

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

March 9, 2021

A meeting of the Cobb County Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via WebEx.

Present:	Absent:	PARKS Staff Present:
Bill Carver	Joe Mayes	Michael Brantley
Jill Flamm	Bill Jones	Mario Henson
Elliott Hennington	Nathan Wade	Melanie Johnson
Wynn McCurdy		Shelly Norton
Keylan Mitchell		Tom Bills
John Pape		Barbara Savage

I. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Carver called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

II. INVOCATION

Keylan Mitchell opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Wynn Carver led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. CONSIDERATION OF March 9, 2021 MINUTES

- MOTION: Motion by Jill Flamm and seconded by John Pape to approve the February 9, 2021 Recreation Board minutes as submitted.
VOTE: APPROVED unanimously

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

VI. SPLOST report

Tom Bills

- 2016 SPLOST
 - 90% projects are completed, 3% projects are in process, 6% projects are in the design phase, and 1% projects are future projects.
 - Discovery Park at the River Line – Park is completed for the most part, but not opened yet. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be scheduled for later this month. Will install a kiosk to welcome people into the park and provide information about the property.
 - Joint Projects with City of Kennesaw
 - Splash Pad – PARKS managed the project from start to finish; i.e: construction through groundbreaking event.
 - Recreation Center – Under construction right now; PARKS was involved in the beginning stages of the project and helped with getting a designer, Croft and Associates. After that, Kennesaw took over the project and have been doing an

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awesome job. This center will be where the soccer field was located. This center has been designed in 2 phases. 1 – SPLOST funds 2 – was designed, but not funded at first. Additional funding found from the City to complete phase 2 part of the project. This recreation center will have gymnastics, basketball, pickleball, offices, outdoor space, and an indoor walking track. Total budget \$10.9, but City of Kennesaw was able to double the amount.

- March 9th, the BOC allocated an additional \$4,399,500 to our 2016 SPLOST project funds. Plus, an additional \$9 million that was allocated to DOT projects that include PARKS that includes the Chattahoochee Riverlands Pilot Project and Silver Comet Connector extension.

Keylan – Does this additional funding for the Silver Comet Connector just get you to the river or by the bridge too?

Michael – It does not get us to the bridge. It just allows us to get to the river.

- 2022 SPLOST

- Initial projected total collection for the 6-year duration is \$750,000,000. This will create and fund 10 new projects.
- Each District Commissioner had discretionary funds left over and could allocate to certain areas/departments within the County. We were given an additional \$28,272,000 from the 4 District Commissioners to put towards our 2022 SPLOST Community Impact projects. This brings our Estimated SPLOST funds to \$52,272,000. To view the SPLOST information, go to, cobbcounty.org/board/splost/2022-splst-renewal
 - Tom to provide renderings for the Veterans Memorial project at next meeting.

Keylan – Will the Osborne Center have an indoor track, and would it be managed by an outside entity?

Tom – The track hasn't been decided yet but thinks it would be a great addition.

Michael – It hasn't been discussed yet. It could cost more than the identified \$1.75M it and/or could be a public/private partnership.

Elliott – Should we reach out to Commissioner Sheffield or Chairwoman Cupid to get their thoughts on the indoor track?

Michael – I will go to Chairwoman Cupid about what her vision was with this project as she planned.

Elliott – Will the County or City be staffing the new Kennesaw Rec Center?

Michael – Kennesaw will run that Rec Center.

Bill – Each project is broken down in the SPLOST website mentioned above.

VII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Melanie – We have added new items to the warehouse to make patrons happy when visiting the facilities. Getting compliments on how nice and clean our facilities are. (i.e.: body wash products are now installed in our Aquatic Centers, not just hand soap)

Mario Henson – Services and Resources update

- Continue to move forward with services through the pandemic

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- Swing Time – 3 season Escape Room. Opening registration on March 26 (will run on a 6-month calendar)
- March 13th – Fair Oaks Community Garden will be installing a fruit orchard. Partnership with Keep Cobb Beautiful
- Ron Anderson – Last weekend we hosted a free pop-up grocery store with the Atlanta Hawks/GoodR and distributed over 220 boxes of food to families.
- Adult Softball started last night
- We are working on our Drive-in movie series
- March 27th we will host our Bunny Eggventure – drive thru event that will distribute candy filled eggs to the attendees. Will be hosted at 4 locations: South Cobb Rec. Center, Mountain View Aquatics, Sewell Mill Rec. Center, and Fair Oaks Rec. Center
 - Keylan** – Is the Atlanta Symphony a new partnership?
 - Mario** – We have multiple employees that have contacts with Atlanta Symphony, but this will be the first time we partner with them.
 - Keylan** – How long will you continue to do the drive-thru events?
 - Mario** – We will become normal programming for us, so this will be addition to our normal programming to keep all Citizens included year-round.
 - Keylan** – Will we have capacity to hold both types of programming?
 - Mario** – Yes, we will have all operations pull together to hosts all programs.
- As of today, we have 182 funded positions; We are 13 FT down from 2008; We have 1,400 acres more since 2008 and less employees to maintain the properties.
- We have created a reopening plan to start the process of getting back to full operations “pre-COVID” when possible.
- Jim R Miller Park – Park is mainly hosting vaccination site and will start testing again in the next week or two; it will be a smaller test site than the last time (one to two lanes).
 - Bill** – Do you have a ballpark idea of when we can start having events at Jim R. Miller Park again? I know they are still hosting COVID shots and testing, but that park is one of our number one parks that hosts events.
 - Michael** – We do not know when CDPH will be done with our facility. They love the park because it provides so much space for their needs. But it could be another month or two before we get an idea of future use of the park.

Michael Brantley – department update

- BOC approved the renovation of Lions Park concession building
- Discover Park at the River Line – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is projected for March 31st. The signage will be in around May 1st – 15th, so we cannot wait until that arrives
- Mableton Town Square – MIC has raised funds in partnerships to buy picnic tables and trash cans. Looking around first or second week of April to have a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- Monthly PARKS newsletters – we will sign up the Rec Board members for the newsletters
- Sponsorship Package – met with Alliance Activation to talk about valuing and marketing our assets. Do we hire a Marketing/Sponsorship role or do we contract it out?
 - Keylan** – Was Alliance Activation a consulting contract?
 - Michael** – Yes, they are a consulting firm.

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Keylan – Do they offer the service of promotion and outsource?

Michael – Yes, they are interested in bidding on this project and would be a retainer; they would receive a percentage of revenue gained by the sponsorships.

Elliott – The money raised through this program, does it go to the County or to Parks and Rec?

Michael – Revenues made go to the General Fund and can go back into our annual Parks budget

- We are in the process of looking at having “bubble camps” that would have pods for each kid to stay in. It would be a 4-day camp and on the 5th day we would clean the facilities. Each camp would follow the COVID protocols.

Wynn – Is there any discussion of re-hiring or opening positions that were closed in the past?

Michael – We are in the process of creating our 5-year plan and are asking for additional positions and getting back to where we need to be with staffing needs. Capacity is always increasing, and staffing has decreased, and we are making plans to get back to an adequate personnel level.

VIII. FINAL COMMENTS

- Bill Carver mentioned inviting Joe Atkins to the April meeting. All agreed and we will need to reach out to him to get it on his calendar early.
- This is Mr. Joe Mayes last meeting. We all wanted to express our appreciation to his service of the Board and County. Mr. Carver will present Mr. Mayes with a thank you letter for his years of service on the Rec. Board.
- Bill Carver - Wynn McCurdy welcome back to the Board.
- New Rec Board member Tina Clark will join the board in April.
- This is also Bill Jones’ last meeting as well. Commissioner Gambrill is looking for a new appointment. Could be decided at the March 23rd BOC Meeting.
- April Rec Board Meeting – Look into having the meeting at Hyde Farm so it can be outdoors.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Carver to adjourn 7:25 P.M.