

**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

500 N Main Street Summerville, SC 29483

January 24, 2023

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, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant
Ms. Pam Zanowski, Parks and Recreation Special Events and Marketing Manager
Mr. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Assistant Administrator
Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Wesley Donehue, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Juan Santiago, Commission Member
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member
Ms. Amy Evans, Town of Summerville Parks & Recreation Director

ABSENT: Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairman Byars.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE: The invocation was given by Ms. Ranck, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBER: Ms. Ranck introduced the newest Commission Member, Mr. Juan Santiago. He briefly spoke about his background and his interest in serving on the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Debney made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2022 meeting. Mr. Brown seconded this motion. Five voted to pass this motion. One abstained. One was absent. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Duane Dickerson, 9591 Crosscut Drive, Ladson, asked if there was any follow-up to his previous public comment about plans for a path connecting Wallace Ackerman Road to Dorchester Road.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING:

Mr. Zuniga introduced the new Parks and Recreation Special Events and Marketing Manager, Pam Zanowski. She started on December 12, 2022 and has already proven to be a valuable asset to the Parks and Recreation team.

Ashley River Park was used to host multiple events in the month of December. The Ashley River Pavilion hosted the Dorchester County 125th Anniversary Celebration on December 10. This event saw roughly 150 total attendees.

Ashley River Park hosted a Holiday Movie Night on December 16, showing the 2018 Illumination Studios' The Grinch. This event also saw around 150 attendees and brought in around \$200.00 in concession sales.

The Ashley River Pavilion hosted The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office Christmas Festival on December 18. This event saw over 200 attendees. The Sheriff's Office was pleased with this event and are considering using the Ashley River Pavilion for their event next year.

Mr. Zuniga shared that the Parks and Recreation Department brought in 173 items for the Do More Dorchester Toy Drive. The County overall collected 2,900 toys for this charitable event.

Mr. Zuniga shared some information on the upcoming Family Fun Day at Davis-Bailey Park. This event is scheduled to take place from 2:00pm to 8:00pm at Davis-Bailey Park on January 28.

There will be kids' activities, crafts, face painting, games, and an outdoor movie screening of Minions: The Rise of Gru.

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK: Staff and Administration are working on securing funding for the proposed Davis-Bailey dog park. Current plans have the dog park built behind the courthouse. A socket cover was replaced for the power outlet at the concession stand. A public message corkboard has been installed above the water fountain at the pavilion. Staff and County Facilities management are working on repairing the ice machine in the concession stand and a leaky faucet in the concession's stand men's room. There were two facility rentals for the Davis-Bailey Pavilion in December. The design for the permanent shade structures have been budgeted and ordered.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK: New wayfinding signage was installed at the park to help patrons find their way. New sound system speakers were installed at the Ashley River Pavilion. Staff discovered that the mic connection for these speakers work from the other side of the fishing pond. An RFI for the Adventure Ropes Course and Rock-Climbing Wall has been posted on the County's website. The revenue report for the park from November and December showed strong numbers. Thirty-seven facility rentals. 3,251 Annual Pass check-ins, and 7,611 Day Pass visitors. \$100.00 in vendor fees. \$491.68 in concessions and vending sales, and \$131.33 in retail sales.

ROSEBROCK PARK: Staff performed trail work and improved paneling on wooden walkways. They also met with the Ashley Scenic River Advisory Council and ecologists to identify and evaluate native and invasive plant species along the nature trail.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK: Staff continues to perform routine site visits and maintenance checks at this park. Staff plans on reaching out to the Texas community to discuss how to best use this park and recreation activities they can offer once an Upper County Park Manager has been hired.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA: Staff met with disc golf consultants to walk and map the planned 18-hole disc golf course on the property. The current plans for this project have been reviewed by the Town of Summerville. There have also been meetings with the Town to discuss concerns with ingress and egress concerns regarding school traffic from Sires Elementary. Staff also participated in a tree protection board meeting. Seventy-five percent of the construction documents have been received and are being reviewed by staff. A groundbreaking ceremony is set for March 9, 2023, on the park grounds. Construction is then anticipated to begin in early May of this year. Construction will last around twelve to thirteen months, with a projected opening of mid-summer, 2024. The Commission reviewed the current construction plans. Mr. Zuniga provided an update on the BMX bike pump track. Funding is programmed into the project budget for land clearing but not actual construction of the bike course improvements. They will be a future phase.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS: Construction plans for this project were submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers. This project is still on track to begin bidding in early 2023, followed by construction beginning in the spring of 2023.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR: Information regarding this project has been sent to HDR, one of Public Works on-call consultants for transportation projects. A cost estimate to provide thirty-percent construction drawings for the proposed tunnel option was received from HDR and is being reviewed by the Public Works Director and the Capital Projects Manager.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX: Surveys of the County's and YMCA's properties have been completed, and the land conveyance plats were sent to the County's Planning department for review.

An appraisal of the proposed property is being ordered to determine the value for an in-kind donation to the project.

LandPlan Group South is proceeding with design development using the master plan layout.

EDISTO LAKES PARK: Staff walked the park site with Stantec consultants in September. Staff is working with Audubon on creating a Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding. The current plans are to open the Audubon pieces to the public through nature and water trails. Master planning efforts are underway for this project. Approximately 124.9 of total park acres, 60 acres of land and 60 acres of water. Planned passive river access to Edisto River with no

raised or motorized vehicle access. Five ponds with docks and piers for fishing. Proposed primitive camping areas for RV camping with electric and sewer hook-ups. Hiking and water trails. Kayaking and potential launch areas. Planned ingress and egress through Wire Road, Pine Bluff Road provide. Interactive signs and educational walks and/or programs are also contemplated.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES: Staff are conducting interviews for the Upper County Park Manager position.

Mr. Zuniga attended the Greenbelt Program Implementation Discussion along with members of County Council and County Administration. Most who attended this meeting seem to agree with the comprehensive planning approach to help identify future open space acquisition and conservation needs.

Park Operations Manager Burt Connelly has resigned from his position to pursue an Executive Director Position with Dorchester Paws. Updates have been made to the Department's event application documentation, Facility Guidelines, and SOP.

Shade structures for the Ashley River Park splash pad have been delivered and are planned to be installed around February 1.

Loblolly Trail Update – The Commission heard from Amy Evans with the Town of Summerville, who has been working on this project. Current plans follow the design guidelines for the Sawmill Branch Trail. A bike repair stand and air pump station has been installed. Trail signage has been installed. She also shared some images of the mural under the Gahagan Park underpass that is visible along the trail walkway.

Ms. Evans expressed her great appreciation with working with Dorchester County. She is looking forward to continued partnership with the County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Donohue announced his resignation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. He has already submitted his formal resignation letter to both Mr. Byars and County Council Vice Chair Mr. Chinnis.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Ranck made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Debney seconded the motion. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rigel Kocur, Parks and Recreation Administration Assistant