

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

February 13, 2024

Cobb County PARKS Recreation Board – February 13, 2024, 6:00 PM

Present:	Absent:	PARKS Staff Present:
Michael Edwards	Nathan Wade	Barbara Savage
John Pape	Wynn McCurdy	Michael Brantley
Elliott Hennington	Tina Clark	Mario Henson
Jill Flamm		Derrell Walker
Demetrius Lockett		Jordan Wood
Bill Carver		Brittany Hallman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Demetrius Lockett called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

II. INVOCATION

Demetrius Lockett opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Demetrius Lockett and the Rec Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF September 12, 2023 MINUTES

MOTION: Motion made by Elliott Hennington and seconded by John Pape to approve the September 12, 2023; Recreation Board Minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 6-0; Nathan Wade, Wynn McCurdy, and Tina Clark absent for the vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – Bret, Ambassador for Shaw Park Pickleball.

VI. SPLOST UPDATES

Barbara Savage

- SPLOST Budget Update:
2011 Projects – 98% Completed; 2% Future Projects. (Felton, Fullers, Hyde, and Mt. Bethel)
2016 Projects – 83% Completed; 2% Design; 3% Under Construction; 12% Future Project (Future Project: Hyde) All projects are underway currently.
2022 Projects – 85% Future; <3% Completed; >6% Construction Underway; <6% Design/Engineering (Future Projects: Aquatic Centers, Technology Improvements, Ebenezer Downs, and Noonday Park Restroom)
- Hyde Farm/Power Jackson Cabin - Inside the kitchen addition, not the original but was added to the structure in the mid-1800s; Met with the National Park Service on 1/31 at Hyde Farm and looked at three potential sites to put the cabin on the farm. Park Service was receptive to talking with us, but is concerned that this will jeopardize our application for historic registry; Cobb Landmarks has raised the money to dismantle and move the cabin. We are getting pricing with Vic, who does

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these types of restorations for us, he has said he can do it and he will just need to fit it into his schedule; Need the pricing to get approval from the BOC should we need it; Cobb Landmarks does not want to pay to move the structure if we cannot guarantee that we can put it on Hyde Farm and pay to restore the structure; We need to move this cabin quickly since the structure is deteriorating at a rapid pace and is working with us to try and make it happen.

- Stout Park/Stana House – We do have power to both signal crossings on Brownsville Rd., DOT will be out on Thursday, 2/15 to hook up the signal. We have power to the CXT building and final inspection was held, but we did not have a fire extinguisher. Once we get the fire extinguisher, we will get final seal on the building, and we can go for site sign off. Expected to be signed off early next week.
Barn exterior/interior – We are installing the fire suppression system; We have electrical, and plumbing signed off on it; We are connecting the drains into existing septic system. This is running on schedule; Turnover is still looking to be early April; We are going to also fence the area behind the barn for horses; Grand opening for the park around mid-May.
- Old Clarkdale Community Center –The open house ribbon cutting was held on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024.
- Osborne Recreation Center – The Guaranteed Maximum Price has been signed; Waiting on the LDP approval; We will break ground as soon as that is received; LODs have been marked with orange tree-save fencing; We have the finalizing design, but cannot submit into permit until we get LDP approval; We are working with Cobb IS and designer for networking, communications and networking requirements; Working on the SPLOST Sign to have out stating it is a SPLOST project; Looking at an official ground breaking towards the end of March.
- Jim R. Miller Arena – We had a bid, but unfortunately it was not qualified, so we reached out to others and have yet to hear back; we will put it out for bid again with a cleaner scope; Look for the work to be done around February to March 2025.
- Price Bridge – Survey is complete; Hit shallow rock with borings. Will go to a different kind of pier (rock socket or drill shaft); Working with ComDev to determine if CLOMR and LMOR will be required.
- Technology Improvements – Approved today, 2/13, by BOC to install security cameras at (14) of our facilities.
- Aquatics Centers Improvements – Resurfacing Pools South Cobb Aquatics Center is done with the marcite. Will be complete and be reopened on 3/31; Central Aquatics Center will be starting the process on 4/1; Gutters will be next as well as the slide; Dehumidification Units – Units are all installed on the (3) facilities; Fixing a few tweaks to be made and this will be complete.
- Big Shanty Additional Parking and Pickleball Courts – Approved by BOC today, 2/13; Bartow Paving with the amount \$655,003.61; Once contracts are processed, we expect to begin the job in May; Septic System Replacement - We will shut the park down around July 15th and have it reopened no later than October 1st.
- Gym Flooring Replacements – Project bid and we received four bids; We are making preparations to go to BOC for approvals; Fullers will start around July 29th, thank in the order of South Cobb, Fair Oaks, Ron Anderson and Boots Ward; The scheduling

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- is based on their schedules; Fair Oaks, South Cobb, Ron Anderson – Wood; Ward, Fullers – Synthetic;
- Shade Structures – We have four areas we looking at placing shade structures; Boots Ward Rec where they have their summer camps, Terrell Mill tennis courts, East Cobb Park main playground and Tramore Park playground; We were planning to put this out as a single bid, but it will void out the warranty for any shades added to an existing structure; Jordan added that possibly adding shade structures on the park benches surrounding the play area and also potentially putting one over the rope amenity.
- Hurt Road Parking at Basketball Court – Contracts are signed. Scheduling preconstruction meeting for next week; Contractor is ICAN for the Bod of 228,049.71.
- Entrance Signage – Preconstruction meeting held last Friday, 2/9 and proofs are being prepared; The bid includes: Hyde Farms, East Cobb Park, Clarkdale Park, Harrison Park which will include (2) signs - one at both of their entrances, Big Shanty Park which will get extra-large with the LED due to The Art Station being located there, Wild Horse Creek and Green Meadows Preserve which will be an Interpretive sign;
- Ebenezer Downs – We have a design review meeting this Thursday, 2/15. Preliminary cost estimates indicate we are way over budget. We are going to work with the designer regarding the pricing to see what we can do.
- Kemp Family Park – The designer for the park is downtown at legal for signatures; That is with Axis Infrastructure for about \$80,000.00 for that one.

VII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Derrell Walker

Operations

- The past two months we have been able to address some issues we see while taking our time to go through the parks; We have painted benches, picnic tables, restrooms and speed tables; field renovations, fences and any safety issues; cleaned up and overall beautified the parks while; We have received complimentary emails the past few month from the public regarding all their hard work.
- Dates of Note – Spring Contracts started February 3rd; Opening Days on March 2nd: East Marietta Little League, Sandy Plains Baseball, Eastside (operates out of Fullers Park), Oregon Park Baseball, Powder Springs Baseball and Big Shanty Baseball; Friday, March 8th Rhyne Park Girls Softball will have their opening day ceremony; Saturday, March 9th Clarkdale and West Cobb (operates out of Lost Mountain Park) will be opening.
- Maintenance Management School – I had the opportunity to go from January 28th through February 2nd for year one of two and learned so much as well as networking with other peers throughout the country; It was great to see how others around the U.S. do thing and may be bringing some of that within my own department.

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Mario Henson

Services

- Department Program – Implementing a department recognition program called “Glow & Grow” where individuals can be nominated, and we will recognize them once per quarter; Something to try and show our employees we appreciate all the work they are doing.
- Special Events – Working on Spring PARKS Festival that will be held on 4/6/24 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at Jim R. Miller Park; This is something one of our Program Managers started at Mable House Arts Center while she was a Coordinator I; We are trying to grow the egg hunt with a more festival like event.
- Work Day – KSU has reached out to regarding a “Work Day” Project to have volunteers to participate in coming out; I am working with Derrell regarding what location would be appropriate to utilize this opportunity.
- Aquatics – Our facilities host the State Championship, and we have (2) State Champions who practice in our facilities, Lassiter Hough School’s 6A girls and Walton High School’s 7A boys; Gearing up for swimming lessons and lifeguards classes for seasonal lifeguards at Seven Springs.
- Tennis – Winter Season is in progress for classes; Registration for Spring classes is in progress as well; Winter USTA adult leagues continue into late February and the Winter ATLA adult leagues will continue until early March; Our long-time manager at Harrison Tennis Center recently retired and interviews will start shortly.
- Natural Resources – Asphalt Pump Track at Pitner Rd Park is complete and we will have an opening ribbon cutting on 2/22; Risk Management will be out to check out everything tomorrow, 2/14, at 10:00am and make sure we have all the signage needed; Created a Cobb Nature Show on YouTube and we are working on equipping them with the tools to make this a success; Also, we are continuing the Trail of the Month Club that was recently implemented and February is Lost Mountain Park and March will be Heritage Park.
- Adult and Youth Athletics – Youth Basketball is going on and we are hosting the District Tournaments on 2/16, 2/17 and 2/19 and the championship games will be held on 2/20 at the Civic Center; Cobb County Youth Basketball Tournament was also hosted by us and a few winner in of our teams including: Powder Springs runner-up in the 8U and 10U division, East Marietta runner-up in the 12U and champion for the 14U and 18U divisions; NEW: Adult Pickleball League, will have open registration from 1/22/24 through 3/3/24 and the league will start on 3/10/24; Leagues will be held at Larry Bell, Oregon Park and Shaw Park.
- Recreations – Ron Anderson starting an Esports Gaming League and utilize the donations from the Atlanta Hawks for the Good Neighbor Club Room; Summer Camp registration will be open in the next three weeks; TRS/University of Florida Capstone Project – We have a student from University of Florida working with our TRS program and we are in the process logistically and Mario has been working with her for around six months regarding this project; We would like to have this be a continuing project for years to come.

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Jordan Wood

SPLOST Projects

- Wallace Park– Mini-Pitch everything is ready, we are just waiting on the weather, 50 degrees or more; LED lights and fencing will be installs at the same time as well to not render the parks usage due to closure.
 - Elliott Hennington asked what is a Mini-Pitch?
 - Jordan Wood answered small,condensed soccer pitch that has boards like Hickey, and is closely related to Brazilian Futsal.
 - Elliott Hennington asked if there are Pickleball courts or if there will be some added to Wallace Park?
 - Michael answers that we do not and we did have some people put some tape down to make one; We would like to add some but it is not in the funds at the moment.
- Pocket Parks – Our Land Unit has completed cleanup on Woodlawn and Lower Roswell; WE Contracting will be onsite on Thursday, 2/15 to install the patio which will include bricks from the old homestead; Fencing, chair swings, trash cans and pet waste disposal stations; Stumps will not be completed through PARKS due to utilities lines; Land Unit has started work with the Blairs Bridge and Oakridge Parcel, but we are putting that on hold due to the Commissioner wanting to make some changes and improvements to the plan, including a water fountain.
- Jennie T. Anderson Theatre HVAC Replacement – We have the contract signed; Holding the Pre-Construction meeting this Friday, February 16th.
- Seven Springs Water Park – We signed our contract with United Pools; Held our Pre-Construction meeting with them on Friday, February 9th; Anticipate completion prior to Memorial Day opening.
- Al Bishop Parking Expansion –Contract was approved with Meriwether Site Solutions at todays,2/16, BOC meeting; We are working on contract signatures and insurance documentation; We anticipate construction to start as soon as contracts are signed and wrap-up before the fair.
- Aquatic Center Pool Grating – Replacing all the grating with an improved product; Will go in at South Cobb, West Cobb and Mountain View Aquatics Center that is in production; Will receive South Cobb first and will coincide with the shutdown of the pools with the resurfacing and the painting.
- South Cobb Aquatics Slide Refurbishment – In conjunction with the pool resurfacing we issued a PO with DC Pools to refurbish the slide and that will coincide with the pool shut down;
- Noonday Maintenance Office – Remediation efforts are complete and contracted with an HVAC company to install dehumidification units, ION units and replace the duct work as well contracted with a contractor to remodel the inside of the maintenance building as well.
- Terrell Mill Park – Add shade structures along the spectator pads as well as replacing benches on the court with shaded benches; Adjacent baseball/softball fields will have 40-foot-tall netting and a 185-foot length of fence we are having a contractor install to keep foul balls landing on the tennis courts nearby.

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Michael Brantley

PARKS

- Old Clarkdale Community Center Grand Opening – Went well and the community was ecstatic; It is a perfect spot for a family reunion due to the layout of the park itself; The community center will be reserved under Ron Anderson.
- Employment Update – Elizabeth, our HR, run a report today, 2/13, we have around 20-25 employees that are currently eligible for retirement; So far only two have mentioned they will be putting in in the next few months; Training and Implementing Procedures – When it comes to our staff and interactions/encounters we need to make sure our staff is trained for situations; We would also like to start the policy of “If you see something, say something” whether it is something in our parks or maybe one of our staff members are seeming unwell; This includes the homeless situations within our parks and facilities; Derrell Walker and myself have spoke today regarding this, as well as with Mario Henson and Jordan Wood; We are vested into implementing solutions to give our staff the tools they need to handle tough situations
 - Bill Carver asked how our staffing numbers are looking?
 - Michael Brantley answered that we are nowhere near 2019-2020 shortage, but yes when we are hiring for a position whether someone retired or just left the County, there is always a gap between the two.
 - Jill Flamm asked regarding seeing more homeless in our parks?
 - Derrell Walker answered yes and added that while at Maintenance Management School this topic was discussed and it is happening everywhere.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Demetrius Lockett to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.