a substantial completion. They are getting ready to lay the sod, irrigation is going in soon, and then the rest of the landscaping will be done.

The Howard Bridgeman access should be reopening soon, perhaps by the end of this week. Once the asphalt is down on the main entrance road the fencing and gate will be relocated to facilitate this reopening.

Mr. Davis reports that the pavilion looks gorgeous and there are no issues with it. The biggest need right now is staffing.

**ASHLEY RIVER ADVENTURE RACE:**

Mr. Davis reported that one half of the needed volunteer slots have been filled. The race is scheduled for October 2, 2021. A total of six to seven leaders are needed and three to four volunteers under each leader. Joe Debney has volunteered to lead the race layout. Erica has volunteered to stuff packets and Richard Mallet has volunteered to head up setting up for the after party at Middleton Place.

Leaders are still needed for packet pick up, which should be from 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Friday and then prior to the race on Saturday, a race timer, awards ceremony which will include making sure all medals are ready, coordinating with Chick-fil-A and thanking sponsors, parking at Middleton, setting up at Middleton which includes getting tables and chairs there on Friday evening, and volunteers to help get racers in and out of the water with their kayaks. Mr. Davis suggested that commitments need to be made very soon or the race will have to be postponed or canceled.

Mr. Havar will consult with Mr. Ward as masks are now required in all county buildings again.

Mr. Ward is the one who made the call for postponement in the spring.

Mr. Byars stated that he would like to move forward with the event and will be contacting individuals to volunteer them.

Mr. Davis reported that there are as many registered for the event as we had last time and that is without any marketing. He suggested that we cap the event at 230-250. This is mostly due to the fact that parking at Middleton Place is very limited.

The Friends of Dorchester County Parks will be responsible for all billing and will collect all funds from the race.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

Design and construction documents have kicked off as well as meetings for the disc golf, bike trail and play ground. Mr. Davis met with the consultant and he said that the pond will be able to be used for events two to three times a year but will have to have testing done for one month prior to each use. Mr. Byars asked if it may be possible to hold the Adventure Race at this site in the future. Mr. Davis said that there will be more than five miles of trails in the park area and there are an additional three and a half to four miles on the Eagle Chanler trail.

Mr. Davis suggested that if there is going to be a name change for this area now would be the time to start considering it. Is there any historic significance to the name Pine Trace or is there any historical significance to the property would be things to consider if renaming the area. The design documents should be done around Thanksgiving and if a different name is wanted it should be known prior to this time. The project will be put out to bid around March 2022 which will give a December 2022 completion date.

Mr. Davis asked if there will be an entry fee charged. Mr. Byars thinks there should be. Mr. Davis stated if that is the case then there has to be two gates put into the design scope because there currently aren't any.

**STAFFING UPDATES:**

Mr. Davis has submitted his resignation as Parks and Recreation Director. Mr. Havar will oversee operations until a replacement for Mr. Davis can be found. Rebecca Dantzler will oversee all capital projects. There are several positions relating to Parks and Recreation that need to be filled very soon. All are listed on the county website.

Mr. Byars commended Mr. Davis for a job well done during his time with the County Parks and Recreation Department.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Donehue. It was seconded by Ms. Ranck. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**KFW Meeting Room (Clemson Extension)**  
**201 Johnson Street, St. George, SC 29477**  
**September 28, 2021**  
**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. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Ms. Heather Young, Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Support Specialist  
Ms. Rebecca Dantzler, Dorchester County Capital Improvements  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman, via computer  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member, via computer  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member, via computer  
Mr. Burt Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation, via phone  
Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator, via phone

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Mike Montei, Mr. Wesley Donehue and Mr. John Welch

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation was given by Mr. Byars and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Debney.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Ranck made a motion that the minutes from the August meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. All present 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 meeting.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

Update provided by Ms. Dantzler. The concession area of the park didn't have power last week. The generator was bad. It is not known if this is a manufacturing problem or if it was struck by lightning. The transformer has been replaced and the generator has been sent back. The dedication plaque has been placed on the concessions building. Ms. Dantzler and Mr. Connelly have been looking in to obtaining additional shade for the splash pad and playground

areas so that parents with kids using the areas will have some shade. Right now there is no shade around these features.

Ms. Ranck reported that there is a sign by the splash pad stating that it is not operational. Ms. Dantzler stated that she thinks it is there erroneously and she will look into remedying the situation.

Ms. Ranck reported that the path is starting to be over grown near the basketball court. Ms. Dantzler stated that grounds maintenance is ongoing with grass cuttings on a bi weekly schedule. Mr. Connolly reports that there are no youth sports organizations using the park as of now. He was in contact with the football league but the field is not wide enough to accommodate them. He also has been in contact with the Dixie Baseball League organizers. They have been informed that they can now use the fields for practice. They are hesitant about holding their games here due to that fact that they sell concessions to help cover costs of umpires and equipment. With the county having control of the concessions at this park organizers of the league are afraid that costs for families will have to be raised to cover what the league was gaining in concession fees. Mr. Connelly is planning to investigate this matter further to see if there is a viable solution for both sides.

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

Update provided by Ms. Dantzler. Landscaping (pine straw, trees, bushes, and plantings) and sodding are currently underway. They are working from the back area of the park and coming towards the entrance. Bike racks, water fountains and the playground border and signs are due to be installed soon.

The outfitter's building flood proofing measures are completed, with the exception of the flood panels. Now that the building is flood proofed the HVAC is being wired and placed. Millwork, trim and finishes can be started since the building will be climate controlled. The remaining cypress siding cannot be installed until the flood panels arrive, which will not be until mid October.

The restroom building flood proofing measures are ongoing. They are awaiting a steel louver that must be placed before the siding can be installed. Casework in the restrooms has been installed. Urinals, toilets and accessories should be in place by October 8, 2021.

The Pavilion Building air barrier is being installed this week. The cypress siding will be installed when that is done as will the Garapa decking. Sheetrock has been completed and is being painted. Floors and interior finishes still need to be completed.

The maintenance building is well underway. The shower and sink have been installed. The areas around the perimeter of the building need to be graded and gravel needs to be placed.

Because of the delays caused by poor soils, weather, elevation error, and other adjustments made during construction substantial completion will be November 20, 2021.

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

The race has been postponed until March of 2022 due to lack of staff and the delay in the opening of Ashley River Park.

#### **PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

Updates provided by Ms. Dantzler. Design development drawings have been delivered and are under review. Meetings to discuss the drawings will be held in the next two weeks.

Park amenities include but are not limited to a large and small dog park, bicycle skills course, community garden, playground, pond, picnic shelter with fireplace, gazebo, kayak launch, fishing pier, disc golf course and youth primitive camping area.

Ms. Dantzer stated that the parks master plan states that the only park that will have an admission fee is the Ashley River Park. If there is going to be a fee to use the Pine Trace Natural Area the master plan will need to be updated to reflect that. County Council will also need to address the staffing needs for this area and possibly adjust the budget to cover the costs associated with needed staff.

Ms Ranck asked about the name change. Mr. Byars indicated that we will not be addressing that right now. He did mention that the area was originally part of a large plantation, Travellers Rest, and was owned by the Hutchinson family. This is the same family of the first mayor of Summerville for whom the town square is named. All historical information was given by Mr. Ed West, local historian and volunteer at the Summerville Museum.

#### **ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Update given by Ms. Dantzer. Conceptual design to connect this park with the Ashley River Park is underway. A meeting with the SCDOT will be held this Thursday to discuss preliminary design and concerns with the proposed Bacons Bridge Road crossing. Charleston water systems has been sent designs for the possible tunnel.

Mr. Connelly reports a litter problem at the park, especially on the entrance road where it curves. This Saturday, October 2, a Boy Scout troupe will help with its removal. Mr. Byars asked about the possibility of installing cameras to catch those responsible. Mr. Connelly thinks this would help. Mr. Connelly also noted that there is an ongoing problem with pot holes. He has been trying to alleviate this situation using a slag pile by the boat launch in Ashley River Park. This is no longer an option and there needs to be a new plan for this problem. Mr. Byars will address this issue.

Mr. Connelly will lead a group of volunteers to paint the bathroom walls. He reports that a piece of the playground equipment was broken and he was able to get it replaced by the seller pro bono.

He reports that there is consistent traffic in this park since the installation of the playground.

#### **REVIEW OF RECREATION PROGRAMS/EVENTS PLANNED FOR FALL 2021:**

Mr. Connelly gave the report of programs.

There will be a Trunk or Treat event in the park at the Davis-Bailey Park on October 29, 2021. Activities will start at 6:00 pm. The library will have a story time at 7pm and a movie will start afterwards. Popcorn will be served and Ace Hardware has agreed to sponsor the popcorn. This will be a free event for the public.

A Family Fun Friday is tentatively scheduled for November 11, 2021 at Davis-Bailey Park. It will feature lawn games, music and hot dogs. Mr. Connelly has contacted Food Lion and Cheerwine to be sponsors. This event will be free to the public.

The second Leave Your Mark on The Park event will be held at Rosebrock Park on November 13, 2021. It will run from 9am to 12pm. Social distancing measures will be taken.

Mr. Connelly has been in contact with Happy Hearts Pediatric Therapy. They work with special needs children that have autism or other sensory needs. He wants to have Sensory Saturdays which would be events for this community of individuals. Mr. Connelly is also working with the Town of Summerville to see if the event can alternately be held in the town and the county. Mr. Connelly would like to be able to offer this event as free to the public. The details for these events are still being worked on.

Mr. Connelly would like to have the third Deck the Hulls event. This event was usually held the first Saturday of December, which would put it on December 4, 2021 this year. Mr. Byars would like to see this event happen again. All commission members present at the meeting are in agreement. Mr. Tupper will help with reserving the Boat Club. Mr. Connelly will contact Trident Cardiologists who were the oyster sponsors in the past and Sticky Fingers who were the BBQ sponsors.

Mr. Connelly would like to have a holiday event at the Davis-Bailey Park tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2021. He is thinking of decorations, Santa, a christmas movie with hot chocolate and marshmallows. He will ask the elementary music teachers about having the children sing and the Woodland High School Band about performing.

Mr. Connelly would like to have a similar event at the Ashley River Park also.

**STAFFING UPDATES:**

Mr. Havir introduced us to Heather Young the new support specialist for the Parks and Recreation department.

Mr. Havir reports that they have interviewed six people for the Director of Parks and Recreation position. They have narrowed the field to three and second interviews will be held next week. He projects that we will have a new director on board by mid October.

The new director will be involved in hiring a park manager and assistant park manager for Ashley River Park as soon as he/she is on board. County Council did approve and increase starting salary for these positions. The positions with new starting salaries were reposted on September 8, 2021. Eleven applications were received for the manager and sixteen were received for the assistant manager position. Mr. Havir hopes to have all positions in place by mid November 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ranck It was seconded by Mr. Tupper. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION  
October Meeting Cancelled**



**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
500 N MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE SC 29483  
November 16, 2021  
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. Austin Zuniga, Dorchester County Parks And Recreation Director  
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman  
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator  
Ms. Rebecca Dantzler, Dorchester County Capital Improvements  
Mr. Burt Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. John Welch

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:**

The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Montei.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Tupper made a motion that the minutes from the September meeting be approved as written. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. Four voted favor of the motion, two were absent, two abstained and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes approved as written.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION:**

Mr. Havir introduced the commission to the new parks and recreation director. He comes to us from the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Department so he has a lot of experience and understands the recreational needs of the area.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

**PRESENTATION BY JOE DEBNEY ON OAKBROOK YMCA:**

Mr. Debney presented the commission members with a hand out explaining the YMCA's community impact. He stressed that the difference between the YMCA and a gym is that the YMCA is involved in many aspects of community outreach.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

Update provided by Ms. Dantzler. Ms. Dantzler and Mr. Connelly have been looking in to obtaining quotes for additional shade for the splash pad and playground area. The ones that they are looking to get are exactly like the ones on the other side of the park.

Fencing has been installed around the transformer.

There have been several requests for a dog park at this site. Ms. Dantzler has been looking into the possibility of getting this for this park.

Mr. Connelly reported that the Trunk or Treat event went very well. There were lots of people handing out candy and lots of kids getting the candy.

Ms. Davis, the widow of Willie Davis, was in attendance and expressed her thanks to Mr. Connelly.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:**

Update provided by Ms. Dantzler. The flood panels are still not in. It is now estimated that they won't be here until the middle of January. The park will be substantially complete when the panels get here.

Mr. Byars asked about work on the river trail. Ms Dantzler reported that that work is not in the scope of the contractors. The landscape contractor is aware of the need for this to be done. County Staff maybe able to help get the clearing done for this area.

Landscaping is currently being installed throughout the park. The picnic tables that the career school built were delivered today. Ms. Dantzler recognized the Facilities Maintenance Staff for their help in accomplishing this task.

Mr. Byars asked Ms. Dantzler to contact Mr. Behr, at the career school, so that he can provide a list of the names of the students that worked on the tables. Mr. Byars wants these students to receive recognition at a county council meeting.

Furniture cannot be placed in the structures without a certificate of occupancy.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:**

Ms. Dantzler reported that [TRC????????????????????(please fix Mr. Havar)]has sent some comments about this project and she is working on answering them.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:**

Updates provided by Ms. Dantzler. Design work has been completed. The projected work comes in \$2,500,000.00 over budget. Ms Dantzler suggested that the project may need to be done in phases as the monies become available. Mr. Byars said that there may be referendum monies from other projects that can be moved.

Mr. Montei suggested that we table discussion on the project until next month. This will give the Parks and Recreation Department the time to look at all options concerning this project and the funding for it.

**ROSEBROCK PARK:**

Update given by Mr. Connelly. The boy scout troop came out on October 2, 2021 and spent about four hours doing trash and debris clean up. Mr. Connelly reports that areas of the trails are beginning to get over grown and he has made arrangements for them to be cleared.

The leave your mark on the park event had to be canceled.

Plans for the connector between Rosebrock Park and Ashley River Park are still in the design process. There are ongoing meetings with Charleston Water Authority, CPW, SCDOT and the Dorchester Land Trust.

#### **RECREATION PROGRAMS UPDATE:**

Mr. Connelly gave the report of programs. The Family Fun Friday scheduled for November 11, 2021 at Davis-Bailey Park had to be canceled due to lack of staffing. Mr. Connelly hopes to reschedule that for the Friday before the super bowl.

Mr. Connelly is still in contact with Happy Hearts Pediatric Therapy. These events cannot take place until the county has more parks and recreation staff in place.

Deck the Hulls event will not be able to be held this year due to the lack of staff and the non completion of Ashley River Park.

The holiday event at the Davis-Bailey Park and Ashley River Park will not be held this year.

Mr. Connelly is going to meet with the organizer of the St George Dixie Baseball League to discuss the usage of the fields at Davis-Bailey Park and the concession stand.

Mr. Connelly has been approached by organizers of a high school girl's soccer league about having a tournament at Davis-Bailey Park. He will continue to discuss the possibility of doing this with them.

#### **STAFFING UPDATES:**

Mr. Havar said that now that the Director of Parks and Recreation position has been filled the priority is to hire a park manager and assistant park manager for Ashley River Park. They will be reviewing applications which are on file from the previous job posting.

#### **DECEMBER MEETING:**

The December meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2021, in St George, when the schedule for the year was approved. Due to the construction project underway in the meeting space in St George Mr. Donehue made a motion that the December 14, 2021 meeting be move to the Summerville Council Chamber. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. Meeting for December 14, 2021 will be held in Summerville and Mr. Havar will notify all necessary entities.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Donehue. It was seconded by Mr. Montei. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
500 N MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE SC 29483  
December 14, 2021  
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. Austin Zuniga, Dorchester County Parks And Recreation Director  
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman  
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman  
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member  
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member  
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member  
Mr. John Welch, Commission Member  
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary  
Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator  
Mr. Burt Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation

**ABSENT:** Mr. Wesley Donehue.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Mr. Byars.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** The invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mr. Welch.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the September meeting be approved as written. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, one was absent, two abstained and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes are approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments made at this meeting.

**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:** The fencing will be placed around the transformer in the next couple of days. Conceptual drawings for shade structures to be placed around the splash pad and in the concession stand area are being done. They will match the other shade structures that are currently installed around the park.

There is opportunity to hold regional tournaments on the fields but there are no press boxes. Mr. Connelly states that there needs to be an area for the people keeping score to be separated from the parents.

Mr. Zuniga is going to do a study to see how much usage the park is getting. Staff notes that the walking trails in the park are used daily. General attendance at the park is down probably due to the holiday season and cooler weather.

Dixie Youth League will have a coaches meeting in late December to discuss using the fields in the spring. Mr. Connelly will get in touch with them in early January to see if an agreement to use the fields can be made.

**ASHLEY RIVER PARK:** Steel has been received on site. The remaining flood proofing measures with the exemption of the flood panels are underway on the outfitters building. Grappa decking is being installed next week. Interior work continues on both buildings. Cypress siding is completed on the pavilion. Grappa decking is being installed. Wood ceilings are being installed. The guard house will be completed by the first of the year. A landscaping punch list was made and was signed off on. They are currently working on an architect's punch list. There will be a grind and pump test of the bathrooms tomorrow. Grappa is one hundred percent done on the pavilion. Countertop slate for the lobby should be installed by the end of the week. All millwork should be one hundred percent completed by the end of the week. Grading and site work are still ongoing. The siding on the outfitters building has been fixed. Trail work has been done in the last couple of weeks. Trail work will continue after the park opens. The end of February is still the projected time to be the opening for this park.

**SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:** Conceptual drawings have been shared with the consultant and a sketch has been submitted. A staff review has been done leading to a lot of questions. Sand Tech is reviewing all info and then the drawings will be resubmitted.

**PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:** There are budget concerns with this project as the estimate for completion is more than what was budgeted. There is \$4,500,000.00 that was originally budgeted for this project and the new estimates put the price at \$7,000,000.00. The increased price is due to site prep work which has increased in price. Staff is looking into possible staging for the project. They will meet with the consultant and work through all the possibilities. All involved will meet back together the first week in January. Mr. Zuniga will report the results of the meeting to the commission at our January meeting.

**ROSEBROCK PARK:** Mr. Connelly reported that the driveway pothole issue has gotten out of hand and is beyond his capability for fixing it. He suggested that some gravel be purchased. Mr. Tupper feels that slag would be a more cost-effective way to fix this problem. There is steady traffic in this park.

There are some eagle scouts looking for volunteer opportunities. Mr. Connelly will be working with them. Possible projects include painting the bathroom floors or staining and sealing them. The bathroom walls have been painted by our facilities crew. Boy Scout Troop 725 cleaned up the driveway, parking area and trails on October 22, 2021.

**RECREATION PROGRAMS UPDATE:** The Friends of Dorchester County Parks group is working on the adventure race for 2022. Plans are still being drawn out. They want to be able to end the race at the Ashley River Park so several options for a route are being considered. Pam Zankowski will be the point of contact person for this event until staff is in place.

Mr. Connelly wants to have a family night at Davis Bailey Park the Friday night before the super bowl. It will be a tailgate theme.

**STAFFING UPDATES:** Mr. Havir said that there are two potential candidates for the Ashley River Park manager position. They will be interviewed on Thursday and Friday. There are six candidates for the administrative assistant position. They will be interviewed soon. Thirty eight applicants applied for the assistant manager position at Ashley River Park. They will be interviewed after the park manager has been hired. There will be several part time positions to be filled for this park also.

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE FOR 2022 ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Mr. Byars made a motion to open the floor for nominations. Ms. Ranck seconded the motion. There was no discussion and a vote was not taken. Mr. Brown made a motion that the officers remain the same for the next term. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was taken and seven voted in favor of the motion. None opposed. Motion carries. Officers will remain the same for the next term.

**ADOPTION OF 2022 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:** Mr. Havir presented a proposed schedule of meetings which was to hold the meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month except in November and December and alternate months in Summerville and St George. Ms Ranck made a motion that the dates be kept the same but that we do two meetings in Summerville for everyone in St. George. We would be in Summerville January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November. We would be in St. George March, June, September and December. Mr. Welch seconded the motion. Seven voted in favor of the motion. None opposed. Motion carries. Meeting schedule is adopted for 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further discussion at this time. A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ranck. It was seconded by Mr. Montei. All present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary