

Chester County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Building

Conference Room at 6:00 PM

June 22, 2023

Commission Members Present: Toni Perrigan, Thomas Jordan, Tripp Lundsford, Forest Baker, Hiawatha Clifton, Justin Temple

Commission Members Absent: David Loftin

Meeting Called to order at 6:23 by Forest Baker with the pledge and invocation.

Hiawatha Clifton made a motion to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023, seconded by Tripp Lundsford.

The first topic was the Chester County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Discussion about the previous strategic planning sessions and the next steps in completing the strategic plan. The consensus of the board members was to pursue direction and guidance on the next steps in the planning process since there has been a change in County leadership. Discussion on the Clemson Parks and Recreation needs assessment/audit that was a to provide recommendations and guidance on items that need to be improved or remediated. Forest Baker will set meeting with the County Administrator to initiate next steps in the planning process. Motion to table by Justin Temple, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

The second topic was a Chester County Park Improvements and Maintenance needs. Justin Temple discussed the lighting at Great Falls David Minors has not been completed yet with the approved penny tax funding but will be replaced in the near future. Forest Baker discussed the Chester Recreation Center and the funding issues they have been presented with. Dawson Drive should have some dugout repairs scheduled in the near future as well. Discussion about maintenance and restrooms at the fairgrounds and how that should be handled moving forward. Discussion on the long term maintenance of the parks and how to provide relief for the current facilities maintenance and public works responsibilities. Motion to table Justin, seconded Toni Perrigan

The third topic was the Disc Golf Report. Forest went and looked at the park by the middle school and looks to be a suitable property. Discussion about how much space is needed to facilitate a course and the requirements. Toni Perrigan discussed a property that was donated to the county that may be a suitable location for a disc golf course. Discussion about the possibility of an Innova grant to fund the 9-hole course. Forest discussed the EDGE program that involves the schools to develop a program to get more youth involved in the sport. Motion to table Hiawatha Clifton, Seconded by Thomas Jordan.

The fourth topic was Grants Discussion. Discussion on PARD Grants that funding available for Chester County. Brief discussion about other grant opportunities to research that may be applicable for Chester County. Motion to table by Justin Temple, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

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The fifth topic was Dawson Drive Complex Upgrades. Hiawatha Clifton discussed hopeful improvements to the complex, with a focus on safety concerns relating to ingress and egress traffic issues. Discussion on adding another entry and exit point out of the complex. Existing ingress and egress could be expanded or another entry/exit could be put in. Discussed the amount of time it took people to get out of the park during a recent incident at the facility. The Chester County Sherriff Department has maintained a presence at the facility since the initial incident. Hiawatha also discussed the need for additional game and practice fields. Toni Perrigan stated that there were 2 softball fields included in the one cent sales tax, one has not been started and the other hasn't been completed. Discussion on the need to improve ADA access to various areas of the complex. Thomas Jordan discussed the need for field maintenance equipment and a place to securely store it. Discussion about the fences in the complex have been there for a long time and may pose some safety concerns with holes, sharp edges, etc. Discussion about increasing the parking capacity at the facility. Discussion about the master plan for the Dawson Drive complex. Discussion about how to fund improvements and move towards accomplishing the master plan. Motion to table – Toni Perrigan, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:04 by Thomas Jordan, seconded by Justin Temple.