

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

May 11, 2021

A meeting of the Cobb County Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in person at the PARKS Administration Building.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Carver called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. INVOCATION

Elliott Hennington opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

Bill Carver and all the Rec Board led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. CONSIDERATION OF April 13, 2021 MINUTES

- MOTION: Motion by Jill Flamm and seconded by Wynn McCurdy to approve the April 13, 2021 Recreation Board minutes as submitted.
- VOTE: APPROVED unanimously

- V. Mr. Carver introduced our newest Recreation Board member, Tina Clark, to the meeting. Ms. Clark said she is excited to serve on this Board and mentioned that she is a leader with the school system and looks forward to the collaboration with the Rec Board.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

VII. SPLOST Report

Tom Bills

- 2016 SPLOST – 90% Completed; 2% Underway; 7% in Planning; 1% Future Projects.
- Lions Park – Upper Concession Building Renovation. We are removing the area where the concession stand was and turning it into a breezeway. We have improved and updated the exterior areas and have relocated the electrical box that was located on the inside wall of the concession stand. Now that has been completed, the real project begins with converting the area into a breezeway.

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

May 11, 2021

Bill – What will the concession stand be turned into?

Tom – It will become a breezeway since there is a new concession stand at the lower part of the park.

- Harrison Park – Upper Concession Stand – The renovation of the bathrooms is almost complete. They have installed epoxy flooring that will help our staff keep them clean and they will last longer than just concrete flooring.

Keylan – Do we have a color scheme across the board for all buildings?

Barbara – We make sure that all buildings in the same park match. We try to stay in the same family of colors. We keep a listing of all colors that are used in the parks, so if we must go back and touch-up, we have the exact color that will be needed for that park.

Michael – The buildings in the parks are all a natural (Beige/Brown) color.

- Pitner Road Archery – The new pavilion is almost completed. We expect it to be done within the next 2 weeks.
- Nesbitt Union Chapel – Had a volunteer group come in (J.E. Dunn Corporation) and they performed a massive cleanup. They were very organized and eager to help. They did an awesome job.
- Discovery Park at the River Line – We had all the permanent signage installed on the trails. This park has been well received and has had a lot of daily activity.

Wynn – Have there been any parking concerns?

Tom – No, we haven't had any concerns because people are going there, hiking, and then leaving so the turnaround is relatively quick.

- Pilot project for Discovery – We will be working with DOT to create paved pathways that will connect the trails to allow you to explore close to the river line.

Elliott – Is each County responsible for their sections?

Tom – Yes

Michael – DOT builds the paved trails and then PARKS must maintain and repair them.

Keylan – What changed that now allows us to have input in the planning/design phases?

Michael – We got to the point where we said we could no longer take care of the trails due to operational funding issues. We used to attend the planning meetings and give input into the designs, but we are getting back into being able to have more of a voice in the designs over the past few years.

Bill – Is there something that the Board can address with the BOC? With staffing and funding?

Michael – Anytime that the Board can advocate for PARKS is always welcomed. The Board can/should advocate for the department as needs arise.

Keylan – Would like to have some talking points/data to advocate for PARKS and to justify why they are advocating.

Michael – I will have the documentation/presentation at our next Rec Board Meeting.

- Miller Park Arena – The bleachers were supposed to be replaced, but the order was cancelled due to the supplier not being able to honor the quoted price since so much time had elapsed. We will revisit this after the North Ga State Fair and will acquire new bids for this project.
- Old Clarkdale – Bids come in Thursday May 13th. The area where the original community center was located will now have a smaller community center (roughly 2,000 sq. ft.). The main size specifications is being determined by parking needs.

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

May 11, 2021

- Fullers Park – Multi Use Turf Fields – Still looks great after a full month of use.

Tina – How does PARKS get SPLOST funds?

Michael – We provide justification to the BOC as to why we need the funds, the BOC prioritizes the funds, and then distributes the funds to the departments.

Tina – Do the repairs for SPLOST projects come out of SPLOST?

Tom – SPLOST is for new projects and renovations only. Once they have been built, then any maintenance falls on the PARKS Department to provide with operational funds.

VIII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Mario Henson – Services and Resources update

- Natural Resources – Working on an interdepartmental Community Garden for Seniors with the Senior Services Department. The plan is to allow the Seniors to get out and garden/maintain their plants. Target and Keep Cobb Beautiful have volunteered workdays to help maintain areas and keep them clean.
- The Art Place – Creating a Senior Summer Camp program.
- Tennis Units – Working on providing transportation for Seniors to come and play pickleball and tennis.
- Hyde Farm – Young Farmers hosting events.
- Aquatics – Gearing up for Summer pool openings. Urgently need Lifeguards/Attendants/Cashiers to work the pools. Seasonal pools will open May 29th.
- Summer camps will start June 7th.
- Adult Athletic events starting to pick up.

Keylan – Can we get Hawks to participate this year?

Mario – John Babble will look at plans to present that we can offer, and they will provide the support. We are working on it.

Tina – Have restrictions been extended/lifted in the Rec centers?

Mario – We are gradually increasing our numbers but are updating as we should.

Tina – How can parents register/find out about events?

Mario – Cobb PARKS website and social media pages.

Keylan – If you are increasing kids, how many at a time?

Mario – We first have to focus on employment before we can start increasing kids. We have a major need for Seasonal Workers. Plus, we are not seeing as many kids registering for camps than we thought we would have.

Keylan – Tina, can you coordinate with the schools?

Tina – Yes, it would help tremendously to help get the info out. I will be able to collaborate with the schools, youth leagues, parents, etc.

- Tennis – Created Family Days with over 100 participants. More and more people are going to tennis since it is already a socially distanced sport.
- Escape Room at Oregon Park – Opening May 21st to the public.

Elliott – Please thank all staff at South Cobb Rec Center for all the events that they have there and how they are handling them. Also, I noticed the new LED lights at Ron Anderson. Will you do those everywhere? And I also noticed the security cameras.

Barbara – Yes, all 5 rec centers will be getting LED lights and security cameras.

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

May 11, 2021

Michael Brantley – Department update

- First, thanked the board for their support, then he informed the Board that he was offered the Director's position today. This will be official May 25th at the next BOC meeting. He is excited about the future and opportunities to come.

IX. FINAL COMMENTS

- Michael asked where are we having the next meeting? If we choose another location, we need to make sure it is advertised for the public. Bill mentioned that he would like to start visiting parks and areas that either have had a lot of work done or need a lot of work done so that they can all see the progress. The Board decided to have the next meeting at Ebenezer Downs. July's meeting option that is on the table is Seven Springs Water Park.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Carver to adjourn 7:35 P.M.