

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
July 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Diana Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Diana Wilson, Roland Alston, Clifford Blizard, and Tom Blum. Kay Long was absent. A quorum was represented. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt. The meeting was held via videoconference/teleconference.

Pledge of Allegiance

Wilson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Blum made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. Alston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

There were no presentations.

Items for Discussion

1. Campbellton Park Boat Ramp – Diana Wilson

Wilson reported that the City Council approved the Atlanta Regional Commission's finding that the proposed project is consistent with the Metropolitan River Protection Act plan at the July 7th City Council meeting. The Department of Natural Resources plans to start construction in two weeks, and it will take about two months to complete the boat ramp.

2. Sweep the Hooch – August 29th – Diana Wilson

Wilson said the rescheduled date for the "Sweep the Hooch" event is August 29th. There is space for 20 people, and six people have already signed up. Wilson said the group may want to expand the clean-up area since there is not much trash in Campbellton Park. There was a consensus among Commission members to not have a picnic for the event due to concerns about COVID-19.

3. Cochran Mill Park Trail Maintenance – Roland Alston

Alston reported that there have only been two organized workdays in the last four months. Volunteers have done some solo workdays. Two weeks ago, volunteers spread gravel on the raised portion of the red trail, and they have also been clearing downed trees. There are no scheduled workdays on the calendar. Wilson said that Alston had completed the reroute of the section of orange trail near the bridge.

4. Cochran Mill Park Trail Marking – Diana Wilson

Wilson said more people are using the park now, and with more new users, more people are getting lost in the park. There is a need to do more trail marking. She is working on an order for the diamond markers that will be labelled with numbers that correspond to GPS coordinates. The trail phone app update also needs to be done. The Historic Commission suggested that the app be expanded to include other historical sites outside of the park. That idea can be addressed after the app is back up. Wilson said she would check with the app developers to see what format the trail data need to be sent to them.

5. Chatt Hills District 1 Town Hall Meeting Report – Tom Blum

Blum reported that Councilmember Ruby Foster's District 1 Town Hall Meeting was held at city hall on June 23rd. There was a good turnout. The meeting started with a welcome by Mayor Reed and City Manager Robbie Rokovitz. Each department gave a brief presentation, and there were also presentations by Diana Wilson and Councilmember Laurie Searle. Wilson said it was a positive meeting and she was proud of city staff.

6. Georgia Tourism Report for Chatt Hills – Diana Wilson

Wilson said the Tourism Product Development team spent a whole day in the city earlier in the year and had visited multiple sites. They have written a very comprehensive report to help with tourism. She asked Commission members for feedback on the report. Blum said it was well done and succinct in the message of tying in tourism activities with increasing revenue.

Items for Consideration

1. Parks Commission Meeting Schedule April 2020 – March 2021

Wilson said she discussed with Historic Commission Chair Allison Duncan about holding a joint meeting in August. There are several areas that the two Commissions overlap. Allison Duncan was present and said the top priorities that Historic Commission would like to discuss with the Parks Commission were the Beavers House and how the Commissions can collectively approach the Interpretive Plan Study that was a condition of the RTP Grant.

Blum made a motion to approve the Parks Commission Meeting Schedule for April 2020 – March 2021. Blizzard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Alston asked Wendlandt if there were rules regarding Greystone spraying herbicide along the waterways while doing right-of-way clearing. Wendlandt said that the city does not have much control over Greystone's work done in the right-of-way, but they

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are generally more regulated and have more criteria that they must meet. He also said they should be using environmentally friendly herbicide. Blum suggested that Alston also ask Chattahoochee Riverkeepers or the Adopt-A-Stream group.

Wilson said the results of the Riverland Study will be released soon. It is a very detailed study of the Chattahoochee River from Lake Lanier to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. The new park at the south end of the city was chosen to be one of only three demonstration sites. That means they put extra planning into the site, and there are several great ideas in the document about what could be done there.

Blum asked Wendlandt which trees were damaged by the overflow parking in Cochran Mill Park. Wendlandt said some of the fruit trees that were planted this spring and he will address his plans for protecting them during his staff report.

Staff Reports

1. Parking Fee Update – Dana Wicher

Wicher reported the total parking fee revenue for Fiscal Year 2020 was \$94,361 and parks activity fees are \$594. There have been 376 resident and 554 non-resident parking decals distributed to date.

2. Darold Wendlandt

Wendlandt that the parking fee kiosk continues to have issues. The kiosk has high usage and the batteries are not able to keep up. Per City Council's request, he is looking into upgrading the system at Cochran Mill Park and adding a kiosk to Campbellton Park. He also said there are issues with the restrooms at Cochran Mill Park. When the restrooms were built, they were not intended to have the high amount of usage that they currently get. The city will likely need to upgrade the septic system at some point. There also was damage to the ladies restroom over the weekend. He also is working on a plan to block off the fruit trees with railroad ties or something similar. This should keep people from parking on the grass and damaging the trees.

Blizard said he would like to investigate replacing the septic system with a more sustainable option like composting toilets. He said it would reduce water usage and the park could be modeling green practices. Wilson asked Blizard to send the Commission members some information on composting toilets.

Adjournment

Blum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7: 03 p.m. Blizard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

Approved this 8th day of September, 2020.

Diana Wilson, Chair

Attest:

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

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