

**Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
January 19, 2021
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, Kay Long, Roland Alston, and Clifford Blizard. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt. The meeting was held via videoconference/teleconference.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Alston made a motion to approve the December 8, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. Blizard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for Consideration

1. Request for Metal Detecting in Cochran Mill Park – Ted Wansley

Mr. Wansley said he had presented his request to the Historic Commission at their January 11th meeting. He is proposing to search for metal artifacts under the Historic Commission's guidance and in a way that meets the city's needs. He would be joined by Jim Price, a resident of the City of South Fulton, and the equipment they propose using is two metal detectors and a small trowel. They do not want to make the city uncomfortable or set any precedent and will work under the city's direction.

Parks Commission members expressed concerns that other individuals may see the metal detecting and think that it is allowed in the parks. Alston suggested that the signage prohibiting metal detecting without a permit be posted prior to permitting any metal detecting. Blizard said that this is an opportunity to formalize a permitting process.

Historic Commission Chair Allison Duncan said the Historic Commission had similar concerns. They recommended that staff approve the request pursuant to an agreed upon Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She is willing to work with Historic Commission member Sarah Love, who is also a certified archeologist, on the language of the MOU.

The consensus of the Parks Commission members was to wait until the Historic Commission puts forward an MOU. No action was taken.

2. Approval of Cochran Mill Park Interpretive Plan – Allison Duncan

Historic Commission Chair Allison Duncan said she will be presenting the draft of the plan to the Mayor and Council at the January 28th Work Session. She also sent the draft to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and received positive feedback. The report was required as part of the RTP Grant as mitigation for the impact to the historic bridge structure when the new pedestrian bridge was installed into the historic bridge framework. The high-level recommendations from the Historic Commission include deciding on a historical period of significance to focus on, undertaking archeological investigations, and developing a preservation plan for the park. The SHPO is interested in plans for interpretive signage. The Historic Commission suggests it should follow the city's wayfinding signage. The SHPO is willing to extend the MOA in order to incorporate the interpretive signage into the wayfinding signage plan.

Wilson thanked Duncan for her work on the report.

Blizzard made a motion to recommend City Council move the Cochran Mill Park Interpretive Master Plan forward in the process. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

1. Public History Day in Cochran Mill Park – Allison Duncan

Historic Commission Chair Allison Duncan said Historic Commission member Sarah Love has been wanting to do a public history/archeology education day at Cochran Mill Park. The Historic Commission discussed targeting for a Saturday in May. Possible activities could include an archeological demonstration by Sarah Love, guided tours, and temporary interpretive historical exhibits. Commission members discussed concerns about parking. Blizzard said he could liaise with Nature Center regarding parking.

Items for Discussion

1. Eagle Scout Project in Cochran Mill Park – Clifford Blizzard

Blizzard shared photographs from Evan Goembel's Eagle Scout project. He said he was impressed with the project and said Evan ran a professional operation. The work was done over two days. Thirty volunteers completed 500 hours of work and cleared privet from 3-4 acres. Evan would like to place a plaque at the site, and Blizzard recommended utilizing one of the existing concrete power pole bases rather than putting it into the rock. Blizzard would like to have an unveiling ceremony once the plaque is placed and he said it is a great way to encourage future restoration of the site. Blizzard will need to provide a letter from the city recognizing completion of the project. City Manager Robbie Rokovitz said he would assist with getting the letter completed.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

There were no Commission Member Comments/Suggestions.

These minutes are provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to transcribe proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Public comments are noted and heard by Council, but not quoted. This is an official record of the City of Chattahoochee Hills Parks Commission Meeting proceedings.

Staff Reports

1. Parking Fee Update – Dana Wicher

Wicher reported the total parking fee revenue for the fiscal year to date was \$68,622.50 and parks activity fees are \$620 for primitive camping. There have been 172 resident and 308 non-resident parking decals distributed to date.

2. Darold Wendlandt

Wendlandt reported that most of the fruit trees that were planted at Cochran Mill Park last spring have been damaged by cars parking in the grass, so staff has lined the area with poles to keep people from parking there. The recommended signage for the boat ramp and Beavers House has been posted. He also thanked Blizard for his help with the Eagle Scout project.

Adjournment

Blizard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Alston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 16th day of February, 2021.

Diana Wilson, Chair

Attest:

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