

**Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
March 14, 2017
6:00 p.m.**

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Chairman Wansley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Maribeth Wansley, Diana Wilson, Kay Long, John Graham, and Roland Alston. All members were present. A quorum was represented.

Public Comments

Laurie Searle, 12600 Whiteside Road – said she would like to have a historical survey of the Beavers' House property done to use as a starting point in determining how to proceed with the property. She also would like to see the three groups in the old Campbellton area included in any type of decisions.

Ron Simblist, 10744 Serenbe Lane – said Hutcheson Ferry Park is being underutilized. He presented an idea for a rustic performance space for Hutcheson Ferry Park that could be modeled after a space built in Salt Spring Island, Canada, for \$100,000 (Canadian dollars).

Approval of Agenda

Wansley requested that the agenda be amended to remove the "Officer Appointment" item under Items for Consideration. Graham made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
Alston made a motion to approve the February 14, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

1. Cochran Mill Park Update – Pete Edmondson
Wilson introduced Pete Edmondson, who has donated time and resources designing new trails, building new trails, creating trail maps, and coordinating volunteers to work on the trails. Mr. Edmondson gave an update on the stream crossings at Cochran Mill Park. For smaller stream crossings, 36" culverts have been used with great success. For the larger crossings, volunteers first tried armoring crossings using rocks and bricks. As water flow increased over the winter, the rocks and bricks were getting undercut and rolling downstream. The solution is to build bridges at the larger water crossings. Based on the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) bridge guidelines and advice from a former DNR employee, the

recommended bridge type is a “remote” bridge for three locations on the red trail. After discussion between staff and Commission members, it was agreed that volunteers and staff would have better communication on work being done by the volunteers.

Items for Discussion

1. Parking Fee Update – Maribeth Wansley
Wansley reported there were 246 resident and 247 non-resident decals distributed to date. Total revenue since the last meeting is \$5,173 and expenditures are \$2,067.66. Total revenue for the fiscal year is \$41,077 and expenditures are \$8,540.45. Total available funds are \$32,536.55
2. Suggestions for parks improvements – Diana Wilson
Wilson asked for Commission Members suggestions for improvements in the parks.

Wansley’s recommendations:

1. *Refurbish payment kiosk at Cochran Mill Park*
2. *New picnic tables and benches at Cochran Mill Park*
3. *Continued credit card expenses for kiosk*

Long’s recommendations

1. *Metal pavilion at Rico Park – estimated costs are \$1,195 installed for 16’ x 24’ and \$2,195 installed for 20’ x 24’*
2. *Metal picnic tables at Rico Park – estimated cost is \$3,390 for six 8’ tables*
3. *Veterans Memorial – estimated costs include seven flag poles at \$700 each, flags at \$30 each, and monument (cost varies)*

Alston’s recommendations:

1. *Poster shelters for putting maps out on trails at 20 locations – estimated cost is \$40 each but Alston said he could make them for less than \$20 each.*
2. *Metal plant identification tags for native plants and trees*
3. *Animal-proof trash can lids*
4. *Venting the container storage shed*
5. *Replace damaged hand tools*

Graham’s recommendations:

1. *Replace 50 gallon drums with trash cans*
2. *Park signage which brings together the Our Town Grant design guidelines and concept plans.*

Wilson's recommendations:

1. Speed table on Cochran Mill Road where the red trail comes out
2. Gravel on side of Cochran Mill Road to encourage people to walk off of the road
3. More trail markers
4. Archeological study
5. City to work on road between Cochran Mill Park and Rico Park if the city gets the current RTP grant.

City Planner Mike Morton suggested signage on Cochran Mill Road at park borders.

Items for Consideration

1. Meeting dates for April 2017 – March 2018 – Maribeth Wansley
Wilson made a motion to approve the April 2017 – March 2018 meeting schedule. Alston seconded. The schedule will go to City Council for approval.
2. Officer Appointment – Maribeth Wansley *(Removed from Agenda)*

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Wilson said that she and Bob Shelor will be attending the Georgia Trail Summit April 20th – 22nd. She and Bob Shelor will be giving a presentation on Cochran Mill Park on April 20th.

Wansley announced there would be a litter pick-up day on Sunday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. She encouraged everyone to volunteer.

Staff Reports

Public Works and Parks Manager Darold Wendlandt reported a new HVAC unit will be purchased for the room housing the security system at Cochran Mill Park. Ball season starts on March 25th. He also reminded everyone of the 5k/10k at Cochran Mill Park on March 25th.

Mayor Reed thanked the Parks Commission for all their work. The fact that half of our 500 parks parking passes come from Chatt Hills residents shows that many, many people that live in Chatt Hills use and benefit from the parks. He highlighted the benefit of having the improvements that have been made in the past couple of years' primality funded by people living outside of the City (through parking fees), and through grants received through the Park's Commission's efforts.

He also thanked Pete Edmondson and Ted Wansley for their volunteer work.

His charge to the Parks Commission going forward is to be mindful of process and to work with staff to make sure that any work is properly authorized and communicated. He also said master plans for all the parks need to be done. The process should include public input and consideration should be given to find ways that make the

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parks enjoyable for all users – including those who want to go straight to ‘the sights’ and those who want to just wander the trails (or ride or bike them).

He welcomed new Parks Commission members Laurie Searle and Tom Blum. He also thanked Maribeth Wansley and John Graham for their work on the Parks Commission and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.

Adjournment

Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 18th day of April, 2017.

Diana Wilson, Chairman

Attest:

**Dana Wicher, City Clerk
(Seal)**