



Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting



Minutes
July 17, 2023

Board Member Attendance:

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

Guest Attendance:

Troy Hodges	Director/Parks and Recreation	Present
Tiffany Moen	Deputy Office Administrator	Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Carlos Benifield called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm. Notice to the public was posted on the Clayton County Parks and Recreation website and social media.

II. RECOGNIZE CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Recreation Center Manager Jimmie Jones introduced himself to the board and welcome them to the facility.

Teneika Askew introduced herself and is a resident of District 1. She spoke about concerns for the Grant Road Dog Park listed below.

- Small dogs can escape the fence because the gap between the ground and first row of fencing is too large.
- The water pressure is too strong for dogs and has created a dirty water hole.
- Requested that a bench or other seating be added outside the fenced in area for the dog parents.
- The park frequently has litter on the ground including cigarette butts, condoms, and weed wrappers.
- People abandon dogs at the park. Requesting that no kill shelter informational signs be put up.

Tracy Austin is the owner of Atlanta Tennis Group which is the contractor for the Tennis Center at CCIP. She referenced the following items.

- People abandon dogs at the Tennis Center as well and she has helped to find them homes.
- Improvements at the Tennis Center include pressure washing, adding décor, patio furniture, painting, adding a blue & gold theme, implementing membership programs, summer camp, league matches, hosting special events with more planned, promoting the tennis center,

working on increasing revenue, online booking, and working on the return of the HBCU Tennis Competition.

- Thinks that tennis activity at Lovejoy is competing with the Tennis Center and splitting the tennis community. Feels that Lovejoy should be for people to jump on a court and play while the Tennis Center should be more focused on organized activities and programs.
- Eventually work towards USTA Certification.
- Planning activities to promote Tennis Wellness.
- Has gotten the ball rolling on applying for USTA grants but needs participation from CCPR. Asking for a committee of 2-3 individuals to assist with items needed for the grant. Instructed by Director Hodges to make the request in writing.

Mr. Miller inquired as to whether the courts resurfacing plan will incorporate junior court lines. He has found grants online that will cover the expenses to add junior court lines. Director Hodges said that is not a part of the plan.

New board member James (Jim) Hellerud introduced himself board members and public.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The May 15, 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 Carlos Frazier seconded the Motion. All in favor; no objections. The Motion was approved.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Website Marketing of Parks

Due to Chairman Burks absence, this item was continued to the August agenda.

B. Minimum Standards for Playground Equipment

1. Surfacing for ADA Accessibility
2. Inclusive Play Structures
3. Heat Exposure Protection

Ronald Miller referenced that he has visited many of the county parks with his children. He provided a handout that included excerpts from the Clayton County Comprehensive Plan and playground specifications of each park facility regarding equipment and swings for age 5 and under, age 5 and over, wheelchair surface, and shade. He noted that the parks do well for ages 5 and over but are lacking for age 5 and under. Regarding ADA accessibility, the parks are not accessible to wheelchairs, and none have a wheelchair accessible surface on the playground (except for Flat Shoals Park). He provided statistics from the CCPS pertaining to the percentage of students with disabilities. He stated that the parks need more shade and the partnership with Trees Atlanta could be utilized to plant trees for shade. Director Hodges stated that all playgrounds are ADA compliant and meet minimum required standards. Mr. Miller inquired as to whether the parks can provide more than the minimum standards and he believes we can do better than the minimum.

Mr. Miller made a Motion to begin a committee to provide recommendations to the BOC with regard to playground usage to maximize accessibility beyond the bare minimum and Carlos Frazier seconded the Motion. All in favor; no objections. The Motion was approved.

C. CCIP Tennis Resurfacing

1. Junior Court Lines
2. Pickle Ball & Red Tennis Ball Courts

Ronald Miller stated that this item was discussed in public comment. He then made a Motion to begin a committee to send recommendations to the BOC regarding a junior team pathway at the Tennis Center and Carlos Frazier seconded the motion. All in favor; no objections. The Motion was approved.

D. Contract for Umpires and Referees

Carlos Benifield asked who holds the contract for umpires and referees and in what year is the contract. Director Hodges stated the contract is with Peach State Umpires through December 12, 2023, and this is the third year of the contract. The contract (ITB 20-111) will either be renewed before that time or placed out to bid if the contract is ending.

E. Time for Youth Wearing Equipment

Carlos Benifield referenced that youth are issued football equipment on August 1st but wanted to know when they are permitted to wear the equipment for practice. Director Hodges stated he interpreted the item as a reference to the Heat Exposure rules so he did not have a proper answer to the question. Mr. Benifield also asked if we follow the high school rules regarding using equipment. Director Hodges said it is not based on high school rules.

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:

- CCPR has received nearly \$8 million in grant funds to place a pocket park in each district.
- CCPR has received 2023 CDBG funds for a vehicle, 3 modular restrooms, trail improvements, and park improvements.
- Rivers Edge trails phase 2 is about begin construction this week and phases 3 and 4 are under contract for design by Prime Engineering.
- Fall sports registration is open until July 31st.
- Sips and Sounds concerts are returning in August at CCIP.
- The Jazz Fest at Flat Shoals Park was very successful and had over 4000 in attendance.
- July is Parks and Recreation month and there are various activities planned throughout the month.
- Informed all board members that they are members of GRPA and NRPA.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Tiffany Moen asked the board what facility they want to host the next meeting. The members selected Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center for the August meeting.

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 7:48 p.m.