

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE SC 29483
January 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. 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
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary
Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator
Mr. Burt Connelly, Dorchester Parks & Recreation

ABSENT: Mr. Wesley Donehue and Mr. John Welch

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Mr. Montei.

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 December meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two were absent, and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes are approved as written.

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

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:

Mr. Zuniga presented a slide show of the park. The vinyl coated steel fencing will be placed around the transformer in the next couple of days. An enclosure was built to conceal the garbage cans. Work is still being done to complete the drawings for the shade structures around the splash pad area.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Park completion is still on track for the end of February or beginning of March. Finishing details continue to progress in all building interiors and exteriors. Washout areas are being addressed by the landscaping crew.

Mr. Zuniga stated that there will be more picnic tables ordered from the school as funds allow. Reservations for the pavilion will start to open in the beginning of March. The fee schedule is on the county website.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

Budget concerns for this project are still being addressed. An increase in site work preparations is what is driving the cost of this project higher than expected. Holding off on the Chandler Creek Trail area that is within the park boundaries is a possible way of offsetting the extra costs. This may allow for accessing some grant monies for completion of the trail. Final details are still being worked on. The next step is for the consultant firm to come back with a revised budget and phasing schedule for this project.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:

A meeting with the consultants revealed unforeseen issues with the design. Additional studies will need to be done to see about extending the boardwalk and pier further out to allow for year round access to the river.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Discussions are still being held about the connector with the Ashley River Park. The final design is getting closer to being reality. More talks with CPW are needed. Mr. Zuniga projects that a potential design may be within the thirty-to-sixty-day time frame.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

The Friends of Dorchester County Parks group continues working on the adventure race for 2022. The race will be held on March 20, 2022. A marine permit has been obtained. A kayak vendor is in place. Sponsors are being confirmed. T-shirts from last year's canceled race will be used to save on costs. So far, two hundred participants have signed up.

Mr. Zuniga and Mr. Connelly will meet with the St. George Dixie Youth Baseball organizers on February 3, 2022. All avenues of making an agreement for them to play on the fields at Davis Bailey Park will be addressed.

The tailgate party projected to be held on February 11, 2022 will have to be postponed for issues with Covid, staffing and sponsorships. Mr. Connelly hopes to hold this event at another time, perhaps with a different theme.

Mr. Connelly is still working with people from the National Fitness Campaign to see about installing a fitness apparatus at the Davis Bailey Park. There are potential grant monies that would assist in making this possible.

STAFFING UPDATES: Mr. Havar reported that they have lost some part time employees that were working in the Davis Bailey Park. They need to be replaced.

The positions for Ashley River Park Manager and Ashley River Park Assistant Manager have been accepted. Both individuals should be ready to start work in early February. They are

moving forward to review applications for part time aides and attendants for the Ashley River Park.

There are four positions for Park Ranger for the Ashley River Park posted on the county website.

There is still a need for a full-time administrator to work with Mr. Zuniga.

All open positions may be viewed on the county website.

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 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE SC 29483
February 15, 2022
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. Rigel Kocur, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Keith Eno, Ashley River Park Manager
Mr. La Quan Priest, Ashley River Park Assistant Manager
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman via audio phone call
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary
Mr. Brian Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator

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

Prior to the start of the meeting Mr. Byars appointed Mr. Debney as temporary chairman for the meeting as he was present in person and Mr. Byars was present via audio phone call.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Mr. Debney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Ranck made a motion that the minutes from the January meeting be approved as written. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent, and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes are approved as written.

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

STAFFING UPDATES: Mr. Havir introduced Keith Eno, who is the Manager for the Ashley River Park, Mr. LaQuan Priest, who is the Assistant Manager for the Ashley River Park, and Mr. Rigel Kocur the Administrative Assistant for the Parks and Recreation Department.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: Punch lists for the structures are being worked on. A certification for the flood proofing is still needed. The cypress around the river walk is almost done. Staff is working on an operations punch list. They are testing recreation software. The playground is almost ready for inspection. A landscape punch is also being worked on. DNR is going to do a survey of the pond and evaluate it for the fish population. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on March 18, 2022 and will follow a similar program as was held for the Davis- Bailey Park. In the evening a soiree will be held for those who have been involved with getting the park moving to completion. March 19, 2022 the park will open to the public and race packets will be available for pickup for the Ashley River Adventure Race which will take place on March 20, 2022.

There will be several events planned for April and May to get the public out to the new park. Annual passes for the park will be available. The cost is proposed to be \$40.00 for a vehicle with up to nine people. The brochure is being finalized. Mr. Zuinga showed us examples of what is being considered.

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:

Dixie Softball Leaders put together a proposal for them to be able to use the fields for practice and their games. Park staff has done the same. There will be a meeting to discuss both proposals and hopefully an agreement can be made. The YMCA has been approached about doing recreational activities in the park. Memorial plaques are on order. ABC provided a quote for the shade structure at the sprinkler area. It came in a little higher than expected. Staff is reevaluating their options. A question about stocking the pond was asked. Mr. Zuinga said he will look into seeing if this is a feasible option. He will start by asking DNR.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

County staff has been in contact with Amy Edwards, Town of Summerville Parks and Recreation Director, to see about collaborating on the trail system in and around the natural area. This approach may allow for use of some Greenbelt Funds for completion of most of the trails associated with this project. Mr. Byars also thinks that some of the tax funds designated for transportation may be used for trail development for this area. This will hopefully close some of the budget gap. There is \$4,800,000.00 budgeted for this project. Staff is evaluating different options to close the proposed budget gap, and/or select a phasing plan for completion of the natural area.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:

Staff has requested that they be allowed additional time to review the plans for this project.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

A meeting was held with the playground inspector. All items passed inspection and appear to be well used.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

The Friends of Dorchester County Parks group and staff are working on details for the grand opening ceremony, the soiree, opening to the public and the Adventure Race for 2022. All will take place the weekend from March 18-20, 2022. Invites to these planned events need to be sent out quickly. The staff has decided that it is best to start sponsoring events slowly and build from there. This will give park staff time to get their routines put into practice. They will plan other big events for the future. There will be a meeting of all involved parties this Thursday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: An MOU between Dorchester County and the YMCA is being worked on. They are looking at ways to do programming at the Oakbrook Soccer Fields. A draft has been completed and is now being fine tuned.

An RPF for a Public/Private Partnership for an Adventure Course and Climbing Wall at the Ashley River Park is in the works.

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 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE SC 29483
May 24, 2022
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. Rigel Kocur, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman via audio phone call
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary
Mr. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator
Mr. Richard Mallet, Representative of the Friends of Dorchester County Parks and Recreation

ABSENT: Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. John Welch.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Mr. Montei.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the February meeting be approved as written. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, two were absent, one 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: Mr. Zuniga reports that there is a lot of activity in this park. It has been well received by the public. He has been in contact with the YMCA to see about getting some programming for children and adults. There was a performance of the play "Treasure Island" there this past Saturday, May 21st, 2022. There were between thirty and forty people present. Dorchester County Library was also there for story time. Mr. Zuniga hopes to see these kinds of activities continue in the future.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: Mr. Zuniga reminded us that the park had its opening ceremony on March 18th, 2022, with its "Celebrate on the Ashley" event that evening. Over two hundred attended the soiree. The Ashley River Park opened to the public on March 19th, 2022. People purchased one thousand six hundred and sixty-six day passes, one hundred sixty-seven annual passes and sixty-six senior passes on that day. The "Ashley River Adventure Race" was held on March 20th, 2022. It started in the park and then racers kayaked to Middleton Place. The staff sold two thousand three hundred and sixty day passes, one hundred ninety-six annual passes and forty-five senior passes this day. "Play on the Ashley" was held on May 21st, 2022. There

were eight hundred day passes, twenty-two annual passes and four senior passes sold this day. There was an “Explore on the Ashley event held on April 23rd, 2022. The staff sold one-thousand seven-hundred and sixty day passes, forty-four annual passes and twelve senior passes on this day. Over thirty dogs received vaccinations.

Events are advertised on social media and a billboard on the intersection of Highway 165 and Dorchester Road. Emails were sent to the annual pass holders.

On June 4th, 2022 a Hurricane Preparedness Expo will be held in conjunction with Dorchester County Emergency Management. Fire and EMS will also participate in the event.

Total revenue from passes purchased so far totals \$249,000.00. \$119,000.00 is from annual passes. Rental revenue includes \$7,420 for the screened in porch venue, \$17,839.00 from the Cypress and Palmetto picnic shelters and \$11,950.00 from the large pavilion. There was also \$1,262.00 from rentals at the Davis-Bailey Park.

Mr. Zuniga is working on getting wayfinding and park information signage for the entire park.

Mr. Donehue stated that a lot of people are not aware that the parks are now open to the public or of the events that are taking place. He asked about a public awareness campaign. Mr. Zuniga explained that he didn't want to overwhelm the staff in the beginning. On the first two weekends the park was open they ran out of parking spaces. He feels like the staff is beginning to feel more comfortable with how things operate now, and the county will need to hire a Special Events Coordinator. They will be able to advertise the parks and the activities happening at them as part of their job.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA: This project is a high priority for the county. There were meetings with ADC Engineering at the end of April. The design was revisited. Mr. Zuniga has realized that there will be a need for office space, more restrooms, and more picnic shelters at this location. The redesign should be done in the next thirty days. Ground-breaking is about one year out and completion would be about twelve months after that.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS: Staff met with Stantac a couple of months ago. There are still budgetary discrepancies. The main objective right now is to gain river access with a boardwalk to a floating fishing pier and a parking lot. They are waiting on the plan revisions at this point. Mr. Debney asked if it is possible to get funding from DNR as was done at the Bridgeman Access Area. Mr. Zuniga said there are so many stipulations involved when getting these grants that it is not feasible for this project. Mr. Debney asked about USDA grants for river and waterways. He will send the information to Mr. Zuniga.

ROSEBROCK PARK: This park is getting lots of usage. It is currently being managed by the Ashley River Park staff. They are responsible for opening and closing the gate, the trash, and cleaning and supplying the bathrooms.

CONNECTOR FOR ARP AND ROSEBROCK PARK: This project is high on the priority list. There are complexities to be worked out on either the tunnel or overpass options. The tunnel will involve flooding issues but is more fiscally feasible. The overpass over Bacons Bridge is more expensive and it would be huge. Whichever option is chosen is will cost in the two-million dollar range.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK: Staff has reached out to the community to see what needs to be done. The staff is working on beautifying the park, getting new backboards and rims, and sealing the court.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS: Staff continues to work on programming for the completed parks.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES: Mr. Zuniga reports that staffing at the Ashley River Park is looking pretty good. He hired three additional staff for the Davis-Bailey Park last week.

REPORT FROM FRIENDS OF DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS: Mr. Richard Mallett spoke about the memorial program that the friends are working on. The concept is that members of the public will make donations to have a plaque placed on certain trees or benches. Mr. Zuniga has placed this program on hold so that he can write a policy, recognize which trees are available, where the benches would be placed, and how many memorials should be allowed for each park. Mr. Zuniga will draft the policy and present it at the next commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The County has closed on the Limehouse properties off Bacons Bridge Road. These properties will connect to Rosebrock Park, the new library site, and the Ashley River Park. They also closed on the Swamp Fox site which is across from the Ashley River Park going towards Highway 61. They put out an RFP for a ropes course for this site. The Audubon Property, which includes 125 acres, has been settled. The staff is now working on a land use agreement with Audubon to get trail access to the river. In 2020, the county authorized funding for trail projects which includes expansion of the Sawmill Branch Trail and the Eagle Chandler multi use path. Mr. Byars is hoping that there will be grant monies available from the US Transportation Department to get these projects to completion. He is also talking to the council of government to get grant monies to connect all the trails.

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 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck, Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29485
July 26, 2022
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 & Recreation Director
Mr. Rigel Kocur, Administrative Assistant
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. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

ABSENT: Mr. Wesley Donehue and Mr. John Welch.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm 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 May 24th, 2022, meeting be approved as written. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, two were absent, one 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 athletic rental fees were approved by council in June. The first rental for the athletic field at Davis-Bailey was done shortly after that. Two-thousand dollars in revenue was collected from rentals during the period between June 1, 2022, to July 25, 2022. Additional part-time staff has been hired. Dixie Youth used the fields for routine practices until June 16, 2022. More signage has been ordered. Temporary shade structures have been ordered. They will be here on Thursday, July 28th, or Friday, July 29th. Mr. Zuniga has a meeting tomorrow about putting in some vending machines.

The splash pad has been pressure washed due to the fact that it gets a lot of use and is unable to dry out between uses.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: The Hurricane Expo on June 4th went very well. The organizers were happy with the increased attendance and hope to hold it in the park again next year. About two hundred attended the movie night on July 22nd, but the movie had to be canceled at the last minute due to weather conditions. Instructors for Tai Chi and Yoga have been inquiring about holding classes at the park. Rental agreements are being considered.

The new entrance gate has been installed. New signs have been ordered. They will display pricing, rules, and directions. The splash pad repairs will be completed in August. The splash pad will also be power washed. A meeting to go over the final punch list items is scheduled for August 16, 2022.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA: Design plans are being reviewed. Mr. Zuniga shared some conceptual drawings. This property has a lot of natural beauty and calls for a more simple design. The original plan for the office/visitor center has been expanded to have a lobby, assistant park manager office, storage area, kitchen area, changing area, and bathrooms. The number of picnic shelters has been increased to five, which will have water and electrical connections. There will be an area for kayak and bike rentals and a storage area to keep the kayaks and bikes. Also included in the plans are a playground, kayak and fishing dock, concession area, and restrooms. Several comments were made about the design. Mr. Zuniga will discuss possible changes with ADC. When cost estimates come in, the project will be put into phases according to available funding.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS: Mr. Zuniga has been meeting with Stantec. He suggested removing bathrooms from the site. He will have a construction update next month. Parks and Recreation staff are currently in the permitting process.

ROSEBROCK PARK: Ashley River Park staff continues to maintain this property. It is getting a good amount of visitors.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR: JMT has just finished up the scope. There is an option for an overhead pedestrian bridge over Bacons Bridge Road or a tunnel under Bacons Bridge Road. Mr. Zuniga will share this with County Council to help make the decision on which way they should go. Mr. Debney made a motion that the commission recommend to council that they choose the tunnel option as it is most cost effective. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Five voted in favor of the motion. Two were absent. Mr. Zuniga will present the recommendation of the commission to council. Staff continues to look into obtaining grant monies to help with this project. Mr. Byars informed the group that Representative Murphy has expressed some interest in getting this project to completion. Mr. Byars asked Mr. Zuniga to prepare a letter to be sent to the State Legislative Delegation to see about getting PARD monies to help with the cost of this project.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK: New basketball goals have been installed. Mr. Zuniga is still in close contact with the community leaders to keep abreast of the needs for this park.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX: Conceptual drawings are being evaluated by Dorchester County Staff and the YMCA.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING: The Hurricane Expo on June 4th was well attended. The movie night at Ashley River Park on July 22nd was well attended, despite the weather and last-minute cancellation. One-hundred and twenty-day passes were sold for the event. The next movie night will be held at Davis-Bailey Park in mid to late August.

Mr. Zuniga continues to work on the dedication program for the parks. He expects to have the details worked out shortly.

Yoga in the Park programs will be held at Ashley River Park starting on August 6th, 2022. Staff has been using the Facebook page to advertise events. There has been an increase in the reactions to posts.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES: Updated recreation fees were approved by County Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monthly fire extinguisher checks have been implemented.

Mr. Brown shared that he walked the Davis-Bailey Park this week and it looks to be very well maintained.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 Johnston Street, St George, SC 29477
September 27, 2022
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 & Recreation Director
Mr. Rigel Kocur, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman via phone
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 via phone
Mr. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

ABSENT: Mr. John Welch

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by Vice Chairman Montei.

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 July 26, 2022, meeting be approved as written. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Five voted in favor of the motion, one abstained, one was absent, 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 grills and picnic tables have been pressured washed. The concession stand has received an A rating from DHEC. "Do Not Sit" stickers have been placed on areas that patrons have been sitting on inappropriately. Facility rentals have been good. They have brought in \$1701.40. Field usage is down. The staff is looking at ways to improve usage. There is a YMCA Walk-With-Ease program scheduling events to help individuals with arthritis to move better.

Shade structure drawings are in. There will be four shade structures around the splash pad area. They will follow the design of the existing structures in the park. There will also be a vending area as this has been requested by patrons.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: The zip line has been repaired. Dead trees were removed near the playground area. The new wayfinding signs have been installed. The plaques have been placed outside the office building as of September 19, 2022.

Playworld is providing design and estimates for shade structures along the splash pad. There has been \$19,630.00 in revenue for this quarter. Most revenue is coming from annual pass and day pass sales.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA: The drawings have been reviewed by county council. ADC continues to work on the designs.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS: This project is still in the permitting process. The design includes a concrete ramp and a small dock. There will be water access added at the head of the ramp to allow for a larger project in the future.

ROSEBROCK PARK: The storage area has been cleaned. The restroom and storage building has been sprayed for bugs. The picnic shelter needs to be painted. Mr. Zuniga has contacted some scout groups to see if they need some volunteer hours to help with trail work.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR: Staff continues to look at options to obtain grant monies for this project. JMT continue to work with HITI construction to evaluate constructability.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK: The Park is getting a good amount of use. Things are being updated and repaired as the needs arise.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX: Land Plan Group South is sending a proposal for surveying and master planning services.

EDISTO LAKES PARK: Mr. Zuniga met with Stantec and Audubon. They are working on a proposal for a master plan for this park. We own 124.97 acres and Audubon owns 405.41. The master plan will include design that will allow the county passive access to the Audubon portion of the property.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING:

There was a movie night held at Davis-Bailey Park on August 27, 2022. The Walk-With-Ease program is holding events for people with arthritis to increase their mobility. The 9/11 memorial ceremony was held at Davis-Bailey with over one hundred in attendance.

There was a movie night held at Ashley River Park on August 4, 2022. Over three-hundred people were in attendance. There are Tai Chi and Yoga classes held at Ashley River Park. Attendance for both increases with each session. Fit 4 Mom is holding meetings here. Around twenty individuals are attending their meetings.

The parks department had a booth at the Sweet Tea Festival which was held in downtown Summerville. The event was very well attended, and a lot of brochures were given out. A raffle was held with the top prize being an annual park pass.

The Tripp Rabon Memorial Scholarship event will be held at Ashley River Park on October 13, 2022. It is a ticketed event.

Trunk-or-Treat will be held at Davis-Bailey Park on October 28, 2022, from 6pm to 8pm. Trunk-or-treat will be held at Ashley River Park on October 29, 2022, from 3pm to 6pm. Participants will be given free admission to the Ashley River Park if they bring an item that can be donated to Dorchester Paws, i.e. dog or cat food. Flyers have been made for advertising these events.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES: The Facebook page is up to over six-thousand followers. Dena Cone has been hired as the office manager at Ashley River Park. New brochures have been printed for Davis-Bailey Park, Rosebrock Park, and Ashley River Park. Mr. Zuniga passed out examples to the commissioners.

New radios have been purchased for the department to be used in cases of natural disasters. A Letter of Intent has been sent to SCDPRT to secure funding for recreational trail development. A request for information for an Adventure Course and Rock-Climbing has been released for solicitation.

New picnic tables and benches are being installed around Ashley River Park as assembly is completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Ranck reported that she had rented the pavilion for an event and everything went very smoothly. She complemented the staff from the management down to the part time workers for their good work and friendly attitudes. It was a great experience. Mr. Montei complemented the new brochures.

Mr. Tupper commented that the community has waited a long time to have these amenities available and that it is rewarding to see them being used.

Mr. Brown reported that the lights on the Army and Navy section of the veteran's memorial at Davis-Bailey Park are not operational. Mr. Zuniga will take care of this.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further discussion and Ms. Ranck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck. Secretary

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N Main Street Summerville, SC 29483
November 15, 2022
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 & Recreation Director
Mr. Keith Eno, Manager Ashley River Park and Rosebrock Park
Mr. Rigel Kocur, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Secretary

ABSENT: Mr. Wesley Donehue, Mr. Edward Tupper and Mr. John Welch.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Mr. Debney who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Debney made a motion that the minutes from the 9/27/22 meeting be approved as written. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion, three were absent and none opposed. Motion carries. Minutes are approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Christopher McClure, 505 Dolphin Drive, from the Summerville Bike/Walk Group. Had comments from the group concerning prioritization of the county's list of projects for improving trails. What elements of the Master Plan will be worked on first? Can members of their group volunteer and/or have an impact on any projects?

Duane Dickerson, 9591 Crosscut Drive, Ladson, Flooding issues with Eagle Creek are his main concern. Are there plans for a path connecting Wallace Ackerman Road to Dorchester Road?

Shirley Brown, 619 St Paul Road, Dorchester, Speaking on behalf of St Paul Community Park. Since they are no longer under the jurisdiction of the county they have to plan their own activities and fund raisers. Is there funding available for the county to provide a walking trail and benches? Can they get back under the jurisdiction of the County? The church owns the property.

John Mott, 244 Luden Drive, Speaking on Eagle Creek. Hummingbird Lane to Ladson Road is phase one. Should consider a below grade crossing. He talked about trail connectivity throughout Summerville.

Mayor Ackerman, 191 East Main Street, Harleyville, wanted to thank the commission for all their work. He has noticed a big improvement. Saw an article in the Eagle Record about not being able to use the ball fields at Davis-Bailey Park. They have ball fields available in the town of Harleyville. Call the town office if you or anyone you know wants to use the fields.

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK: The second annual trunk or treat was held on October 28, 2022. More than five hundred attended the event and it was a great success. Dixie youth softball league has been practicing on the fields. On November 1, 2022 the splash pad was shut down for the season. It will reopen with the return of the warm weather. The lights have been fixed and the new vending machines are in. Signs for guests to report concerns using a QR code have been installed. There were two facility rentals this month totaling \$325.00 in revenue. The park hosted the Dorchester County Veterans Day and Fireworks celebration event. It was very well attended in light of the weather.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: There have been several events hosted here within the month. First was the Stay Trippy Bash which was held on October 13, 2022. It was well attended and was a great fundraiser. The Dorchester County Employee Appreciation Luncheon was held on October 27, 2022. It was very well attended with over five hundred there and included food trucks, corn hole, and the inflatable archery game. The Ashley River Park Trunk or Treat was held on October 29, 2022 and was extremely well attended. On November 12, 2022 Books and Beyond used the Palmetto Pavilion to hand out over two-hundred books to local children. The splash pad was shut down on November 1, 2022 for the season. It will reopen with the return of the warm weather. Staff will be using a new pressure wash regime when it does reopen and hopefully this will keep the algae from growing. Three signs for guests to report concerns using a QR code have been installed. A vending machine has been installed inside the office building. Staff has been reviewing public event applications to make them better. They are currently working with DD2 for them to hold their Caribbean Night Concert at the park. They are partnering with the Summerville Orchestra to hold their Beat Beethoven 5K at the park as an annual fund raiser. The event will also include a concert. Ashley River Park was featured in the Post and Courier's 100 best things to do in South Carolina. It came in as number seven. The park had forty four facility rentals this month generating over \$6,000 in revenue. There were over 2,200 annual pass holder check ins. The park has about 5,600 annual pass holders.

They had 7,891 day visitors generating over \$20,000, \$150.00 from vendor fees and \$189.94 from concessions and vending.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA: The construction drawings are underway with the consultant, ADC. The engineers were on the site on October 31, 2022 to inspect the area and flag the area for trees in anticipation of discussion with Summerville's arborists. The county will be meeting with Disc Golf consultants. They will be addressing the tees and pins for the course. Permitting and construction contracts should be out by April of 2023. Construction should start soon after that.

The staff has been observing traffic patterns at Sires Elementary to get a better understanding of traffic and backups along Chandler Creek Road during morning and afternoon drop off/pick up times. Looking at how adding traffic to get in and out of the park will affect this problem and if there should be some sort of emergency at the school how will the park and school be evacuated.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS: Notice of Intent for storm water discharge for construction activities was filed with DHEC. Staff and the consultant are in the process of measuring for the proposed decking in the kayak entry to the river. Bids are anticipated to go out in early 2023 with construction starting soon after that.

ROSEBROCK PARK: Routine maintenance has taken place. The paths have been cleared. Staff has been partnering with the Friends Group and the Dorchester Trust to smooth out trails and make them more accessible. There has been an increase in usage since improvements have been completed. A local Boy Scout troupe is going to be doing some projects for Eagle Scout badges. The picnic shelter will be painted, the picnic tables sanded and sealed and the bathroom floor painted to make it easier to maintain. The park is well used. Staff has beefed up park ranger presence. QR codes have been installed here.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR: Staff is looking for possible grant monies to help with the cost of this project. The county has reached out to Hitt Construction to provide an executive summary for constructability based on JMT's feasibility report. They said further study needs to be done but seems to lean towards a bridge as being more feasible than the tunnel option. No decision has been made.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK: Staff continues to make routine site visits for maintenance. They met with the HVAC Company to have the drip pan and other parts inspected. New nets and backboards have been installed for the basketball court. The staff continues to look for ways to make sure this park gets used.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX: The change orders have been approved to engage the consultant to do additional survey work. Working with the county staff, the YMCA and Land Plan Group South to develop and refine a conceptual plan to develop multi-use ball fields, soccer fields and other facilities for YMCA programming. The county staff and the YMCA have been meeting with the consultant to make comments on the design. Staff is currently waiting

for a revised concept. Work is ongoing with surveyor to work on areas of land that may need to be involved in new design.

EDISTO LAKES PARK: The County acquired approximately 125 acres adjacent to 405 acres owned by Audubon society earlier this year. Staff and Audubon met with the consultant, Stantec, and walked the land, talked about programming building concepts and asked them to submit a proposal for master planning and preliminary engineering. Staff is reviewing the proposal now. Staff will then report to council.

TRAIL DISCUSSION: Eagle Chandler Creek Trail has a bid package that is being worked on by Michael Baker International, Engineering Consultant. No Federal funds will be used for this project. Funds will be provided through the TIFF. Notice to proceed was issued by SCDOT. The bid package is being reviewed by the purchasing department.

County staff is currently working with the Town of Summerville Parks and Recreation Department on the Saw Mill Branch Trail Project. Staff will present a timetable for this project at a future meeting. The Eagle Chandler Creek and the Sawmill Branch Trail are known collectively as the Loblolly Greenway.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING:

As mentioned above the Dorchester County Appreciation Luncheon was held at Ashley River Park. Hoping that next year they will be able to hold one luncheon at Davis-Bailey Park and one at Ashley River Park.

Davis-Bailey Park had their Trunk or Treat Event on October 28, 2022. Had over thirty trunks there. More than five hundred attended.

Ashley River Park had their Trunk of Treat Event on October 29, 2022. There were thirty-two trunks. Costal Coffee Roasters, Faith Face painters and Kona Ice were there participating. Over two thousand attended. The county partnered with Dorchester Paws. If you brought a needed item for the shelter you were allowed in for free. The staff was able to take over four hundred items to the shelter.

There were monies available from the accommodations tax that had to be used anyway so it was used to purchase billboard advertising for the trunk or treat event maybe leading to the huge turnout.

Davis-Bailey Park hosted the Veterans Day celebration for the county. The parade and the ceremony were a huge success. Inflatables were very popular. Three food trucks were there. The fireworks were very good. There were about one hundred attendees. The weather affected the turnout.

Davis-Bailey Christmas movie night will be on December 9, 2022.

Ashley River Park movie night will be on December 17, 2022 with Books and Beyond there prior to the movie. The movie will be the 2018 version of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas.

The County is doing a Do More Dorchester County Toy Drive. There are boxes located in the park office building to accept donations. There are other donation sights around the county offices and the toys will be distributed on December 23, 2022. They had a press conference to announce the drive to the public.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES: A water rescue exercise with the emergency management team was held. It went very well and staff got a lot out of it.

Council reclassified the Special Events and Marketing Manager position, and a candidate has been selected.

Mr. Zuniga attended the ASRAC meeting on October 12, 2022. Provided updates on Ashley River Park.

New radios have been purchased for use at the Ashley River Park. There will be radio etiquette training in December.

There is a new RFI for the Adventure Rope Course and Climbing Wall.

The SCRPA conference is currently being held on Hilton Head and Mr. Zuniga, Mr. Connelly, and Mr. Priest are attending.

Ms. Ranck asked for an update on the flagpole for the Ashley River Park. Mr. Zuniga reported that it should be here by the end of the year and will be promptly installed.

Mr. Brown stated that the long fight for the parks has been worth it because the public is using the parks and giving positive feedback.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023: The proposed meeting schedule is as follows:

January 24, 2023 Summerville

February 21, 2023 Summerville

March 21, 2023 St. George

April 25, 2023 Summerville

May 23, 2023 Summerville

June 20, 2023 St. George

July 25, 2023 Summerville

August 22, 2023 Summerville

September 26, 2023 St. George

October 24, 2023 Summerville

November 28, 2023 Summerville

December 28, 2023 St. George

Mr. Debney made a motion that the proposed meeting schedule for 2023 be accepted. Mr. Montei seconded the motion. The 2023 meeting schedule is adopted as proposed.

Mr. Debney made a motion that the meeting scheduled for December 27, 2022 be canceled.

Mr. Montei seconded the motion. All voted in favor and none opposed. The December 27, 2022 meeting is officially canceled.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further discussion and Ms. Ranck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Brown and all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita May Ranck. Secretary