

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN AND MADE AVAILABLE AS A LIVE STREAM PER THE AGENDA

5:30 P. M., JUNE 24, 2021

Caitlin Cook, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation to order at 5:30p.m., JUNE 24, 2021.

Committee Members Present:

Caitlin Cook, Chair

Jeanine Faegre via Zoom

Joseph Jenkins via Zoom

Robert Sheets

Committee Members Absent:

Chad Robinson, Vice Chair

Pat Jones

Deanna McKinney

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

1. Approval of Previous Minutes 4-29-2021–

Councilmember Faegre motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 5-27-2021. Councilmember Sheets seconded. There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

2. Disc Golf at Cato Park –

Councilmember Cook introduced John Butterworth, Neighborhood Planner with the Planning Department and Jeff Pierson, Director of Public Art. They gave a presentation in favor of having a disc golf course at Cato Park. Highlights of the presentation include:

- It's a low-impact social sport that can be shared with families of all ages.
- It has a low-cost barrier.
- Most courses coexist with other park uses.
- There has been an increase in interest nationally as well as in West Virginia over the past several years. There were 3,437 sanctioned events in the country in 2020; there are projected to be 5,000 sanctioned events in 2021.
- Most courses are free to play.
- It has diverse levels of play, from recreational to professional.
- There is an opportunity for economic development from tournaments, local sales, tourism, etc.

Councilmember Cook added that a course at Cato Park would be the most eastern course in West Virginia, making it a good opportunity for Charleston. She added that now would be the time to invest in a course while people are still in the outdoor mindset from the pandemic.

Butterworth showed the Committee a map of the proposed course, which was situated around the existing golf course. Each hole would have 2 different tee off spots depending on skill level. The Director of Parks and Recreation, Rashaun Sayles, added that they would need to look into increasing their staff for maintenance. Councilmember Cook agreed that it would be important to maintain the City's investment. Butterworth agreed, adding that public reviews would have a high impact.

Councilmember Faegre added that the addition of disc golf was a wonderful idea. She asked about the cost. Butterworth replied that from the initial quotes, the course would cost about \$17,000 for materials. Councilmember Sheets suggested that the clubhouse could rent out the discs.

Councilmember Sheets motioned that the Committee recommend to the Administration that a disc golf course be installed at Cato Park Councilmember Faegre seconded. With the members being present having voted in the majority as affirmative, the Chair declared the motion as approved.

3. Resolution No. 492-21 – Resolution No. 492-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Charleston Urban Renewal Authority for the City to construct community basketball courts and other related community park infrastructure on property situated on the southeast corner of the intersection of Washington Street West and Beatrice Street.

Councilmember Cook added that the Committee had previously discussed this. She added that this was a good opportunity to put a recreational space on the West Side. The only thing that had been on this property was a small farmer's market.

Councilmember Faegre added that it was a wonderful idea, but she had concerns that the area was not safe. It will be important to have a visible police presence.

Councilmember Cook added that she appreciated those concerns, but this presents an opportunity to add a park and more lighting to that area, which would probably make it safer.

Councilmember Sheets motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Faegre seconded. With the members being present having voted in the majority as affirmative, the Chair declared Resolution No. 492-21 as approved.

4. Miscellaneous –

Councilmember Cook added that the department has had problems staffing lifeguards for the summer. The new pumphouse at North Charleston has been working really well.

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

Meeting adjourned.