

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission  
City of Chattahoochee Hills  
October 10, 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**

**Approval of Agenda**

*Wilson requested that the agenda be amended as follows:*

- 1. Remove Items for Discussion Item No. 5, Hutcheson Ferry Park Needs*
- 2. Change Items for Consideration Agenda Item No. 1, Southern Off Road Bicycle Association Memorandum (SORBA MOU) to Items for Discussion Items No. 9 under Items for Discussion.*

*Alston made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes**

- 1. Approval of September 19, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes*

*Alston made a motion to approve the September 19, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Searle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Presentation** (None)

**Items for Discussion**

- 1. 2015 RTP Grant Update – Diana Wilson*

*Wilson said the City Council unanimously approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. The MOA requires that an interpretive plan for Cochran Mill Park be completed within five years. This is considered a mitigation project being required by the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office because inserting a bridge inside the original bridge changes the look and, therefore, causes an adverse effect. The expectation is that the project will start in December 2017. The three things that the grant will achieve:*

- 1. Purchase of a prefabricated bridge to insert inside the old bridge at Cochran Mill Park*



*this may be a SORBA project. It is starting to wear and has some rot, and planks will have to be unscrewed to repair. The bridge may have one more year of use prior to requiring a full resurface as well. Other concerns include the need to have the metal storage containers vented to prevent further decay, the west gate needs to have the hinges re-welded, resurfacing the playground, finishing the Red Trail, and completing the Flora Identification Project. The Kiosk Project is also under plans to replace the trail maps.*

*Wilson introduced Pete Edmondson, who has analyzed the trails current condition and proposed what improvements can be made over the next two years with the help of volunteers. All of which qualifies towards the RTP Grant. Edmondson introduced five potential projects:*

*1. Yellow Trail Near Bear Creek*

*The plan is to increase user safety by widening the trail to approximately 48 inches to make a level tread near the falls. In areas where rocks or roots would be impossible to relocate, an outer wall can be built to maintain the trees health and still provide a safer turn. Edmondson suggested a wall to be made using cross ties, rebar, and back fill with dirt. Alston inquired about the possibility of using rocks instead of cross ties. As his concern was using pressure treated cross ties with relation of distance to the stream below. Any type of plan using cross ties will need plan review before implemented.*

*2. Red Trail Near Bear Creek*

*The plan suggested to reroute the fall line sections of trail with a sustainable design. This will help maintain as much of the original trail as possible that is in good condition. Much of this trail was original to the park and was established before the 1<sup>st</sup> RTP grant. The repairs would resolve the erosion and unsafe conditions for trail users.*

*3. Yellow Trail Near Parking Lot*

*This plan would design and construct a new trail for horseback riders which connect the parking lot to the yellow trail beyond Cedar Branch Creek. This trail would start near the ADA mounting block and follow a route to the bottom land nearby and make a sweeping turn through a forested area free of underbrush. The trail would lead to a natural stream crossing then connect to Zack's Glade. This trail would be for equestrians only. When combined with Zack's Glade and Old Swamp trails, equestrian users would have over 2 miles of trails before interacting with any other user groups.*

*4. Red Trail at 5 Turn Hill*

*Edmondson explained a brief history of the design of the trail. While the focus was to build a trail quickly as possible up and over the hill. The plan now is to clear the corridor to increase the width and extend the trail to the top of the hill. Volunteers are seeking permission to extend the trail up the hill by adding*

*two more turns and a loop around the top of the hill, adding approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of trail.*

**5. Green Trail**

*The focus on this trail would be to clear and reroute some of the green trail in the area that was destroyed by the tornado. Edmondson also suggested that this trail should be extended to create a loop which is entirely on park property. The new trail would be built midway up the steep hillside north of Bear Creek.*

**7. Chatt Hills' Newest Park Needs- Laurie Searle**

*Searle said she and Wilson had requested assistance from Allison Duncan of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to help decide what the next step would be for the new park. Searle, Wilson, Mayor Tom Reed, City Planner Mike Morton, City Manager Robbie Rokovitz, Allison Duncan and Jim Santo from ARC met on September 15, 2017 to review the vulnerability standards for the newest park. These standards are part of the ARC's document "Chattahoochee Corridor Study". The study seeks to find what type of negative effect the building on the property will have on the land. Six standards are listed as: vegetation, soil, hydrology, slope, aspect, and geology. Jim Santos reviewed maps of the park and said additional analysis is needed.*

**8. River Park Needs- Diana Wilson**

*Wilson gave a brief history of how the parks became part of Chattahoochee Hills. The City owns a 237.81 acre parcel of land on the Chattahoochee River. This land was purchased by the Trust for Public Land from the Ramsey family and sold to Fulton County in 2006. In 2007, the residents of Chattahoochee Hills donated the money to purchase, this park, Rico Park, and Cochran Mill Park. The South River Park is surrounded by private property and has limited accessibility. For this reason and lack of funds, this park has been leased as a hunting property for the past 5 years. The current lease agreement will expire in August 2018. At the last City Council Work Session, the Mayor and council stated they would like to reconsider the leasing agreement before next August. Depending on what the City Council decides, the park may be open for future planning.*

**9. Southern Off Road Bicycle Association Memorandum of Understanding**

*Wilson introduced the president of SORBA, Brett Davidson. Davidson has spent the last two years training, working, and bringing his network of SORBA staff to Cochran Mill Park to revitalize the trails. His team of volunteers has created new sustainable trails across the state. Davidson stated his organization is usually working to maintain or create sustainable trails and when they aren't doing that, they are raising money and helping with grants across the south east. One hundred percent of all*

*monies raised goes back into the trails. Davidson would like to see a bike patrol at Cochran Mill Park and to sponsor a Trail School. The school would teach others trail maintenance, trail instruction, and bring awareness to the volunteer program at the park.*

### **Commission Member Comments / Suggestions**

*Searle suggested that a Master Trail Plan be developed for Cochran Mill Park, so as to avoid adding trail “piece meal”, and to give the city council a better idea of the full scope of proposed trails in the park. Laurie objected to the new trail proposed by Pete Edmondson, Item 3 Yellow Trail New Parking Lot. Edmondson said the purpose of this trail is to provide an alternate path for horses since with the current path, they like to stop in the stream to drink water and bicycle riders can come upon the stopped horse unaware. This seems like a superfluous trail, when a “caution sign” would do.*

### **Staff Reports**

1. Parking Fee Update – Kimberly Barnett  
*Barnett reported there have been 389 resident and 367 non-resident decals distributed this year to date. Total revenue to date for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$19,235 and expenditures are \$12,344.98. Total available funds are \$6,890.02.*
2. Darold Wendlandt  
*Wendlandt reported that trees have been removed from the day use area at Cochran Mill Park. He stated that more trees will still need to be removed. Another expenditure was added to repair to the electrical in the park bathrooms. The invoice will be close to \$1,200. Cross tie projects, more gravel spreading, pressure washing of park benches, and welding repairs are slated as upcoming projects for the Public Works team.*

### **Adjournment**

*Alston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approved this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.**

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**Diana Wilson, Chair**

**Attest:**

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