

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 P. M., OCTOBER 24, 2019

A/V CONFERENCE ROOM

Caitlin Cook, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation to order at 5:30p.m., OCTOBER 24, 2019, in the Audio/Visual Room in City Hall.

Committee Members Present:

Caitlin Cook, Chair
John Kennedy Bailey
Bruce King
Pat Jones
Deanna McKinney

A roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Councilmember Bailey requested that the previous minutes be corrected to reflect his actual request that the walking paths along Kanawha Boulevard be recognized as a park, not the Carriage Trail as was reflected in the minutes. Councilmember Bailey motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 8-29-2019. Councilmember Jones seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved as amended.

2. Discussion – Cato Golf Course

Councilmember Cook introduced the Director of Parks and Recreation, Rashaun Sayles. She told the Committee that the decline in revenue at Cato is due to the decrease in use of the golf course. This is most likely due to the condition of the greens. Currently, there is 1 dedicated staff to cut the greens on a daily basis as well as 1 crew leader. She believes that if more staff could be dedicated to the greens and its upkeep, there will be more golfers. Councilmember King asked how many golfers currently used the course. Sayles answered that it varied greatly day to day with \$100-\$6/day in revenue. On the busiest days, there would be about 20 golfers.

Councilmember Cook asked what would be the projected revenue needed to justify adding staff. Sayles answered that she would need to do more research, but speculated that the price would need to double with 50-60 golfers/day. Sayles also added that most people don't realize it is not a public park.

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The Department thought that renting a snow machine to encourage the sledding that happens there during the winter, zip-lining, stocking the pond for fishing and incorporating more shelters would help generate revenue. Another option is to pursue funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Councilmember Cook asked how long the Committee had before a decision would need to be made concerning the Future of Cato Park. Sayles advised that another season would be helpful for the staff to implement ideas like getting the greens in order and advertising it as a public course.

3. Fall/Winter Goals

Councilmember McKinney asked if there were any plans for the winter season that included the West Side, specifically City Park. She proposed using the space that was previously a day care as a precinct/community center. Councilmember Bailey confirmed that there are 3 vehicles used as transportation between the recreation centers. He suggested a system that would additionally stop at places such as City Park. Mayor Goodwin added that adding parks/community spaces also requires more money in the budget. She posited a strategy that involved moving spaces that weren't optimal to other areas, etc.

Sayles added that some goals of the Department for the season are events that highlight the season (such as the Halloween Haunted House at Roosevelt). Grants projects still to be completed are: updating the doors at North Charleston and the King Center with panic bars, ADA compliance in the restrooms and showers and updating the HVAC systems. The pool at North Charleston was operational for 1 day. The filter tank remains a problem (its replacement is around \$50,000). Some of the cost can be circumvented by doing the work in-house (such as disassembling the old tank). Councilmember Bailey suggested they also consult with Councilmember King who has experience with pools. Additionally, the multi-use recreational space at the King Center is being planned. They have continued to update playgrounds, such as the rededication of Hunter Park, South Park Playground and Haddad Park.

4. Update on the Repairs/Needs of Recreation Centers

Mayor Goodwin announced the City received a grant to do a state-wide after school program roundtable to bring in experts from the field. They would like to present their findings from that discussion to the Committee at their next meeting. The Mayor also requested that the Committee look into a safer way for children to cross the road to North Charleston Community Center.

Councilmember Cook asked for an update on the floor replacement for the King Center. Sayles responded that the goal was to start the project this winter.

5. Discussion

Councilmember Robinson requested a baseball/softball meeting in December or January in anticipation of the spring season.

Councilmember Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Bailey seconded.

Meeting adjourned.