

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
August 8, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Diana Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Diana Wilson, Laurie Searle, Kay Long, and Roland Alston. Tom Blum was absent. A quorum was represented. Also present was Public Works and Parks Manager Darold Wendlandt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Wilson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Agenda

Alston made a motion to approve the agenda. Searle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes
Searle made a motion to approve the June 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

1. Cochran Mill Park Bridge repair/replace recommendation – Robbie Rokovitz
Rokovitz reported that he had contacted Croy Engineering to get another opinion on the Cochran Mill Park Bridge. They recommend removing the existing bridge and replacing it with a new pre-engineered bridge. The estimated cost is \$500,000. Croy Engineering also had a structural engineer from Dunlap Associates Consulting Engineers inspect the bridge. Their opinion was that the existing steel frame could be removed from the abutments and repaired, but it would be labor intensive and require welding certifications. Another option would be to have new bridge framing fabricated off site and erected on the existing abutments. The abutments are structurally stable, but significant testing would have to be done to confirm capacity. They recommend placing an inquiry for competitive bids to design/build a replacement bridge per the city's preferred design parameters. The city is currently waiting on the outcome of the grant to see what funding is available before moving forward.

Items for Discussion

1. Trail Closed Signs for Cochran Mill Park – Roland Alston
Alston said there have been problems with the trails being used by cyclists and horseback riders when trails conditions are too wet and proposes reversible "trail closed" signs. Volunteers will coordinate reversing the signs as needed. He

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presented sample signs. Wendlandt will order them. Long asked if smaller signs could be placed at some of the park boundaries to let people know when they are leaving park property. Wilson said she will look for signage that could be used on the carsonite posts that the city already has.

2. Park Flora Signs – Roland Alston

Alston presented a sample of flora identification signs. The estimated cost is \$5.00 per sign plus shipping. He suggested putting them out on the orange (interpretive) trail. He will get a proposal together for the next Parks Commission meeting.

3. Historic Preservation Project ideas – Diana Wilson

The Georgia Historic Preservation Association is requiring a historic preservation project as part of the 2015 RTP Grant. Wilson asked the Commission members for their ideas.

Alston said one idea is to tie in a walking tour of the older trees in the park in with the flora identification project. Another idea is to do a survey of the Henry Mill site.

Wendlandt suggested a platform near the new bridge site with a picture of the what the mill used to look like.

Searle said the mill stone from Henry Mill could be removed from the creek and incorporated into a new park sign. Another idea is to erect a historic display on the east side of the park in the open field right as you cross over the bridge. She has talked with a local resident who has experience designing interpretive displays and who would like to help. This expert estimated the cost for one display to be \$4,000-\$5,000 and felt she could get a proposal ready in the timeframe needed for the grant.

4. Beavers House and Old Campbellton Park Planning – Diana Wilson

Wilson reported that she had received a phone call from Jim Langford, President of MillionMile Greenway. He wants to help work with the community to come up with a plan for the park. He said the community planning process is more effective if done through community organizations. At Searle's suggestion, Community Brickworks has agreed to take the lead on a planning meeting to get community input. The meeting is scheduled for August 29th at 7:00 p.m. and will be advertised through several outlets including the Chatt Hills community email list and various Facebook pages.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Searle asked if the street addresses for the parks could be put on the city website. City Clerk Dana Wicher responded that it will be done. Searle also announced that

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the city's 10-year anniversary celebration will be at Hutcheson Ferry Park on November 12th.

Wilson suggested that something honoring the long-time farming families of the community be incorporated into the anniversary celebration.

Staff Reports

1. Parking Fee Update – Dana Wicher
Wicher reported total Parking Fee revenue for Fiscal Year 2017 was \$60,390. There have been 346 resident and 370 non-resident decals distributed this year to date. Total revenue to date for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$8,540 and expenditures are \$373.41. Total available funds are \$8,166.59.
2. Darold Wendlandt
Wendlandt reported that the four signs for the Beaver House property will be posted this week. He also said he recently met with a consultant regarding all of the playgrounds in the city. All of the playgrounds need work. The city hall playground is the priority to be repaired.

Adjournment

Alston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Searle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 19th day of September, 2017.

Diana Wilson, Chair

Attest:

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