

COBB COUNTY RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

January 14, 2025

Cobb County PARKS Recreation Board – January 14, 2025, 6:00 PM

Present:	Absent:	PARKS Staff Present:
Jill Flamm	Nathan Wade	Michael Brantley
Demetrius Lockett	Michael Edwards	Derrell Walker
Elliott Hennington	John Pape	Jordan Wood
Wynn McCurdy		Mario Henson
Kennall Mond		Giselle Jaquez
Bill Carver		Jud Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Demetrius Lockett called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. INVOCATION

Wynn McCurdy opened the meeting with a prayer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jill Flamm and the Rec Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF November 12, 2024, MINUTES

MOTION: Motion made by Elliott Hennington and seconded by Wynn McCurdy to approve the November 12, 2024 Recreation Board minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 6-0; Nathan Wade, John Pape, and Michael Edwards were absent for the vote.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

VI. SPLOST UPDATES

Jud Martin

- 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)

Project Summary: 2011

- SPLOST Budget Update:
- Power-Jackson Cabin –
 - Waiting on receipt of all contract docs from Leatherwood
 - Civil and Structural plans are in for permitting.

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- Will need to remove trees, grade the pad, and install small retaining wall before the construction of the cabin.
- Fullers Mustang Field – Infield turf conversion
 - Drawings are 95% complete. Reviewing now.
 - Work will start around July 1, 2025

Project Summary 2016:

Milford Recreation Center

- Drywall finishing and painting on the interior.
- Power is on to the building.
- Metal panels are being installed on the exterior.
- Natural gas service line is being installed this week.
- Sidewalks and entrances are being poured.
- Final completion should be in April.

PARKS Maintenance Building –

- Final trim out underway.
- Project is on schedule for completion in March.

Hyde Farm Pavilion-

- Final trim out underway.
- Bids were received on December 12 and was approved by BOC today.
- Construction should start in March once contracts are finalized.

Project Summary: 2022

- Heritage Park Boardwalk- The structural review of the boardwalk is ongoing. We are working to replace the decking with a product that will provide better traction which will require less maintenance and lasts longer than wood. We are also looking at upgrading the handrails.

Lost Mountain & Wallace Park-

- Replacing two rectangular natural turf fields with Synthetic Turf at Lost Mountain
- Replacement of one rectangular field at Wallace Park.
- BOC approved contract with Capital Sports for \$2,469,000 in December.
- Construction will start in February.
- There was funding left over once the initial project bid, so we are looking at converting the baseball/softball fields to synthetic turf as well.
- Fullers Tennis ADA Access-
 - There is currently no ADA access to the Tennis Courts
 - We are creating access from the parking lot to the tennis courts that will consist of sidewalks with switch backs and a new set of stairs.
 - We will also be adding two new ADA parking spots in proximity to the new sidewalk access.

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Thompson Park Pipe Repair-

- The pipe under the road at the top of the pond has been undermined.
- We are in the process of hiring an engineer and getting survey work completed.
- This project will improve the drainage and replace deteriorating CMPs under the roadway.

West Cobb Aquatic Center-

- We will be replastering the entire bottom of the pool, paint the natatorium, retile the showers, and replace the shower fixtures and partitions.
- Construction starts on Feb. 1st and is expected to be completed on April 30th.

VII. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Derrell Walker

Operations

Bishop Zone

- Installed new grills at Hurt Park, Wallace Park and Lions Park
- Starting field prep on ball fields for spring season

Mountain Zone

- Removed pine trees at the entrance to Wild Horse Creek Park that were obstructing the view of oncoming traffic.
- Installed new benches at Big Shanty pickleball courts.

Noonday Zone

- Shaw Park- Stripped parking lots including handicap parking areas.
- Noonday Trailhead- Installed new bathroom lights.
- Noonday Park- Water fountain installed.
- East Cobb Park- Cleaned up and removed 5 trees on impound lot. We also removed the old fence and installed a new one around the impound yard.

Youth Associations – Discussed the merger of youth football in the Bishop Zone, outlining the mounting concerns. PARKS has decided to run its own program. Parks affected are Fair Oaks, Hurt Road and Wallace. Practices will be held at Hurt Road Park (midway point), with home games being played on new turf at Wallace this year, as well as Fair Oaks. Fair Oaks will be getting new turf next year. Associations and parents have been notified of this new move.

Elliott asked whether park lights shut off automatically. Answer: Lights can be shut off remotely or with a timer. Lights do have to be turned on manually.

Jill asked if it would be better leave them on from a security standpoint. Answer: It depends on the location of the park. For example, during the wintertime, when the leaves are off the trees, residents may complain. Trail lights are kept on.

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Mario Henson

Services Division:

Tennis:

- Registration for Spring session tennis classes begin Jan. 30th.
- Winter USTA Junior leagues began Jan. 4th and continue through Feb.
- Winter USTA Adult leagues are in progress through mid-Feb.
- Winter ALTA adult leagues began Jan 4th & 5th and will continue through Feb.

Special Events:

- Applications for vendors to participate in the Spring Arts Festival that will occur April 25, 2025, at Jim R. Miller are open. The deadline is March 26th.

Arts:

- Cultural affairs completed their first Holiday Artisan Market in December, which hosted over 65 artist vendors, 25 youth entrepreneurs and had an attendance of 2000+ people.
- The Art Station will be hosting the Year of the Snake Exhibit on Jan. 8th- 31st.
- Sewell Mill Cultural Center is partnering with the library to bring the public “My First Gallery” Exhibit. This free event has young artists ages 5-9 participate in a workshop creating a collage piece on Feb. 13th. The pieces will then be displayed in the small gallery from Feb. 19th – March 26th at Sewell Mill Library & Cultural Center.

We worked with the North Carolina River Arts District and our friends at the Mable House to donate a portion of their proceeds from a silent auction to help those affected by the storms in NC.

Natural Resources:

- Our educational team conducted 23 school programs in December with an attendance of 718 students.
- Home School at Hyde is off to a great start. They meet monthly.
- Our Trail of the Month will be held at Mabry Park on Jan. 25th.

Recreation

- Windy Hill/TR is getting ready for the Special Olympics Winter Games. Opening Ceremonies will be held at the Civic Center on Friday Jan. 31st at 7PM. Competition will be at various venues throughout the county on Friday and Saturday. This year's theme is “Peace, Love & Special Olympics.”
 - Ann Bonds will be retiring on February 1st.

Ron Anderson

- Ron Anderson has partnered with TAPP Middle school, creating an after-school program. Students are excited to participate in the structured activities offered.

Fair Oaks

- TV Production Winter Break Camp- This camp offers a hands-on TV production program that engages students ages 5-17. Giving them the opportunity to explore their creativity and passion for performing arts.

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Aquatics:

- West Cobb Aquatic Center is closing on Feb. 1st for renovations.
- South Cobb aquatics has a new HVAC system via an ARPA grant.

Gymnastics:

- Stacy Williams is our new Gymnastics Coordinator III

Elliott thanked Mario and his staff at the South Cobb and Ron Anderson Rec Centers for their help with the Toy Giveaway Program.

Jordan Wood

Capital Programs:

Al Bishop Concrete:

- This is an FY25 project to add a concrete access drive from the maintenance shop to the ballfield complex in order to reduce wear on grass causing erosion. The agenda item for We Contracting to start their work was approved today.

Fair Oaks

- The PARKS ARPA grant for renovations at Fair Oaks and Booth Cricket Field has MAPP/GMC Design for build. We are routing our contract with them through legal.

Swingtime Access Road – FY 23 Project

- This is an access road from the entrance of Green Meadows to the Swingtime parking lot. We have a kickoff meeting scheduled for this Thursday with the contractor, Bartow Paving. Construction is scheduled to start March 1st with a 6-month duration. This will have some impact on access for the disc golf as we will likely need to make some adjustment to the course layout.

Blair Bridge/ Oak Ridge Pocket Park:

- This is a small pocket park at the corner of Blair Bridge and Oak Ridge with wing benches and a small flower garden. The Boundary survey is complete. We may have an encroachment issue with the adjacent property, and we are checking with DOT to see if there is an existing easement.

Hillcrest/ South Gordon Road

- This will be a small pocket park to include parking and a playground structure. We are awaiting a proposal from WSP for design development and permitting of pocket park. This is currently being used as a laydown yard for a DOT project nearby and will be cleaned up by April.

Rhyne Park – FY 24 Project

- Field 1 synthetic turf outfield is in design/permitting. The agenda item for WE to do the concrete work will be submitted for approval at the 1/28/25 BOC meeting.

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Michael Brantley

PARKS Update:

- PARKS staff has complete around 475 performance appraisals. A lot of that work gets done by supervisors and managers.
- Winter storm did not leave major damage other than trees falling down. PARKS staff worked with the DOT for resolution. We attribute this to learning from previous storms such as ensuring pipes were shut off and setting HVAC systems. We had no problems reported at our recreation centers.
- Our focus is Capital funding that was unfunded through 2025 and Revenue Above Projections (RAP) to reallocate projects.
- We are also working on our 2026 budget.
- PARKS won the Holiday decorating competition against the DOT and Community Development.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Demetrius Lockett to adjourn at 7:08p.m.