



**DORCHESTER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N Main Street Summerville, SC 29483
February 28, 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:

Commission Members

Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Juan Santiago, Commission Member
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member

Staff

Mr. Austin Zuniga, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Mr. Rigel Kocur, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant
Mr. Bryan Havar, Dorchester County Assistant Administrator

ABSENT:

Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Ms. Rita May Ranck, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER: In the absence of the Chair, it was agreed that Mr. Debney serve as Acting Chair. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Mr. Debney.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Tupper made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2023, meeting. Mr. Brown seconded this motion. Four voted to pass this motion. Three were absent. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were offered at this time.

DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:

This park has seen a notable increase in attendance since the Free Family Fun Day event on January 28. Davis-Bailey Park Pavilion was used for Dorchester County’s Solicitor’s Office Annual Oyster Roast. The Dixie Youth League has started to use the ballfields for regular practice starting on February 21 and ending March 30.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

Staff have collaborated with RecDesk to establish a means of selling virtual advanced tickets using temporary barcodes for facility rentals. Tests and use of these methods have proven successful so far. Splash pad is tentatively set to reopen on March 15. Permanent shade structures for the splash pad are currently being installed along the splash pad before it reopens. The department continues to work with Summerville Orchestra to get ready for their Beat Beethoven 5k in April. Revenue projections from January 2023 showed a marked increase in facility rentals. People are also already renewing their annual passes, generating additional revenue.

A question was asked from the Commission about when emails are automatically generated to inform annual park pass holders their pass is about to expire? Staff confirmed they are generated by RecDesk and emailed at least thirty-days prior to their pass expiration.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

Notable increase in this park’s attendance, as well.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:

Mr. Zuniga met with members of the Texas Community to discuss expanding upon the existing playground amenities.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

The project received final approval from the Town of Summerville’s Design Review Board last month. Permitting is now underway. The project kick-off meeting took place on February 9 with Dorchester County staff, ADC, and Johnson-Laux. Staff are currently prepping the location for the public groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for 10:00am on March 9, 2023.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:

Permitting and next steps for this project was discussed with Dorchester County staff.

Staff also had a joint-scope meeting with F. H. Paschen.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR:

Proposal from HDR for delivery of 30% construction drawings has been sent to Administration for signature. Project schedule will be provided for review after execution of Notice to Proceed. There is still no current timeline on when this connector project will commence or be completed.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX:

Subdivision plat is being revised based on comments from the County Planning Development. Appraisal of the property being conveyed from YMCA to County has been delivered and sent to Administration.

EDISTO LAKES PARK:

The County's Legal department is drafting an agreement between the County and Audubon outlining the maintenance and usage of the property.

AMENDMENTS TO PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Zuniga provided a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the Park Rules and Regulations adopted by Resolution 21-06 on April 19, 2021. A copy was distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting. There were no comments offered. The Commission accepted what was presented. Mr. Havir noted that the amendments would be considered by Resolution at the March 6, 2023, County Council Meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING:

The Davis-Bailey Free Family Fun Day last month was a huge success, with roughly 500 attendees in total coming to the event. A fire truck with Dorchester County Fire Rescue was present for people and kids to interact with. Chucktown Seafood sold food and oysters from their food truck.

SPONSORSHIP AND PROGRAM FEES DISCUSSION:

Mr. Zuniga discussed the current draft of the Department's Sponsorship and Program Fees documentation for the Commission to review, which they received copies of prior to the meeting. No comments or concerns at this time. The matter will be listed in the March agenda for continued discussion. The County Council will be reviewing the sponsorship and program fee at a future budget retreat as reported by Mr. Havir.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

A candidate has been selected for the Upper County Park Manager position. They will begin their new position in mid-March.

The Department received Storm Spotter Training online through the National Weather Service.

Safety inspections for all Dorchester County Park playgrounds were conducted by Dorchester County Risk Management and inspectors with Playground Guardian. Mr. Santiago asked if this reduces insurance costs. Mr. Zuniga was not sure of this but was aware that this practice was an industry standard and a requirement from our Risk Management Department.

Mr. Zuniga took County Administration out on a similar facilities visit to other local parks. This trip proved to be incredibly informative on how other local Parks and Recreation agencies operate.

Received an RFI for the Ashley River Park Adventure Ropes Course and Rock-Climbing Wall from Challenge Design Innovations. The Commission reviewed proofs-of-concept of their previous work. No comments or concerns at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Brown made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tupper seconded the motion. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rigel Kocur, Parks and Recreation Administration Assistant