

Minutes
Joint Meeting of the Parks Commission and Historic Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
August 11, 2020
6:00 pm

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Parks Commission Chair Diana Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the Historic Commission were Allison Duncan, Gene Griffith, Brian Gross, Sarah Love, and Kim Taylor-Cloud. Amber Lightsey joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m. Lila Rhyne was absent. Present for the Parks Commission were Diana Wilson, Kay Long, Roland Alston, Clifford Blizzard, and Tom Blum. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt, City Manager Robbie Rokovitz, and Community Development Director Mike Morton.

Presentation

1. Campbellton Historic Crossroads Master Plan - Andrew Kohr, Aubrey Sabba

Mr. Kohr introduced himself. He is the project manager and is employed by Pond, the company selected by the City of Chattahoochee Hills and the City of South Fulton to create a master plan for the Historic Campbellton Crossroads area. The focus of his presentation was historical preservation. He presented the master plan design principles and six strategies for historic preservation.

Duncan commented on the character area map and suggested that the Campbellton West area also be included in the plan as a Historic Core. She said there are important historic resources in the Campbellton West area and she would like to see appropriate development in the historic areas as a way to revitalize and make them viable.

Mr. Kohr said he is anticipating approval of the plan from both the City of Chattahoochee Hills and City of South Fulton's Councils in October or November.

Items for Discussion

1. Campbellton Park

a. Beavers House - Allison Duncan

Duncan reviewed the list of possible uses of the Beavers house that came from the Campbellton Park Master Plan, the Tourism Product Development Report, and other suggestions including preservation of the building as an object in the landscape. She said there should be a consensus on what the city wants to do with the building in order to find funding sources or generate revenue. She asked for volunteers to have a conversation about a consensus on recommendations for a use of the building. Blum, Wilson, Gross, Alston, and Love volunteered to be part of the discussion.

b. Boat Ramp - Diana Wilson

Wilson gave an update on the boat ramp construction. She said the ramp is expected to be completed in 2-3 months, depending on weather. The park is being locked while construction is taking place.

c. Sweep The Hooch, August 29th - Diana Wilson

Wilson reported that the Sweep the Hooch event is being held at Campbellton Park on August 29th. The city can take 20 volunteers and 14 people have registered.

2. Cochran Mill Park

a. Interpretive Historic Master Plan for 2015 RTP Grant - Allison Duncan

Duncan said that because construction of the new bridge at Cochran Mill Park had an impact on the historic structure that was there, the State Historic Preservation Office required some sort of mitigation as part of the 2015 RTP Grant. To fulfill that requirement, the city committed to a master plan of the historic sites within Cochran Mill Park. The five-year deadline to complete the plan is coming up. Alston, Griffith, and Love volunteered to work on the plan.

b. Signage regarding removal of artifacts - Allison Duncan

Duncan said the city has an ordinance that prohibits the removal of artifacts from city parks and asked for feedback on the possibility of adding signage to make park users aware of the ordinance. Love said that the ordinance is thorough. For the sign, she suggested shortening the language from the ordinance and referencing the code section. Gross said signage should also be placed at Hutcheson Ferry Park. Love will send language to Alston and he will work on the design.

c. New CMP App - Diana Wilson

Wilson asked for feedback on the list of historic sites that she had emailed to the Historic and Parks Commissions members. She said she needed help with the Henry Mill description and asked if there were any other items to include or any inaccuracies. Alston requested that information on the park flora be included if possible. Gross asked about the reference to the Cochran Mill Road original roadbed. After discussion, Wilson suggested removing it from the app if it was too confusing. Duncan said she would look at old GDOT maps to see if she could get clarity on the old location of Cochran Mill Road.

d. New Trail Map - Roland Alston

Alston presented a draft of the new trail maps. The maps will be double-sided, which is something Laurie Searle had previously suggested. The map includes historical site locations. He also has been working on trail map boxes for strategic locations on the trails that will help park users identify where they are on the trails.

3. New Chattahoochee Hills RiverLands Park - Diana Wilson

a. RiverLands Report

Wilson said the RiverLands Report was a \$1.2 million study funded by the Trust for Public Land, Atlanta Regional Commission, City of Atlanta, and Cobb County. The Trust for Public Land is about to start a \$50 million capital campaign to create parks and trails along the Chattahoochee River. They have branded the new park as “Chattahoochee Hills RiverLands Park”, and Wilson said they may be willing to help with funding for the park. She also said the Trust for Public Land had previously owned the Campbellton Park/Beavers House property so they may also be willing to help with that property.

b. Historic Abercrombie House

Wilson said the Varner (Abercrombie) House, which is located on the city’s new parkland on Campbellton-Redwine Road, is one of the most historic houses in Chattahoochee Hills. Duncan suggested that the Historic and Parks Commissions member organize a trip to visit the house and property.

c. Proposed Rock Quarry

Wilson said there is a proposed rock quarry in Carroll County that is directly across the river from the new park. People in the surrounding areas are upset about the potential for the quarry due to health and environmental concerns. Coweta County Board of Commissioners recently issued a statement of concern about the quarry. Chattahoochee Riverkeepers have also spoken in opposition. The deadline for public comment is August 27th. Duncan said she would find out if the DRI paperwork has been filed and what the formal process is for the city to comment if they wish.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

There were no Commission Member Comments/Suggestions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2020.

Allison Duncan, Historic Commission Chair

Attest:

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