

## **Chester County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Building

Conference Room at 6:00 PM

December 11, 2023

Commission Members Present: Toni Perrigan, Laura Roberts, Forest Baker, Hiawatha Clinton, Thomas Jordan

Commission Members Absent: Justin Temple, David Loffton

Chester County Staff Present: Brian Hester, Britt Stoudemire, Adam Bedard

Meeting called to order at 6:05 by Forest with the pledge and invocation given by Thomas.

Motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2023, by Thomas Jordan. Seconded by Hiawatha Clinton.

Motion was made to discuss Rodman Complex by Toni Perrigan. Seconded by Hiawatha Clinton. Britt Stoudemire gave some updates. He said that our County Supervisor has made this project a top priority. They have held many meetings and are ready to move forward with the four fields. There are three major items to get into budget: 1) fences, 2) dirt, and 3) lights. Mr. Hester explained the reason for the delay is because they want to get everything right. A meeting has been held with Alliance and they are pushing them to get started. The project is separated into 3 phases: 1) The four fields, 2) the soccer fields, and 3) refurbishing present fields and updating dugouts. Money will be saved because we will be able to do the soccer fields and sidewalks on our own. Dream Park will come after that. Mr. Hester went on to say that we will need to spend some money on civil engineering to help with the sewer lines, well, drainage, etc. The county has received some grants and we will be able to use some of that money to finish these projects. Mr. Hester is hoping that if we can get bid back by May, the project could be done by December. He also suggested that the progress being made should be on social media. Adam Bedard shared that these fields will be for baseball and softball with appropriate pegs and mounds for multi-ages. Forest makes a motion to approve topography and geology wetlands surveys and civil engineering costs for the new fields at Rodman Complex. Thomas seconded. Approved.

Motion was made to discuss the next topic by Toni Perrigan. Seconded by Hiawatha. Britt Stoudemire introduced Chester County Parks and Recreation Supervisor Adam Bedard. Adam's first goal is to have signs put in at parks. He has met with league presidents. He wants to have a presence at games and wants to get community involved in opening day. Adam's background includes 8 years in Hartsville. He has written procedural manual for splash pad, ran the Parks and Recreation Department, oversaw many baseball, soccer, and football fields. As Assistant Director, he brought in

some very large events including kickball, flyball, corn hole, and first SC indoor cricket tournament.

For the parks and recreation update, Brian Hester discussed league allocations. He stated that we need to have a process to determine need. Applications will be required as well as data to demonstrate financial need. Mr. Hester believes that parks and recreation need to fund the fields. The leagues need to be self-sufficient. We can support them but not fund them. The purchasing of equipment was discussed and how we can allocate funds equally/fairly. Forms will be created so that the same information can be shared from every league. Forest enquired about the possible cut through from Rodman Complex to Rodman Road. This topic has been pushed to January for County Council to address.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Thomas Jordan at 8:04. Seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Roberts