

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 P. M., OCTOBER 29, 2020

*IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY. THE MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS A LIVE STREAM VIA ZOOM (PER THE AGENDA).

Caitlin Cook, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation to order at 5:30p.m., OCTOBER 29, 2020.

Committee Members Present:

Caitlin Cook, Chair

Chad Robinson, Vice Chair

Jeanine Faegre

Joseph Jenkins

Pat Jones

Deanna McKinney

ABSENT: Robert Sheets

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

1. Approval of Previous Minutes 2-27-2020 - Councilmember Faegre motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 2-27-2020. Councilmember Jones seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.
2. Approval of Previous Minutes 9-9-2020 - Councilmember Faegre motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 9-9-2020. Councilmember Jones seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.
3. Update on Dog Park – Councilmember Cook stated that the funding for the East End Dog Park and concept is progressing. Planning was heavily influenced by the surveys conducted by East End/ Main Streets group. She has meet with staff from Parks and Recreation to discuss location, types of activities, shade areas, improved seating areas, etc. Councilmember Cook thanked Parks and Recreation Director Rashaun Sayles, her team and Councilmembers Hoover and Steele for their work. She added that most likely, work will begin Spring 2021.

October 29, 2020

4. Update on Rec Center WiFi Use for Students – Councilmember Cook stated that she is grateful to the Administration for opening the Rec Centers to provide wi-fi and a safe space for students. Sayles stated that there is an average of 28 kids using e-learning throughout all the centers. Improvements to the MLK Center include: painting, renovating the kitchen and the floor project. They are discussing upgrades to the field to bring back the Senior Softball League to the MLK Center. Projects that have had to be moved to Spring 2021 due to Covid-19 and the weather are: the multi-recreational area at the MLC Center, basketball courts and the splash pad at the East End Community Park. For Halloween, there will be a candy drive-through at MLK Center.

5. Update on Vandalia Pool Project – Councilmember Cook added that there is not anything new to report on this project. Sayles added that she just received the final proposal from the Vandalia Civic Club that day. The next step will be an MOU and consult with the Engineering Department.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that, regarding the community grants, he mistakenly believed the Vandalia Club was a 503(c)(3), but they are not. Councilmember Faegre added that she wanted to contribute to the Edgewood Garden Club, but they are also not a 503(c)(3). She added that the State Garden Club is, and she was informed that funds she contributed will be distributed to the Club of her choosing. Mayor Goodwin advised that she will consult with the City Attorney and City Manager for legal guidance.

6. Chilton Trails – Councilmember Cook added that the trail in the South Hills area came from a donation from the Chilton family in 2005. She added that at the end of September, several students from GW helped Parks and Recreation clean the trail. Councilmember Cook acknowledged Daniel Carter, Giovanni Periche, Adam Keith, Chase Compton and Chris Muto for taking initiative and ownership of their community.

7. Proposed Skatepark – Councilmember Cook added that Council had recently approved the MOU with the DoH to locate the skatepark under the I-64 bridge. She added the this is an outstanding location that will allow access to a lot of citizens. A working group, with a wide demographic, met to discuss what they would want from the skatepark. The project should be completed in 2021.

Mayor Goodwin added that during the team townhall held on the West Side, the Administration was told that the new skatepark is meaningful to the young skating community in the City. The Mayor added that it will also bring in skaters from other areas into the City. The Brad and Alice Smith Foundation has expressed interest due to the project. The Mayor added that the bid will go out the following Monday.

8. Proposed Updates to Cato Park – Councilmember Cook stated that Cato is the largest park in the City, home to the Parks and Recreation Department, a pool, a 9-hole golf course, soccer fields, several trails and a playground.

Sayles added that they want to install a pump track, which may require moving several golf course holes, that will include an ADA area. A biking track will be installed along the perimeter of the golf course.

Mayor Goodwin added that there were early discussions about closing the golf course at Cato due to low numbers. Due to Covid-19, the course has seen an increase in use. There will likely be changes to the course, however, to accommodate updates and additions to the park. Mayor Good added that the park is ideal for a cross-country training and competition course. There are also plans to add a dog park and archery course.

9. Miscellaneous –

In reference to the North Charleston field, Councilmember Faegre asked about the condition of the concession stands. Sayles replied that the one by the little league field is in good condition. The one by the football field needs a lot of work, such as a new AC unit and an ice unit.

Councilmember Jones added that they had previously discussed a way for children to cross the 4-way intersection on 7th Avenue to access the North Charleston Rec Center, and asked if there had been any new ideas for that. Sayles replied that there are currently signal buttons to cross. Councilmember Jones added that most kids don't want to walk all the way to 21st Street. Instead, they cross at the bridge, which is dangerous. The Mayor suggested consulting with the Head of Streets and Traffic for a possible solution.

Councilmember Jenkins mentioned that a parcel near Hamilton Trail at Danner Meadow can't be used for anything except trails. He added that the property sold for taxes a few years ago. He suggested that the Land Reuse Agency look into the property. Director of Planning, Dan Vriendt, added that he has walked that property, and he agreed the property would be a great parcel to add to the Danner Meadow Park.

Councilmember Faegre motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Jenkins seconded.

Meeting adjourned.