

MINUTES

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

6:30 P. M., JULY 29, 2021

Caitlin Cook, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation to order at 6:30p.m., July 29, 2021.

Committee Members Present:

Caitlin Cook, Chair

Chad Robinson, Vice Chair

Jeanine Faegre (via Zoom)

Joseph Jenkins

Deanna McKinney (via Zoom)

Committee Members Absent:

Robert Sheets

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

1. Approval of Previous Minutes 6-24-2021–

Councilmember Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 6-24-2021. Councilmember Faegre seconded. There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

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2. Earl Lloyd Sr. Family Basketball Courts –

Councilmember Cook introduced Earl Lloyd Jr., the son of Earl Lloyd Sr. She added that the Lloyd family reached out to the City. Lloyd stated that his father first visited Charleston in the summer of 1946. While attending West Virginia State, he was a three-time All-Conference Player and was a two-time All-American player. Around 1948/49, his team was the only undefeated team in the US. The Lloyd family approached the City about naming a basketball court or park after him. Lloyd added that it would be an honor to do this for his father. His father made it possible for every African American player after him to be in the NBA as he was the first. After he started playing for the NBA, he would return to Charleston every summer to give basketball clinics to underprivileged children. Lloyd added that they would be able to get the NBA, the Detroit Pistons and the Washington Wizards (formally the Washington Capitols) on board if the City agreed. Lloyd also added that there are two recreation centers not named after anyone, North Charleston and Kanawha, and would like to see one of them named after him.

Councilmember Cook added that Lloyd had also expressed interest in having the new park on the West Side named after his father as well. She asked what the NBA teams/family would be able to contribute. Lloyd replied that they would be able to get involved financially for whatever the park needed. His vision was to have something named after his father. Councilmember Cook added that the Committee could draft a resolution and send it to Council for the naming/dedication.

Councilmember Jenkins stated that typically when there is a naming, etc. the family involved would commit funds. The price of the new park had been estimated at approximately \$200,000. He added that there could also be a sponsorship at the rec centers for an after-school program. Councilmember Cook suggested that the courts at the MLK Center could be renamed after Lloyd Sr., and they could bring back the clinics.

Parks and Recreation Director, Rashaun Sayles, added that she would like Lloyd to provide a written background of his father's history and his relationship with Charleston, particularly concerning the clinics. Lloyd added that he could put together a packet to show that it shouldn't be an issue to get funds from the various entities. Councilmember Faegre added that it would be a great idea to name the park after him. She added that he shouldn't have to pay anything to be able to name it after his father. Councilmember McKinney agreed that the City should be able to do this to keep the memory of Lloyd Sr. alive. Councilmember Robinson added that his father also worked for Bing Steel Corporation in Community Development.

Councilmember Cook thanked Lloyd for joining the Committee, and added that they would touch base with him next month. They would also develop a list of contacts for the possible sponsorship. She added that the City is definitely interested in honoring the first African American NBA player. Assistant Director, Jennifer Neal, added that a November time frame would work out well, as that is when WV State honors Lloyd Sr.

3. Skate Park Update –

Councilmember Cook added that almost half of the skate park is finished. Sayles added that that they had to chain off the area due to someone trying to break in.

Councilmember Cook added that she saw on Facebook people were trying to identify who that was, so there has been some peer accountability to keep the park safe and in good shape.

4. East End Park Update -

Councilmember Cook added that the concrete had been poured for the splash pad, and the pump house would be finished by the end of the week.

5. Miscellaneous -

Sayles added that the North Charleston pool has been running. The MLK pool is running as well, but they will not be able to open it without more lifeguards.

July is Parks and Recreation month, and there will be a party on the 31st.

Councilmember Faegre added that there a church on the West Side is having a gathering at West Side Middle School. She had asked the CFD about their dunking booth, and she learned that it was given to the South Charleston Fire Department. Concerning the proposed parking pad on Valley Road to access Cato Park, she stated that the City Engineer is working to redesign it so that it does not affect the residents. Councilmember Cook confirmed that the parking pad is likely to be on Baker Lane, which would shorten the walking trail. Councilmember Faegre asked if the walking trail would impact sleigh riding during the winter. Councilmember Cook replied that it did not seem like sleigh riding would be eliminated.

Councilmember Jenkins motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.