

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of Chattahoochee Hills
August 13, 2019
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, Clifford Blizard and Tom Blum. All members were present. A quorum was represented. Also present was Public Works/Parks Director Darold Wendlandt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Wilson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Blizard made a motion to approve the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Blum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation

1. Proposed upgrade of trail to National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) Trail Standards – Pete Edmondson

Pete Edmondson said he is serving as an assistant coach for a local NICA team that practices at Cochran Mill Park once a week. He is proposing that the portion of the yellow trail that goes from the Boy Scout Bridge to Zack's Glade be brought up to NICA standards. The proposal does not lengthen the trail but reworks some of the grades. The proposed changes would also make the trail a good beginner loop.

Items for Discussion

1. Cochran Mill Park Update – Roland Alston

Alston reported that the last SORBA trail workday was changed to a Thursday evening, and there were nine volunteers. Volunteers removed downed trees and brush on the green and the yellow trails. There is graffiti on the split rail fence and the big rocks on the green trail. Wendlandt reported the person who painted graffiti on the rocks has been caught.

2. Cochran Mill Park Kiosk – Tom Blum

Blum said the kiosk is showing signs wear and tear. He also said there is an opportunity to use the kiosk for more educational purposes. He suggested forming a

subcommittee to focus on the updating the kiosk. Blizzard, Alston, and Blum volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Commission members also discussed updating the maps and possible installing more permanent “you are here” signs along the trail.

3. Cochran Mill Park Walk and Learn Hike – Clifford Blizzard

Blizzard said he needs help publicizing the three planned “walk and learn” hikes that are scheduled to start in September. He will be leading the first hike and co-leading the other two. Topics for the hikes will be how rivers work, invasive species, and identifying tree species. Alston shared the flyers he made for the events and said he would help with publicity.

4. Campbellton Park Update – Diana Wilson

Wilson reported that she had talked with Jeff Bishop from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and he informed her that the Indian tribes had requested an archeological survey for the area that would be disturbed by the boat ramp. Mr. Bishop put her in contact with Tom Gresham who is an archeological surveyor. Mr. Gresham performed the archeological survey at Campbellton Park and only found one artifact. He said one artifact is not enough to establish it as an archeological site and this will not hold the process up. The permitting process is still not complete, so the ramp will not be constructed until next year.

5. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP) Grants – Diana Wilson

Wilson reported that she recently attended two workshops regarding writing grants for the Recreational Trails Program and the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program. She asked Commission members for suggestions for the grant applications. Blizzard suggested grants to potentially acquire property designed for the reservoir, to repair the erosion on the orange trail at Cochran Mill Park, or to build a boardwalk for the rock outcrop at Hutcheson Ferry Park. Wilson said the orange trail is not a large enough project, but she will look into the boardwalk idea. She suggested applying for the water trail and a second boat ramp at the southern part of the city for the RTP grant. She also said the reservoir property may be eligible for the GOSP grant. The deadlines for the pre application are October 31st for the GOSP grant and November 17th for the RTP grant.

Items for Consideration

6. Reroute section of yellow trail from Boy Scout bridge to field to NICA standards – Diana Wilson

Wilson asked for a vote on the project recommended by Pete Edmondson. Blizzard made a motion to approve a reroute of the yellow trail from the Boy Scout Bridge to the field bringing it to NICA standards. Alston seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Member Comments / Suggestions

Blum thanked the city staff for placing the railroad ties around the Arbor Day tree at Rico Park.

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 is \$7,991. Parks activity fees are \$75 for pavilion rental and \$25 for primitive camping. There have been 430 resident and 443 non-resident parking 2019 parking decals distributed.

2. Darold Wendlandt

Wendlandt reported staff ditched along Upper Wooten Road at Rico Park and repaired culvert pipe to help with drainage. The also removed several dead trees in the outfield parking area and installed cross ties around the Arbor Day tree. Normal maintenance was performed at all other parks.

Adjournment

Alston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Blum seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approved this 17th day of September, 2019.

Diana Wilson, Chair

Attest:

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