

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
August 10, 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, Roland Alston, Clifford Blizard, Chip Denton, Pat Lesko, and Kay Long. Chris Jones arrived at 6:12 p.m. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt.

Approval of Agenda

Wilson requested that the agenda be amended to add 5. Cochran Mill Park Kiosk, by Laurie Searle, under Items for Discussion. Denton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Lesko seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Blizard made a motion to approve the June 8, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

There were no Presentations.

Items for Consideration

There were no Items for Consideration.

Items for Discussion

1. Chattahoochee RiverKeeper Paddle Cleanup – August 14 – Roland Alston

Alston report that a lot of trash was collected on the June 26th river clean-up, but there is still a lot of trash along the river in the 5-mile stretch from the Highway 166 boat ramp to the Campbellton Park boat ramp. The Chattahoochee RiverKeeper is hosting another clean-up day on August 14th. There are three spots left and two kayaks available. Wilson said Walt Ray from the Trust for Public Land will be attending the clean-up. Mr. Ray is in charge of the Chattahoochee RiverLands study. He received a \$2,000,000 grant from the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program and will be using approximately \$1,500,000 at the new Chattahoochee Hills RiverLands Park and at Campbellton Park.

2. Protecting the Hutcheson Ferry Park rock outcropping – Pat Lesko

Lesko said she recently had a conversation with a neighbor who said he enjoys walking on the rock outcroppings at Hutcheson Ferry Park. She is concerned about protecting the ecosystem and asked the Commission members for suggestions to keep people off the rock outcropping. After discussing the pros and cons of several options, the consensus was that a small group Commission members will survey the area to determine the best option.

Chris Jones arrived at 6:12 p.m.

3. Cochran Mill Park Update – Diana Wilson

Wilson gave a background on Cochran Mill Park for the new Commission members. She also reported that volunteers have cleared 20 downed trees from the trails since the last Parks Commission meeting, and Alston cleared the yellow trail with his brush mower. Numbered diamond trail markers have been purchased. They will be uniquely numbered and be referenced on a chart by GPS coordinates to be used by Public Safety during rescue situations. Fire Chief Greg Brett and Police Chief Jim Little have offered to put up the diamonds.

4. Verizon Cell Tower Lease at Cochran Mill Park – Robbie Rokovitz

City Manager Robbie Rokovitz said that the Mayor and Council have approved a cell tower lease agreement with Verizon wireless for a cell tower to be placed at the park near the main entrance. Lack of cell service in the park and surrounding area has been an ongoing issue. Because federal grant funds have been used in the park, the State Historic Preservation Office requires mitigation prior to construction of the cell tower. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2022.

5. Cochran Mill Park Kiosk – Laurie Searle

Wilson gave background information on the kiosk, which was donated by Dave and Deanna McMurrain. She said Ken Langley had provided some suggestions for updating the kiosk and Councilmember Laurie Searle volunteered to be the champion for the project. Searle said her motivation for the proposed layout for the kiosk was hikers who get lost in the park and first-time users. She explained her suggestions for the layout, which included an updated trail map showing difficulty rating scales for trails and a fun flow chart. She also suggested naming the east and west sides of the park in order to make it less confusing for park users. She said the kiosk structure is in good shape but it needs some T.L.C. Other suggestions included having the trail map professionally updated and updating the park website (www.cochranmillpark.com) so it is connected and seamless with the city's website. Searle will report back about a resource to update the trail map at the next meeting.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

There were no Commission Member comments or suggestions.

Staff Reports

1. Parking Fee Update – Dana Wicher

Wicher reported the parking fee revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021. Parking fee revenue was \$140,256 and expenditures directly related to the parking fee program, including credit card fees, data fees, supplies, and repairs, were \$11,371.56. There have been 468 resident and 668 non-resident parking decals distributed to date.

2. Darold Wendlandt

Wendlandt said he has received complaints about mud on the boat ramp. Staff cleans it every other week using the skidsteer. Opening day for the fall ball season is September 11th. The fields in the parks are cut three times per year. The back

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.

field at Hutcheson Ferry Park is cut around the edge and through the center to allow it to be used as a walking trail. Millings from the repaving at the Estates at Cedar Grove repaving project were used in the parking lot at Cochran Mill Park. The Peak Racing event will be back at Cochran Mill Park this year in October.

Adjournment

Denton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 14th day of September, 2021.

Attest:

Diana Wilson, Chair

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