

# MINUTES

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 P. M., JANUARY 28, 2021

\*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., JANUARY 28, 2021.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Caitlin Cook, Chair

Chad Robinson, Vice Chair

Jeanine Faegre

Joseph Jenkins

Pat Jones

Deanna McKinney (arrived at 5:43)

ABSENT: Robert Sheets

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

#### 1. Approval of Previous Minutes 10-29-2020 –

Councilmember Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 10-29-2020. Councilmember Faegre seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.

#### 2. East End Dog Park –

Councilmember Cook informed the Committee that work on the East End Dog Park had started. The beginning structure for one of the shaded areas has been installed as well as a separate area for smaller dogs with its own entrance and an ADA compliant picnic table. The Director of Parks and Recreation, Rashaun Sayles, is pleased with the progress of the park despite the time delays that the pandemic has caused.

Councilmember Cook added that the original fencing had also been repaired.

Remaining work to the park includes: determining the best method to prevent dogs from getting their heads stuck under the perimeter fence, the larger shade structure repairs, 2 additional benches, updating the water station (by repairing and adding a new water

January 28, 2021

fountain as well as a new dog washing station), an additional picnic table, 3 maple trees for shade and more grass seed and fertilizer.

### 3. Cato Park –

Councilmember Cook reminded the Committee that there had been a generous anonymous donation to the City to be used for Cato Park. Some improvements may include: an archery course along the existing trails (for individual use and for competitions), a dog park (named in honor of fallen Patrolman Cassie Johnson) to be completed within 60-90 days with a water source to be included later. Councilmember Cook added that the walking/bike path that will go around the perimeter of the golf course will be partially paved for ADA compliance, with the goal for it to be completely paved in the future.

Councilmember Jenkins asked why the entrance was so far away from the parking. Councilmember Cook replied that it is because of a steep incline in that area. Additionally, there is parking on the other side of the playground, close to the entrance of the dog park. Councilmember Faegre asked if there was an estimate to be able to add the water feature to the dog park, and Councilmember Cook stated she will get that information to her.

### 4. Skate Park –

Councilmember Cook stated there will be a few changes to the final design for the skate park. It will be maintained by Parks and Recreation, and construction is set to start in the Spring. She added that there will be a variety of structures for various skill levels. The people that will be using the park have had input into its design. Mayor Goodwin added that they had been meeting with about 25 skaters in the area to gather their input.

### 5. Magic Island –

Councilmember Cook added that there is a lot of space that isn't being used. She requested that the Committee members think of possible additions to Magic Island that would be an attraction but would also accommodate frequent flooding. She suggested shelters for gatherings. Councilmember Faegre expressed concern over the homeless population in that area.

### 6. Look Ahead to Spring/Summer –

Mayor Goodwin added that Councilmember Robinson had brought up issues with turfing some of the fields, and had gotten some pricing for that. They are looking into

securing funding to turf the MLK field as well as the Kanawha City field. Councilmember Robinson added that the goal is to make the MLK field multi-use with softball, baseball, football and soccer.

Councilmember Cook added that Rec Centers remain open to e-learners and afterschool programs. They have seen consistent students in the North Charleston and Kanawha City Centers. There has not yet been a determination as to when the Centers will be fully open.

Councilmember Cook added that renovations to the various Centers completed by the Parks and Recreation Department include: ADA restrooms, remodeled kitchen at MLK, flooring projects/upgrades to MLK, free public golf at Cato Park, updated lighting for the fields at North Charleston, free meals to all e-learners through partnership, back-to-school supplies for students through partnership, free shoes to school age kids through partnership, an afterschool program at Kanawha City through partnership, their first Pickle Ball Tournament, hosted an MLK Celebration, new public access computers at the North Charleston and MLK Centers, created hand-crafted Christmas decorations for outdoor display. Councilmember Cook commended the Department for adapting their Halloween and Christmas events during the pandemic.

Councilmember Knauff asked for an update on the playground on Bigley Avenue. Sayles replied that they do intend to install a playground there this Spring. She was not sure if it will be the same type of playground, possibly with smaller, educational structures. Councilmember Robinson added that ideally, they would be able to put a gate at the end of the alley for access to unloading/loading that would allow for the parking area to be closed off safely. Councilmember Knauff added that he will discuss it with the Board and Councilmember Bailey.

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

Meeting adjourned.

January 28, 2021