



CITY OF CHARLESTON
West Virginia
Council Member – AT LARGE



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Parks & Recreation Committee, Chair
Environment and Recycling Committee

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AND CAN BE ATTENDED IN PERSON AND CAN BE VIEWED LIVE VIA ZOOM

Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center, West Hall 1
Charleston, WV

A meeting of the Council Committee on Parks and Recreation will be held on March 25, 2021. The meeting will begin promptly at 5:30 PM.

***Join via internet:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806037141?pwd=SmlUREFabGtEKzRiWFh0TnI0aTIHOT09>

Passcode: 150570

***Join via Telephone: (312) 626-6799 or (929) 436-2866**

Webinar ID: 858 0603 7141

Agenda

DISCUSSION REGARDING SLACK PLAZA REDESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

INTERESTED PUBLIC SPEAKERS MUST REGISTER AT THE CLERK'S TABLE IN PERSON NO EARLIER THAN 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS. A TOTAL OF 15 MINUTES WILL BE ALLOTTED FOR SPEAKERS.

UPDATE ON CATO PARK

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. 1-28-2021

RESOLUTION NO. 446-21

1. Honoring Robert Easley Sr.

UPDATE ON VANDALIA POOL PROJECT

DISCUSSION ON REC CENTERS AND CITY POOLS FOR SUMMER 2021

UPDATE ON BALLFIELDS

THE AGENDA WAS AMENDED 3-22-2021

CC/ns

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

Resolution No. 446-21

Introduced in Council:

April 5, 2021

Introduced by:

**Caitlin Cook and Tiffany
Wesley-Plear**

Adopted by Council:

Referred to:

Parks & Recreation

1 **Resolution No. 446-21** - Honoring the life and legacy of Patrolman Robert Edward
2 Easley, Sr. by dedicating and naming the western wing of the Martin Luther King, Jr.
3 Community Center, which is dedicated to afterschool programming, the “Robert Edward
4 Easley, Sr. Annex”.

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6 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. was a native of Charleston, West Virginia, and
7 served honorably in the Charleston Police Department; and

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9 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. was one of only a few Black Charleston Police
10 Department members during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and

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12 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. was known as the “peacemaker” for his ability to
13 find solutions to problems while transcending race, color, religion, gender, and creed;
14 and

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16 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. was given the 1963 Officer of the Year Award,
17 earned the medal of valor, and received multiple Officer of the Month recognitions; and

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19 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. helped organize The Canteen—a youth center in
20 the Triangle District of Charleston, also known as the Block, that provided supervised
21 activities for young people; and

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23 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. spent countless hours volunteering his time at
24 The Canteen in an effort to keep the youth of the community off the street and out of
25 trouble by engaging them with drum corps, drill corps, dances, basketball games, ping-
26 pong matches, tutoring, and much more with the assistance of other local community
27 leaders, teachers, and volunteers; and

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29 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr.’s tireless efforts for the youth of Charleston and
30 his commitment to The Canteen earned him the moniker of “Father of Afterschool
31 Programs”; and

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33 Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. was beloved by the community and is fondly
34 remembered by everyone who spent time at The Canteen and heard Officer Easley’s
35 motivational and inspirational slogan, “Striving to Excel”; and

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Whereas, Robert E. Easley, Sr. passed away in 1997 and was posthumously honored by the State of West Virginia’s Human Rights Commission as a West Virginia Civil Rights Day honoree in 2010; and

Whereas, the City of Charleston owes a debt of gratitude to Robert E. Easley, Sr. for both his distinguished service to the City as a member of the Charleston Police Department and his dedication to the people of Charleston through his volunteer service at The Canteen and throughout the community.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That the City of Charleston hereby honors the life and legacy of Patrolman Robert Edward Easley, Sr. and expresses its thanks for Officer Easley’s dedicated service as both an employee of the City and a committed community volunteer with The Canteen and other community engagement.

And that the City of Charleston dedicates the western wing of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center in honor of Patrolman Robert Edward Easley, Sr.—the Father of Afterschool Programs—and hereby names the western wing, which is dedicated to afterschool programming, the “Robert Edward Easley, Sr. Annex” in his memory.