



Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes
April 17, 2023



Board Member Attendance:

Ianta Burks, Chairman	BOC Chairman Appointee	Present
Ronald Miller	District 1 Appointee	Present
Rickey Lovelace	District 2 Appointee	Present
Carlos Benifield, Vice Chair	District 3 Appointee	Present
Tyrone Dillard	District 4 Appointee	Absent
Carlos Frazier	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Present
Vacant	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Vacant

Guest Attendance:

Troy Hodges	Director/Parks and Recreation	Present
Tiffany Moen	Deputy Office Administrator	Present
Koboi Simpson	Administrator of Leisure Services	Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ianta Burks called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Notice to the public was posted on the Clayton County Parks and Recreation website and social media.

II. RECOGNIZE CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENT

BOC Chairman Jeff Turner was present, and he thanked the board for their service and complimented their work.

Devontavius Stanford, Intern at Parks and Recreation, introduced himself to the board and mentioned some of the activities he has done with the department.

Maury Gusta introduced himself and is a resident of District 1. He spoke about concerns at Pine Circle Park including it being unsafe, unattractive, and not family friendly resulting in reduced use of the park. He stated that the park and area leading to it should be made more attractive and more family oriented so residents can better utilize the park. Chairman Burks wants all members to visit the park prior to the next board meeting and this item will be on the agenda for follow up.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes were presented to the Board for review, discussion, and approval. No revisions noted. Ronald Miller made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Rickey Lovelace seconded the Motion. All in favor; no objections. The Motion was approved.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Spivey Splash Water Park Tour

Board members and guests walked the waterpark area. Director Hodges explained the changes in the areas under construction, rental items available for guests, and a general overview of the water park. He provided the dates for employee day, opening day, and all three dates the park

will have fireworks. Chairman Burks asked about having an announcement pertaining to not littering in the park scroll on the jumbotron along with other items. Chairman Burks requested that advisory board members attend opening day if they can do so.

B. Progress of Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Miller referenced page 83 of the 2019 Clayton County Comprehensive Plan and wanted to follow up on the items included for Parks and Recreation. He asked about playground structures including swings for all ages and toddler structures and older youth items at all parks. Mr. Miller also asked about funding sources for park upgrades. Director Hodges explained the most parks have received parent/child swings and all parks are scheduled for upgrades using SPLOST 2021 funds when they become available. As for funding sources, the department utilizes grants, the general fund, SPLOST, CDBG, and sponsorships but no sponsorships at this time. Mr. Frazier referenced several businesses that he has relationships with and offered to reach out to them to improve the department's corporate sponsorships. Mr. Simpson referenced that the COO has implemented a GAPS program in the county and Chairman Burks mentioned that maybe the COO could attend a board meeting and give more information.

C. Clayton Connects Trailway System

Mr. Miller asked about the next items for completion for the trail system. Director Hodges said that the Rivers Edge Phase 2 paperwork is being finalized and construction will then begin. Phases 3 and 4 are in the engineering and design process with the vendor. After Rivers Edge trails are complete, the next focus area for trail should be trails in District 1. Director Hodges also referenced the CDS grant funds that would provide pocket parks in each district.

D. Feeder Program

Mr. Benifield said that the schools and parks should be together not separate to keep Clayton County kids in Clayton County schools instead of them leaving to other schools. The parks programs should feed children into the school's programs where they will have the necessary skills and want to stay. Mr. Simpson said that he has spoken with Mr. Henry Townsend at CCPS about a partnership between the agencies and the MOU is currently being updated. The two agencies do have plans to work together more in the future starting this fall. Members also discussed the trend of enrollments for sports being reduced across the nation. There has been an increase in participation of e-sports and other STEM activities. Board members discussed the need for finding a balance between athletic activities and technology related activities.

E. Schools & Parks should be Together not Separate
Item E was discussed as one with Item D.

F. More things for Girls

Mr. Benifield said that the department should have more activities for girls to do. Mr. Simpson said that the department has seen increased enrollment of girls for tennis. Current activities for girls include tennis, soccer, softball, and cheerleading. Interest and enrollment in softball have increased due to working more with the Pink Sox. There are two new programs for girls that should begin later this year including flag football and kickball.

G. Better Restrooms at all Parks

Mr. Benifield asked about when the restrooms would be upgraded at all parks in the county. Director Hodges referenced that three parks are awaiting the demolition and rebuilding of their restrooms/concession areas. Other parks will receive modular restrooms from CDBG funding that was just awarded.

H. Concession Stands: who can bid and how?

Mr. Benifield asked about improvements and availability of concessions at the parks. Mr. Simpson stated that as mentioned, three parks are awaiting demolition and rebuilding of the concession areas. Some food trucks are being used as an alternative at those locations. He added that the concessions agreements are not a true bid process. They are renewed annually in January and concessions are generally operated by someone in the local community who expresses interest or is recommended by the park coordinator.

I. Clayton County Parks Football League

Mr. Benifield asked with what football league Clayton County is currently affiliated. Mr. Simpson stated that he knows there are rumors going around. However, there have been issues with the current league based on all agencies not following the same process to qualify volunteers. He is in discussions with the current league about the issue and will decide the direction for Clayton County on or before May 1st. If the department leaves the current league, it will most likely return to the former league.

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. Director Hodges informed the Board of the following:

- The department applied for several grants including CDBG, CDS, and GRPA BOOST and is awaiting award notification.
- Provided an overview of the events conducted during the last quarter including signature events and other events at the recreation centers.
- Recruitment/retention updates provided along with current vacancies. Seasonal positions are full with the exception of lifeguards as there is nationwide shortage of lifeguards.
- Athletics reached a three year high for sports registrations with a total of 1184 for the quarter.
- In partnership with Trees Atlanta and Delta, over 100 trees were planted.
- Future initiatives updates were also given including water park updates, Phase 2 trail at Rivers Edge, rebuilding of 29 tennis courts in the county, and installation of additional security cameras as parks/recreation centers.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Benifield asked about Rum Creek parking and the lot with the wrecked cars. Director Hodges stated that is the boneyard and plans are to expand the park into that area.
- B. Ms. Moen informed the board the business cards were ordered for all board members but have not been delivered.
- C. Ms. Moen reminded the board that the meeting location varies and wanted the board to determine the location for the May meeting. Jim Huie Recreation Center was decided with Virginia Burton Gray being the back up location.
- D. Chairman Burks requested that printed copies of the minutes be brought to the meetings and Ms. Moen stated she would ensure they are available them to future meetings.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ronald Miller made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Carlos Frazier seconded the Motion. The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.