



**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
500 N Main Street Summerville, SC 29483
July 25, 2023
6:00PM**

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. Mike Montei, Commission Vice Chairman
Mr. Joe Debney, Commission Member
Mr. Jonathan Jones Commission Member
Mr. Charles Brown, Commission Member
Mr. Juan Santiago, Commission Member
Mr. Joe Craft, Commission Member

Staff

Mr. Austin Zuniga, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Director
Ms. Dena Cone, Dorchester County Parks & Recreation Office Manager
Mr. Bryan Havir, Dorchester County Assistant Administrator

ABSENT:

Commission Members

Mr. Jay Byars, Commission Chairman
Mr. Edward Tupper, Commission Member

CALL TO ORDER:

In the absence of the Chair, the meeting was called to order at 6:01PM by Vice Chairman Montei.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:

The invocation was given by Vice Chairman Montei, who also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2023, meeting. Mr. Craft seconded this motion. Six voted to pass. Two were absent. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were offered at this time.

MR. ZUNIGA PROVIDED A STATUS REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:**DAVIS-BAILEY PARK:**

- Memorial Day Celebration was held on May 31st at which time the new Memorial Monument was unveiled.
- Fun in the Sun Music and Movement hosted 10 young toddlers.
- On June 19th the Home Run Derby was held sending Warren Judy, a local 13-year-old, to the Regional Tournament. Mr. Judy competed and advanced on to the National MLB Jr. Home Run Derby to be held during All-Star week at T-Mobile Field in Seattle, WA.
- MLB Pitch, Hit, and Run was held on June 18th with good participation.
- Partnered with Planning to hold Public Workshops at both parks for the Comprehensive Plan Review. Largest concerns are the rate of residential growth and road improvements.
- Volleyball and basketball are wrapping up.
- We will try again for co-ed kickball and possibly softball. Challenging Sheriff, Fire, and EMS to compete against each other.
- Flag football has two teams signed up. They will compete with the YMCA teams.
- Concession stand is being opened on the weekends when games or practices are being held.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK:

- CPR training for the public was held during EMS Week. EMS also had their family day during the event.
- The park became popular for end-of-year events. We saw approximately 600 students over a three-day span.
- Adaptive Fishing Program with Beyond BASIC and SCDNR was held on June 1st with a great turnout.
- June 3rd Dorchester Parks and Rec partnered with EMD to host the Hurricane Expo. Train rides around the pond, face painting, and other entertainment was provided.
- Carnivorous Plant Bog was held on the porch where participants created their own plant bog to take home.
- Family Fishing Clinic with SCDNR was held at the pond where an instructor taught participants fishing skills.
- SCDNR was onsite to conduct a survey of the pond. The survey showed an abundance of fish.
- The parks very first porch pickin' was well attended and another is scheduled for Friday, July 28th at 6:30PM.
- Center for Birds of Prey gave a fantastic flight demonstration to a great crowd. Participants learned information on native and endangered species. This program will be held again in August.

ROSEBROCK PARK:

The park continues to be under the purview of the Ashley River Park staff. There have been several nature walks and geocaching held at the park.

TEXAS COMMUNITY PARK:

The Summer Feeding Program is wrapping up and the monthly Ministerial Allowance is ongoing.

PINE TRACE NATURAL AREA:

The contractor's construction trailer was recently installed, trees have been fenced off, and the silt fencing has been put up.

SWAN DRIVE RIVER ACCESS:

As a result of the funding handed down from the state for the connector, we were able to free up enough funding to completely fund this project as was priced.

ASHLEY RIVER PARK PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR:

We received \$2M dollars from the state to fund this project. Mr. Zuniga hopes to be able to give a more visual update once Administration decides on the direction they want for this project.

OAKBROOK SPORTS COMPLEX:

We received \$1M, \$2M over a two-year period, from the state to fund this project. Things are moving forward.

EDISTO LAKES PARK:

We met with Stantec on this project to gage what we are looking for. The master plan called for a campsite at this location which entails us following DHEC regulations. This will lead us in the direction of how many campsites we will be allowed. Stantec is working on this, but we do not have a timeline. Since the park is not attached to sewer, there are flow restrictions for the number of full hookup sites allowed to be placed. They will consider the number of bathhouses and primitive sites when coming up with the number of campsites allowed.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING:

- Puzzle Palooza was held at the pavilion. Eleven teams competed to put together a 500-piece puzzle with a two-hour limit. Jigsaw Junkies won in around 34 minutes.
- Fun Fin program was a huge success in Colleton County. Thanks to the YMCA for providing staff to assist with the program. Parks staff, along with assistance from Colleton County, have completed breaking down, moving, and setting up the pool at St. George Middle School. Dorchester County's program will start on Monday, July 31st and last for two weeks.
- Upcoming yoga events are scheduled.
- Events and programs are slowing a little due to the hot weather.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

- Park Staff received their CPR certification through a class instructed by Dorchester County EMS.
- Mr. Zuniga provided the committee with the revenue figures for Ashley River Park for June 1st through July 14th. Facility rentals generated \$20,488 in revenue, admissions \$49,439, \$900 in vendor fees, \$898 in concessions, \$287 in retail sales, and \$1,900 in program fees.
- Mr. Zuniga announced Parks and Recreation is fully staffed. Chelsea McAllister started on June 16th as our Parks Operations Specialist. Stephanie Jacky is doing great things as the new Assistant Park Manager at Ashley River Park.
- Dorchester County Parks and Recreation received the South Carolina Association of Counties Risk Management Safety Award for the use of the QR codes placed throughout the park enabling guests to report problems in the park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- National Night Out is at Davis-Bailey Park as well as Ashley River Park on August 1st. This is a partnership with Parks and Recreation, the Sheriff, and other first responders. Tickets will be handed out by first responders for Ashley River Park. Free hot dogs and drinks will be available.
- Our park tour will probably get postponed another month or two. If committee members can respond in a timely manner when the next meeting is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Craft made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Santiago seconded the motion. No objections. Meeting adjourned at 6:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dena Cone, Parks and Recreation Office Manager