

LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY MARCH 26, 2012

MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, March 26, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were: Harry Stryffeler, Nicole Ingram, Poly Cohen, James Emerson, and Butch Saunders, Chairman.

Also present were: John Payne, Parks and Recreation Director, and Deborah Carroll, Secretary.

Absent board members were: Rhea Monti, Mark Kline, Jamie Norton, Commissioner Ed Paschal and Edgar Underwood.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:43pm by: Butch Saunders

Motion approved by: Harry Stryffeler

Seconded by: All

II. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A letter, with maps included, concerning Camelback Truss Bridge was passed out at the meeting. It had been sent to Lee Co. Chairwoman Linda Shook from Ms. Margaret Jordan-Ellis of the Deep River Park Association with a request that Lee County and Chatham County Parks take over the bridge park area. Lee County has less than one acre involved in the park area and Chatham has 6-7 acres. The bridge is listed as a historic site. Expenses with maintenance and repair were discussed. Sheriff departments from both counties keep check on the area for vandalism.

Mr. Cohen asked if the Endor walking trail would run all the way to the bridge. Mr. Payne said it would not involve the bridge but would loop around from Little Buffalo Creek and meet up at Big Buffalo then come back to town. Mr. Cohen said federal money may be available to help with costs. Mr. Payne said the yearly budget for operating costs of the bridge was about \$2500. Harry Stryffeler said we needed to get it inspected for safety to see if it is structurally sound. He mentioned that Johnny Ransdale may be able to help.

Members asked if expenses could be done jointly with Chatham County. Butch Saunders asked if we would be responsible for half of the costs. Mr. Emerson said we needed more information to find out about all grants available. John Payne said

he had spoken several times with Tracy Burnette, Chatham Co. Parks & Recreation Director and would have more information at a later time.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Schedule Fees & Charges

County budget allows no increases in operating expenses for next year so Mr. Payne needs to raise some of the fees by \$4. He spoke with Mr. Kline in January at the budget meeting held in the P&R office about increasing fees but offering multifamily discounts because of the economic situation.

The tax rate cut was discussed with a 2 cent scenario of a 5% cut across the board on all expenses, which was the same as last year's budget. The 5 cent scenario would mean a 15% cut which would equal out to 2 full time positions being cut and elimination of some of the programs. Mr. Payne said if this was the case he would need to look at the long range picture of what is needed. He gave examples of some of the ball fields needing light poles, but if the programs are cut the poles would not be needed there for games.

Mr. Payne proposed for a full time position for Joann Kellam at Gymnastics. Kathy McLeod-Edwards has 30 years in and is eligible for retirement, so he needs someone who can make a smooth transition if she does retire in the near future. Joann works mainly with the entry level enrollees. Nicole Ingram asked if Joann were put on as full time, would she be able to increase our enrollments at the gym. Mr. Payne explained that the building itself was maxed out in capacity and a larger facility was needed.

John Payne talked about the fees of Northview Optimist and SAS soccer. He said he was trying to promote the Hershey Track & Field program. This started a discussion involving Mr. Emerson and some of the others talking about how track needed to be more of a priority in Lee Co. as children enjoy running races. Mr. Emerson talked about some of the scholarships that were offered while he was working at Lee Senior and how the quality of the tracks in Lee County have declined. Butch Saunders said it was not individual schools that you competed with, it was yourself when running track. Mr. Payne said if he had a sport he wanted to promoted year-round, it would be track because it could branch off into other sports for children. Examples were given of spring track, fall track and cross country. Mr. Emerson spoke of a complex that was going to be built years ago but fell through. He spoke of different programs that used the Lee Senior track such as graduation, Relay for Life and football and how the track is in disrepair. Board members gave examples of fun they had had at track meets in their youth. James Emerson said statistics prove how track and some of the entry programs are the starting grounds for a good level in middle and high school sports. He said track was one sport that was one of the least expensive for children. Mr. Payne said he wanted to keep the basic sports in the Parks & Recreation programs and not do the seasonal sports.

Mr. Stryffeler made a motion to approve the changes as stated to negotiate with the county manager to forestall future reductions with these increases. Butch Saunders seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Saunders spoke of one of the new girls recently hired at Gymnastics. He said parents spoke of how nice and organized it was at a recent birthday party and that she was good staff help.

B. San-Lee Park Update

Mr. Payne said San-Lee Park playground is in. Harry Stryffeler said he was at the park Sunday afternoon and said it looked very good. He wanted an update on the lack of parking. Mr. Payne said he had spoken to Mr. Crumpton of an area off of Kelly Drive on Pumping Station Rd. that could be cleared to make into a lot for about 100 cars which could be gated and people would not have to cross the road to get to the park. A walkway and bridge could be built to cross the creek. It would be separate from the mountain bike bridge, which is at the end of the bike trail.

April 14th is the San-Lee Park Festival day. Christian Provision Ministries will be providing 2 vans and 2 drivers for the festival usage all day. They will have shuttle runs every 15 minutes from CCCC to the park and back.

C. Buchanan Park Update

Mr. Payne said the playground was in at Buchanan Park. Volunteers were supposed to spread mulch last Saturday but were rained out. A line is going to be repaired Monday on the left side that will need to be dug up.

D. O.T. Sloan Park Update

Mr. Payne stated he was having work done at O.T. Sloan pool, Buchanan Park and San-Lee Park all at the same time. Nicole Ingram asked if the shower area at Sloan was being worked on. John said he hoped to paint that area and the privacy wall going outside in the near future, but with all of the other pool repairs there has not been money nor time. County Commissioner Doc Oldham has been working with Mr. Payne and General Services to see about getting it done in time for the summer season.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by: Butch Saunders

Seconded by: Nicole Ingram

Meeting adjourned at: 6:58pm



Butch Saunders, Chairman
Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission



Deborah Carroll, Secretary