



# Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 29, 2019



**Board Member Attendance:**

Chairman, Dr. Elliott McGlory	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Present
Vice-Chair, Ianta Burks	BOC Chairman Appointee	Present
Carlos Frazier	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Present
Carlos Benifield	District 3 Appointee	Present
Jarvis Jackson	District 1 Appointee	Present
Rickey Lovelace	District 2 Appointee	Present
Steve Lundquist	District 4 Appointee	Present

**Guest Attendance:**

Troy Hodges	Director / Parks and Recreation	Present
Marsha White	Executive Assistant/ Parks and Recreation	Present
Koboi Simpson	Deputy Administrator / Athletics	Present
Ricardo Newman	Deputy Administrator / Park Services	Present via WebEx
Stephanie Berens	Deputy Administrator / Greenspace	Absent
Deborah Norsworthy	Deputy Administrator / Admin Svcs	Absent
Ahmed Johnson	Deputy Administrator / Recreation Svcs	Present
Amy Keeney	Deputy Administrator / Marketing	Present via WebEx
Troy Stubbs	Assistant Director / Parks and Recreation	Present via WebEx

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Dr. Elliott McGlory called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. at the South Clayton Recreation Center in Lovejoy, Georgia. Notice to the public was previously posted on the Clayton County Parks and Recreation website.

**II. RECOGNIZE CITIZENS**

One citizen was present at the meeting. Citizen comment is noted in “Other Business.”

**III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The March 25, 2019 Minutes were presented to the Board for review, discussion, and approval. Mr. Rickey Lovelace recommended one correction regarding the “location of the AED devices at recreation centers” as it is noted in the Minutes. Jarvis Jackson made a Motion to approve the correction of the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes to reflect “AED devices are in various locations.” Carlos Benifield Seconded the Motion. The Motion to correct the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes was approved. Rickey Lovelace made a Motion to approve the March 25<sup>th</sup> Minutes pending corrections. Jarvis Jackson Seconded the Motion. All were in favor. The Motion was approved. Following the correction, the approved Minutes will be provided to the Clayton County Board of Commissioners Clerk public posting and transparency.

## IV. BUSINESS

### a. Follow-Up / Marketing

Ms. Amy Keeney informed the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on the new website, its functions, and the process for maintaining and updating information. The new Parks and Recreation website was launched in March 2019. Mr. Simpson, Parks and Recreation Athletics Administrator, attended training for the process of updating real-time information on the new website. Mr. Simpson reported updating Athletic Division information weekly. Ms. Amy Keeney, Parks and Recreation Marketing and Communications Administrator, is scheduled to attend website maintenance training in the coming weeks. Until all training has been completed, the Clayton County Information Technology Department is temporarily updating the Parks and Recreation website with real-time information (with the exception of Athletics).

### b. Flat Shoals Park

Dr. Elliott McGlory informed the Board and the Executive Team that he recently observed standing unattended equipment in an area at Flat Shoals Park that is not “tapped off.” Dr. McGlory noted the area is marked off with cones presenting a safety concern. Mr. Ricardo Newman reported the equipment belonging to the Clayton County Transportation and Development Department. Mr. Newman will contact Transportation and Development Department to discuss the matter to ensure the area is secure.

### c. AED Devices in Recreation Centers

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board continued the discussion on AED Devices in the recreation centers. Mr. Rickey Lovelace advised he is attempting to obtain donated AED devices to increase the number of devices in our Parks and Recreation facilities. Mr. Simpson noted he will also reach out to his contacts to inquire about donations of AED devices. Currently, the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Department has AED device in all recreation centers but not on the fields. The Advisory Board discussed and recommended the Board and the Parks and Recreation Department collaborate as a team to make an effort to obtain additional AED devices for athletic fields. Ms. Burks noted she will contact the American Red Cross to obtain a quote for AED devices. Ms. Burks suggested the Board and P&R Department discuss a fundraiser to raise money for additional devices. Mr. Steve Lundquist suggested Parks and Recreation investigate any possible offset from Insurance discounts by having additional AED devices in recreation facilities and athletic fields.

### d. Panhandle/ Workouts / Sundays 3-5

Mr. Carlos Benifield recommended the Parks and Recreation Department approve for coaches to offer unorganized workout sessions on Sundays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Panhandle Park for youth in all Clayton County sports. The Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation staff discussed departmental policies and best practices. Mr. Hodges and Mr. Simpson both advised that due to the department’s values in best practices (avoid over-use injuries and ensure recovery time), the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Policy prohibit the promoting of mandated / structured athletic activities on Sundays. Mr. Hodges also advised that Clayton County parks are open to the public on Sundays; however, activities in Clayton County parks which consist of 15+ participants require a permit as stated in the Clayton County Code of Ordinance Sec 66-8.

- e. Increased Cheerleading Participation  
Mr. Carlos Benifield advised the Board of a plan that was drafted to help increase the number of participants in the cheerleading program. Mr. Simpson informed the Board that he has data referencing an increase in participation numbers in Clayton County Parks and Recreation Athletic programs; however, he is happy to consider recommendations to help support the increase in registered participants. Following a discussion amongst the Board and the Parks and Recreation staff, Mr. Simpson requested Mr. Benifield provide the draft to him for review and further discussion.
- f. Homecoming at each Park  
Mr. Carlos Benifield recommended discussion of encouraging homecoming events at each Clayton County Park. Mr. Simpson informed Mr. Benifield and the Board that homecoming events are encouraged and permitted; however, events such as a homecoming are organized by each individual park based on their needs and interest. Mr. Simpson informed the Board that parents are provided information on various opportunities for their child/team/park at the Preseason Parent Orientation.
- g. Coach Incentive  
Mr. Carlos Benifield recommended discussion of options for volunteer coach incentive. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Hodges will meet to discuss further and will bring findings back to the Board for continued discussion.
- h. Team Cancellation / Reason  
Mr. Carlos Benifield recommended discussion of circumstances surrounding a specific coach resignation. logistics issue resulting from a specific coach resignation.
- i. Team and College Campus Tours  
Mr. Carlos Benifield suggested the Clayton County Parks and Recreation Athletics Division encourage team participation with local colleges for tours, events, and participation. Mr. Simpson informed reported the Athletics Division is currently in the process of planning logistics for team opportunities to tour Georgia State University and attend a football game.

## V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Parks and Recreation Director Troy Hodges provided an update on current projects and events related to Clayton County Parks and Recreation to the Board. Mr. Hodges thanked the Board for their dedication to Clayton County Parks and Recreation. Updates to the Board included information on the International Park renovations, phase IV trail progress, participation increase in athletic programming due to the addition of street signs, upcoming events such as the Eggstravaganza, Taste of Clayton, Movie in the Park, new playground equipment, progress on plans for SPLOST funded dog parks at the International Park and Lovejoy Park, and the purchase of a top dresser for our soccer fields.

Mr. Kobi Simpson reviewed statistics from the athletic participant surveys.

## **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Citizen Comments:

The following recommendations were noted:

- to improve communication between Parks and Recreation and coaches; such as a coaches focus group or town hall meeting.
- To focus on life skills improvement for coaches.

Mr. Kobi Simpson informed the Board of professional development opportunities that are offered to coaches.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting adjourned.