

Chester County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Building

Conference Room at 6:00 PM

May 8, 2023

Commission Members Present: Forest Baker, Hiawatha Clifton, Justin Temple, Tripp Lundsford, David Loftin

Commission Members Absent: Jamie Wooten, Jermaine Mapp

Meeting Called to order at 6:06 by Forest Baker with the pledge and invocation.

Tripp Lundsford made a motion to approve the minutes from October 10, 2022, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

The first topic was the Chester County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Discussion about how to move forward with the strategic planning under the direction of a new County Administrator and the Parks and Recreation Director position still being vacant. Strategic Planning by the Parks and Recreation Advisory board was an initiative based on guidance provided by the previous County Supervisor. Forest Baker will follow up with County Administrator on direction for developing Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Motion to table by Justin Temple, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

The second topic was Chester County Park Improvements and Maintenance needs. Hiawatha Clifton discussed concerns about ingress and egress traffic access to/from the Dawson Drive facility after a recent incident. The concerns were about the traffic concerns and confusion when park visitors were trying to leave the facility post incident. Discussed the Sherriff's Office providing a visible presence during events at Dawson Drive. Multiple board members were pleased with the Sherriff's Office presence at the facility post incident. Hiawatha Clifton also discussed several dugouts that need to be repaired at Dawson Drive, as well as ADA access to the fields/recreation areas needs to be completed. Tripp Lundsford discussed that the parks in his district have been clean and well taken care of. Discussed staffing for the Recreation Department to alleviate maintenance needs currently being handled by the Facilities Maintenance Department. Motion to table discussion by Justin Temple, seconded by David Loftin.

The third topic was Disc Golf Report. Forest discussed types of properties that would be suitable for building a disc golf course. Discussed grant options and funding opportunities to build 9-hole disc golf course. Forest stated that there are no disc golf courses between Chester and Columbia and that it could be a good attraction for the area based on the difficulty level of the course. Discussed the amount of maintenance required to support a 9-hole course. Motion to table by Hiawatha Clifton, seconded by Justin Temple.

The fourth topic was Parks Creek Cleanup. Forest Baker discussed the need to clean up around the creeks in the parks and the areas surrounding the parks. Discussion about organizing different groups/organizations that may be willing to participate or sponsor clean-up events in the parks. No action taken.

The fifth topic was Grants Discussion. Discussion about how grants can be applied for and grant inquiries can be submitted. Discussed there was a Grants Manual that was developed in the past that outlines the process that entities need to follow in pursuing grant opportunities. Discussion about different types of grants that may be applicable to Parks and Recreation. Motion to table by Hiawatha Clifton, seconded by Forest Baker.

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The sixth topic was the Chester Recreation Center. Forest Baker discussed the Recreation Center operational issues and the current state of the facility. The City Recreation Director is leaving the position and there are several condition issues with the facility structure as well as the swimming pool. Forest emphasized the importance of the facility in the community and the need to maintain its operation. Discussion about Chester County helping facilitate the operation and repair of the facility. Discussion about the liability concerns associated with the building, operational/repair costs, and agreements between governments. No action taken.

The seventh topic was Advisory Board Meeting Schedule and Communication Discussion. Justin Temple discussed issues/concerns about board attendance and communication methods. Discussion about meeting times, dates, location. Discussion about board members that have not been attending meetings or responding to board communication. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommended that board members not regularly attending meetings shall be replaced with another individual from those districts. Discussed new group communication methods to schedule meetings and provide reminders going forward. No action taken.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 7:52 by David Loftin, seconded by Forest Baker.