



Oconee County Parks & Recreation

Lisa Davol, Director

Board of Commissioners

John Daniell, Chairman
Mark Thomas, Post 1
Chuck Horton, Post 2
W. E. "Bubber" Wilkes, Post 3
Mark Saxon, Post 4

Citizens Advisory Committee on Recreation Affairs Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2019

Members Present: Richard Ashmore, Jeanne Barsanti, Cristi Donahue, DeeDee Gaines, Leslie Hunsinger, Jonathan King, Dan Magee, Wesley Scott

Members Absent: Ravneet Julka

Staff: Lisa Davol

Guests: Michael Luffler, Ed Morrison, Matt Powelson, Kevin McHugh (Pickleball)

BOC: None

Press: None

Minutes:

1. Call to Order. The Recreation Committee convened the regular meeting at Oconee Veterans Park. Leslie Hunsinger called the meeting to order.
2. Approve the Agenda. Richard Ashmore made a motion to approve the agenda. Jonathan King seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Approve May 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Jonathan King made a motion to approve the minutes and Richard Ashmore seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Program Updates. Lisa Davol provided department program and event updates for summer, participation in community events, and Oconee 4th of July Fireworks (O4JF) event. Cristi Donahue recommended getting out any future O4JF sponsor information out by September to businesses. DeeDee Gaines recommended patriotic music be available during fireworks, possibly through an app, radio or other means. Davol requested all those that attended to complete the O4JF online survey.
5. Park Updates. Lisa Davol provided updates on facility events and park projects, such as athletic turf maintenance, custodial services, dog park fence improvements, HVAC repairs, BSC paving, HP old animal service building demolition, HP Central School House painting and HP erosion repair. In addition, three tournaments held to include COTA Adult State Tennis, Softball and Adult Flag Football. Staff is also working with an Eagle Scout project proposal at Heritage Park. Richard Ashmore stated the athletic fields were looking good.
6. County Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Recreation. Committee members discussed the Oconee County Comp Plan as it relates to Parks and Recreation. Jeanne Barsanti stated that Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services 2030, which is a 10 year plan for the department.

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Currently, ACCLS has completed a community needs assessment, with focus groups scheduled next, followed by reports, commission work sessions, community priority setting, plan development, public review and commission review/approval all on a timeline to be completed by April 2020. Committee reviewed the Oconee County Comp Plan short-term work program that includes developing a recreation master plan in 2019-2020. Other topics mentioned included the report of plan accomplishments for 2013-2017 that lists Heritage Park being used to promote tourism as well as completing the master plan with status "underway." Report also lists master plan update as completed in 2019. Needs for Parks and Recreation in the plan, page 78, were also discussed. Jeanne, Dan and Richard all stated a comprehensive parks master plan needed to be completed. Richard Ashmore also noted that a second entrance/exit at OVP needed to be completed. Jeanne Barsanti inquired on any national standards regarding parks and Lisa Davol responded that she would share the NRPA benchmark standards.

7. LAS Park Plan. Feedback regarding the preliminary plan included the need for additional parking, questioning what appears to be a "beach" area by the pond, ensuring trails are multi-purpose and access to restrooms without crossing a parking lot. Dan Magee stated that an elected official told him that it is a 15-20 year plan; however, Dan said it needed to be a 5-10 year plan. Dan also stated that county and school could jointly plan an aquatic center and parks could consider covered tennis courts.
8. Other Business.
 - Jeanne Barsanti volunteered to collect committee input regarding the county comp plan.
 - Dan Magee volunteered to collect committee input regarding the LAS preliminary park plan.
 - Jeanne Barsanti inquired again about water access at Heritage Park to provide drinking water to horses and to wash off horses after riding.
 - Lisa Davol stated that the department would have 2 large projects this fiscal year, OVP Community Center water infiltration and HCM tennis court repairs/resurfacing.
 - Lisa Davol also mentioned the message board request for the dog park by DeeDee Gaines.
9. Public Comment.
 - Mike Luffler requested permission to place tape on the outdoor tennis courts for pickleball. Lisa Davol stated she would discuss with staff, and informed Mike that we are working on adding pickleball lines to the HCM Quick Start Tennis Courts project this fall. Mike also recommended hosting tournaments in the county.
 - Ed Morrison stated that pickleball is currently the fastest growing sport. He suggested that the participation numbers in Oconee County would only continue to grow.
 - Kevin McHugh said that 80% of players in Athens were Oconee County residents.
10. Motion to adjourn made by Leslie Hunsinger. Motion seconded by Wesley Scott. Motion passed unanimously.

Next RAC Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 5 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park - Community Center.

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