



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 – September 17, 2019

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

Members Absent: Leslie Hunsinger, Ravneet Julka, Wesley Scott

Staff: Lisa Davol, Whitney Sperlik

Guests: Bill Beard, John Hardy, Kevin McHugh (Pickleball)

BOC: John Daniell, Oconee County BOC Chairman

Press: None

Minutes:

1. Call to Order. The Recreation Committee convened the regular meeting at Oconee Veterans Park. DeeDee Gaines 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 July 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Jonathan King made a motion to approve the minutes and Richard Ashmore seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Program Updates. Whitney Sperlik provided department program and event updates for fall, participation in community events, and Oconee 4th of July Fireworks (O4JF) event. Total fall program participation for youth and adults was 1,748 (11% increase from fall 2018), plus 284 in After School and 560 User Group (OCLL, OFC) participants. Dan Magee suggested a high school intramural Ultimate Frisbee program.
5. Park Updates. Lisa Davol provided updates on facility events and park projects, such as repair of OVP secondary irrigation pump, OVP soccer venue lights repair, OVP restrooms vandalized, HVAC unit repair, HCM fence repair due to vehicle damage, hosted high school softball tournament at OVP, and GCIP summer intern project. In addition, the HCM Tennis Court repair project was discussed, estimate cost for 6 courts \$56,698.
6. County Comprehensive Plan/SPOST Priorities Discussion – Parks and Recreation. Jeanne Barsanti provided a summary review of the comp plan to members. Barsanti suggested merging #2 Heritage Park into #1 master plan. She also stated there is an emphasis on connectivity within the plan. Richard Ashmore said the county needs to set goals and timelines to meet the goals, adding that the \$35,000 designated in the comp plan for the master park would not be sufficient. Davol stated that at this point, the LAS proposed park is our focus with a master plan



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possibly coming once that is complete. John Daniell advised the committee to review the current master plans and make a recommendation of priorities for any upcoming funding, such as SPLOST. Daniell also stated that the LAS site may be a phased project. Ashmore said that the aquatic center in the current OVP master plan was not recommended last time. DeeDee Gaines suggested that a master plan is currently not needed with the LAS project. She also said the Oconee Parks Foundation, once established, could engage the community for feedback.

7. Other Business. No update on the Parks Foundation.
8. Public Comment
 - Bill Beaird commented that the pickleball players are thankful for the facilities to play in the county, and that pickleball could generate revenue. He said that currently 40-50 residents of Oconee are active pickleball players.
 - John Hardy asked about Wi-Fi access in the parks. Davol stated that OVP Community Center does has free public Wi-Fi available.
 - Kevin McHugh mentioned a product by VersaCourt allows nets to move up and down, allowing tennis and pickleball players to share the nets at the correct height.
 - Dan Magee recognized OCPRD as one of the best agencies in the state with a good mix of in-house and user groups. He also reminded the group of the community interest in Rails to Trails.
9. Motion to adjourn made by Cristi Donahue. Motion seconded by DeeDee Gaines. Motion passed unanimously.

Next RAC Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 5 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park - Community Center.