

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission**  
**City of Chattahoochee Hills**  
**May 11, 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, Clifford Blizard, Chip Denton, Chris Jones, Pat Lesko, and Kay Long. Roland Alston was absent. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt. The meeting was held via videoconference/ teleconference.*

**Welcome**

*Mayor Reed thanked everyone who had accepted the call to join the commission. The group is another example of a group of volunteers accomplishing a lot with very little funding. The history of the city is that of volunteer efforts, especially when it comes to the parks. Volunteers raised over \$250,000 to buy the parks from Fulton County and to prefund the operations. The continued history and improvements in the parks have been driven by that same volunteer effort.*

**Oath of Office**

*City Clerk Dana Wicher administered the Oath of Office to Chip Denton, Chris Jones, and Pat Lesko.*

**Introductions**

*Wilson asked that all members and staff introduce themselves for the sake of the new members.*

**Approval of Agenda**

*Wilson requested that Item 2, Movie Nights in Our Parks Proposal, be removed from the agenda. Long made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Blizard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes**

**1. Approval of February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes**

*Long made a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes. Blizard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Presentation**

**1. Tourism Product Development – Laurie Searle**

*Councilmember Searle said she, Councilmember Foster, and Councilmember Lowe went through a process of learning about tourism product development and what hotel/motel tax can be spent on. By Georgia law, these funds can only be spent on specific things. The city has not been spending the allocated funds and, as a result, receives a mark on its annual audit every year. At the last Council planning retreat, Council discussed coming up with a list of priorities for spending the funds. Searle said she would like to like to promote what we are already doing well. Two ideas for*

*the parks are to take over the cochranmillpark.com website and make it more branded and to have a presence on the exploregeorgia.org website. She asked the Parks Commission to look at the concept plans that were created for Hutcheson Ferry Park and prioritize and make recommendations to the Council. She also said the first Mayor designated June 18<sup>th</sup> as “Celebrate Our Parks” day, and she suggested celebrating that day by offering a “free parking pass” on that day.*

**2. Movie Nights in Our Parks Proposal – Melea Brett** *Removed from agenda.*

**Items for Consideration**

**1. Approval of the April 2021 – March 2022 Meeting Schedule**

*Long made a motion to approve the item. Blizzard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Items for Discussion**

**1. Cochran Mill Park Update – Roland Alston**

*Wilson gave the report on behalf of Alston. The recent storms have resulted in several down trees, and in the last six weeks, volunteers have cleared 15 trees. The first organized trail workday since COVID-19 was held Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The workday was sponsored by Mountain Bike Atlanta. There were eleven volunteers who cleared brush, tree limbs, and drains on the yellow trail, Pete’s single-track trail, and the green trail. They probably will continue with the afterwork weekday workdays because more people are able to attend. Alston also cleared two trees on Upper Wooten Road and will clear additional trees on the orange trail this week.*

**2. Campbellton Park Update – Diana Wilson**

*Wilson said she would give an update farther back from the last meeting to benefit the new members. The boat ramp grand opening was held on November 20, 2020. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the city had 23 volunteers participating in the “Sweep the Hooch” event both at Campbellton Park and 5 miles upstream at the Highway 166 boat ramp. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Georgia Audubon Society held a birding event led by Giff Beaton at the park. She also mentioned the Chattahoochee Riverlands study and encouraged everyone to view the study that has been posted on the Riverlands website.*

**3. Rico Park Loyd Field Picnic Pavilion – Kay Long**

*Long reported that there were previous discussions about building a pavilion at the park to be used for events like picnics or birthday parties. She priced out metal style sheds from Georgia Portable Buildings. A 12 foot by 20 foot building is priced at \$1,771. An 18 foot by 20 foot building is priced at \$1,898. Due to a metal shortage, the estimated time frame for delivery is three to six months. Wendlandt said he priced a 20 foot by 24 foot structure that would have wooden posts, metal roof, and concrete floor for a cost of \$19,500. The biggest issue would be pouring the concrete because of the septic lines. Wendlandt said he would reach back out to the contractor and find out what his availability is and take the proposal to the Mayor and Council. Long said she thought that was a good idea.*

**4. Parks Tour Proposal – Clifford Blizard**

*Blizard suggested that Parks Commission members plan on visiting Campbellton Park, Riverlands Park, and Hutcheson Ferry Park. He will email proposed dates to commission members.*

**Commission Member Comments / Suggestions**

*Wilson said members would need to elect a Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting.*

*Blizard asked if the Hutcheson Ferry Park rear boundary is marked by the wooden fence. Wendlandt answered that the boundary goes within approximately 100 feet of the reservoir. Blizard asked if there was a possibility of access to the back of the property. Wendlandt said the back part of the property is not off limits, but staff does not maintain it on a regular basis since it is not used much.*

**Staff Reports**

**1. Parking Fee Update – Dana Wicher**

*Wicher reported the total parking fee revenue for the fiscal year to date was \$115,48.50 and parks activity fees are \$620 for primitive camping. There have been 377 resident and 584 non-resident parking decals distributed to date.*

**2. Darold Wendlandt**

*Wendlandt said he had nothing to report.*

**Adjournment**

*Blizard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.**

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**Diana Wilson, Chair**

**Attest:**

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