

Goose Creek Recreation Commission Meeting

May 1st, 2023

6:00PM

Present:

- Commission: Chairman Jerry Glass, Lynn Greer, Milton Terre, Jeff Reuer, Harris Houston.
- Staff: Crystal Reed, Arielle Mann
- Public: Ryan Agostinelli, Anthony Radcliffe

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. pm by Chairman Jerry Glass.

General Public comments: N/A

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- Minutes will continue to be mailed out.
- Chairman Glass asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3rd, meeting.
 - Motion was granted by Commissioner Lynn Greer
 - Motion was seconded by Commissioner Milton Terre
 - Discussion: Lynn Greer – Finance Reports
 - Foster Creek: \$190,000 budget for Foster Creek fields
 - All in favor, motion carried.
- Arielle had a meeting with Kelly Lovette to discuss agendas, posting, etc. The new agenda format is how it will look going forward.

Financial Reports:

- Changed format: added comparison from previous year to help understand where we are.
- Year to date line items included for report as usual.
- Question: does all that money go directly to Recreation? Not directly, it goes back to the General Fund at the City, but money is allocated to projects needed.
- \$190,000 for Foster Creek project came from General Fund
- There is not a justification of if you do not spend the budget, you don't get to use it.
- As the City grows, we are upgrading facilities, fields, etc.
- Staff salary is included in the budget.
- Recreation Department is constructed as an enterprise fund, generates enough money to pay for itself.
- Tax revenue usually hits in December.
- Increasing budget requests vs. asking for enough.
- Incentives, bonuses, etc. are decided by the City.
- Last year: Whole City received a 5% increase to catch up with inflation.
- No direct incentives to save money.
- Starting rate is \$11/hour, looking to increase funds or salaries for our employees.

- Baseball, softball and volleyball programs are doing really well.
- Pickleball courts are always full, outdoor and indoor.
- Chairman Glass asked for a motion to approve the financial reports for April 2023.
 - Motion was granted by Commissioner Jeff Reuer
 - Seconded by Commissioner Milton Terre
 - All in favor, motion carried

Recreation Director's Report – Crystal Reed:

- We are busy. April was a very busy month. All of our numbers are up.
- Added comparison numbers from last year vs. this year for registration numbers as well.
- Elected officials get a copy of this report as well.
- This month we opened Splash Creek.
 - Marketing reached 150,000 people, 10,000 on Facebook.
 - Recommended for 32 people.
 - Rotation schedules.
 - Slow opening, then opened for Spring Break.
 - Interactive features, fun, colorful.
 - It's free. You hear people talk about what a gift it is for the community.
 - Currently open on the weekends, will open for the Summer Memorial – Labor Day.
 - Reason is staffing.
 - Toddler time opened on Wednesdays
 - Adjusting rules as the department sees fit.
 - We will be installing a fence in to separate the playground and the splashpad, within the next month.
- Central Creek Park question: Are there parents that just drop their kids off?
 - Concerns: not a lot of young kids but teens being dropped off without supervision.
 - Ideas: community policing – connecting with community, non-profits, etc.
 - Any suggestions, please send them our way. Priority going into the Summer months.
 - Lynn Greer: Colleges always have sorority or fraternities looking for volunteer hours.
 - Ryan Agostinelli: Police Cadet program? Possibly peers, but potential.
 - Vandalism issue: no trespass order, alert parents, public facility.
 - History with issues at all public spaces.
- Friday Night: First Poetry & Art Night. Interactive public art in the moment. Left walls out so people could enjoy it.
- Positive note: There are a lot of people invested and care, that will see something and act. They will help with upkeep. "This is your park"
- Milton Terre: Does anyone stop the kids vandalizing equipment? We pay off duty officers, recreation staff, etc. If staff members have issues with behavior, contact police department.
- Park attendants, lifeguards, etc. are a younger demographic.
- Big Event Month: Central Creek Park, starting to look at scheduling events at McCants Park as well.
- Spring Concert Series this weekend.
 - Used to have it at Crowfield, which it will go back to Crowfield.
 - We will continue to have Central Creek Park events.

- First rain out rescheduled to May 19th
- Interaction between playground and events: Yes, food court is Central in the Park.
- Neighborhood: Communicated with them from Day 1.
- Increasing hospitality revenue
- New Amphitheatre: May 30th groundbreaking ceremony. 11:30 a.m.
 - 13 Month build.
 - News Article was sent to Music Farm and Charleston Performance is looking for outdoor venue option.
- Saturday: upcoming Kid's Fishing Rodeo
- Added parking spaces at Central Creek Park– worked with DPW. Only open for events.
- Just hired Andrew Dowell: Athletic Coordinator. Started beginning of April, taking over Soccer and handling Basketball registrations.
- We have not pushed forward with Lacrosse, getting the Carnes fields built next Spring and add more sports.
- Offer different things so kids can try different sports.
- Ryan Agostinelli: Phase 3 of this development question:
 - Mayor brought it up a month ago.
 - Gymnastics needs more space.
 - #2 in the state, sending 17 girls to regionals this weekend in Florida.
 - Phase 3 is not in sight at this time.
 - The City is looking at expansion and facilities outside of the Recreation Center.
 - Racquetball, swimming pool, skate parks.
 - Teens needing a place to go – skate park option (\$25,000)
- Looking at adding a dog park at Lake Greenview
- Ideas for Carnes, triangle space on Old Mt. Holly
- Signage from North Charleston – fix sign to show Goose Creek large.
- Lynn Greer - Question: Page 3 under baseball: Batting cages hours.
 - Monday – Thursday, Saturday only listed.
 - Reason: those are the hours when baseball is operating, staff is available and the fields are open. Outside hours can be scheduled by teams.
 - Softball clinic: Instructor – Mark Smith – Mt. Pleasant Representative?
- Comment: Lynn thinks it's great we're going in to Etiwan apartment complex to reach out to the kids.
 - Wanting to continue to go into these spaces where the kids that don't get to come out as much to events, playgrounds, etc.
 - Ryan's Creek on the other side of Westview
- Planet Fitness opening has affected Fitness membership numbers.
 - Surveys: after programs, we're currently not capturing feedback.
 - Met with Lyza Bowers, new programs director.
 - Working on formats to start pushing out those feedback surveys.
- We recently lost our Assistant Recreation Director
 - Instead of replacing the position, we split the recreation division and created a Programs Division and Athletic Division.

- Promoted Angela. Over the past 2 years who has lost 2 employees and has done everything including her job and theirs.
- Lyza over Special Events.
- Open Program Coordinator position
 - Patty has left.
 - Second interviews this week for the new position
 - Position: In charge of preschool and all programming for facility
- Looking at opening Special Event Coordinator position in January

Public Comments:

No closing public comments.

Adjournment:

- Chairman Glass made a motion to close the meeting at 7:10 PM
- The motion was granted by Commissioner Milton Terre
- The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris Houston
 - All in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 5th,2023 at 6:00PM

Minutes approved for May 1st, 2023