

Approved Minutes
Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC)
Regular Commission Meeting
861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412
Monday, February 27, 2023

Commission Members Present: Mr. Eduardo Curry, Mr. Brad Taggart, Ms. Michelle Brandt (via teleconference), Ms. Lisa King, Ms. Mattese Lecque, Mr. Collin Bruner, and Ms. Devon Andrews.

Staff Present: Mr. Kevin Bowie, Mr. David Bennett, Mr. Phil Macchia, Mr. Charlie McManus, Ms. Gina Ellis-Strother, Ms. Patty Newshutz, Mr. Steve Hutton (via teleconference), Mr. Tommy Hale (via teleconference), Ms. Lindsay Patterson (via teleconference), Ms. Allison Foster (via teleconference), Ms. Sonya Gardner (via teleconference), Ms. Lisa Knisley-White (via teleconference), Mr. Eric Stewart, Ms. Marcie Chiappone, and Ms. Melissa Muse.

Legal Counsel Present: Mr. Dwayne Green.

Guests Present: None

I. Call to Order and Welcome

A. Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media

The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, February 27, 2023 at the CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC and virtually via www.charlestoncountyparks.com. Mr. Curry, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Curry informed those present that notification of the meeting was sent to the local news media and others requesting notification.

II. Public Comments and Presentations

Mr. Bowie presented Mr. Collin Bruner with a plaque of appreciation for two years of service as the Commission Chair.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. (ACTION) Approval of January 23, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Ms. King and approved by the Commission. (#053-2223)

IV. New Business

Motion to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss contractual matters was made by Ms. Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#054-2223)

A. Executive Director Transition Update

Mr. David Bennett presented on the following topics:

- Executive Director Transition –

Mr. Bennett informed the Commission that he has met with Charleston County Council members, including the Chair, Mr. Teddie Pryor. He has also met with the mayors of; City of North Charleston, City of Charleston, City of Folly Beach, City of Isle of Palms, Town of James Island, Town of Ravenel, Town of Mount Pleasant, Town of Kiawah Island, Town of Hollywood, and Town of Lincolnton. Meetings have also occurred with the Charleston County Administrator, City of Isle of Palms Administrator, Town of Kiawah Island Administrator, and Town of Mount Pleasant Administrator.

- Special Projects –

Mr. Bennett noted that he continues to serve on the following:

- Lowcountry Local First Community (Representative/Board Chair);
- Charleston Area Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) (Sports Council Sub-Committee Member/Charleston Classic Team Practice Coordinator);
- Jenkins Orphanage (Representative/Board Member);
- South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism (SCPRT) Park and Recreation Development Fund (PARF) Grant (County-wide Park & Recreation Liaison/PARF Grant Application Coordinator);
- Cooper River Bridge Run (Personnel Committee Chair).

- Charleston County Parks Foundation (CCPF) Update –

- Holiday card campaign
 - Mailed to nearly 30,000 gold pass holders informing them of the mission and soliciting a donation. As of February 7, 2023, \$28,090 has been raised.
- Holiday Festival of Lights
 - The CCPF donated 285 tickets to local non-profits such as, Pattison's Academy, Mt. Zion Elementary Head Start Program, Charleston Promise Neighborhood, Liberty Hill After School Enrichment Program, and Humanities Foundation.
- Folly Pier Fest
 - CCPF will host the first ever Folly Pier Fest on the reconstructed Edwin S. Taylor Folly Beach Fishing Pier on Saturday, March 11, from 5-8p.m.
 - There has been \$13,750 raised through sponsorship of the event and over 800 tickets sold as of February 23, 2023.
- Access for All
 - So far this fiscal year, the CCPF has provided access to CCPRC recreation facilities, programs, and services for 888 local participants.
 - The CCPF continues to provide Gold Passes for families moving to the area from Ukraine and Afghanistan. So far this fiscal year the Foundation has provided Gold Passes for 5 families.
- CCPF Giving Tree

To be placed at Old Towne Creek County Park.

- Bronze Leaf: \$500
- Silver Leaf: \$1,000
- Golf Leaf: \$2,500
- Adornment (TBD): \$5,000
- Adornment (TBD): \$7,500
- Adornment (TBD): \$10,000

The Commission thanked Mr. Bennett for the presentation.

B. Planning and Development (P&D) Update

Ms. Newshutz gave the Commission updates on the following:

Cooper River County Park and Marina – Transient Dock Repairs, Edisto Island Youth Recreation – Project Update, Park and Recreation Development Grant (PAR) 2022-2023 Application – Lincoln Regional Center of South Carolina, 2021-2022 PAR Grant Award Update – Sweetgrass Park, South Carolina Beach Advocates Conference Highlights, and Folly Beach Fishing Pier (FBFP) – Open to public.

C. Financial Report

Mr. McManus presented and reviewed the checks over \$7500 and financial reports for the month of December.

D. Budget FY23-24

Mr. McManus reviewed the following 2024 budget impacts:

- No increase in operating or debt service mills.
- One increase in fulltime headcount from 183 to 184.
- Total budgeted revenues for the General Agency Fund is \$42,134,135, which is a 10% increase over the FY 2022-2023 budget, due mainly to an increase in property taxes, park admissions, and an increase in the agency budgeted charges and fees.
- The budget includes a 4% cost of living increase for all salaried employees.
- The budget includes an employer increase of 1% in the SC Retirement System.
- The budget includes \$2,500,000 in transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund to provide funding for non-bond related large maintenance Capital Projects and \$150,000 in transfers to fund a committed annual contribution for self-insurance for the new Folly Beach Fishing Pier due to coverage being dropped by the state's Insurance Reserve Fund.
- The budget includes \$127,000 in transfers from the Foundation to the General Fund to provide funding for approved programming supported by the Foundation.

E. Executive Session – Contractual Matters

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss request for proposals for a Ground Lease of CCPRC's Ashley River Property was made by Ms. Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#055-2223)

SC Code Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) - Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.

Upon coming out of Executive Session, the Chair stated that contractual/legal matters were discussed, and no action was taken.

V. **Next Meeting**

- A. Regular Commission Meeting, Monday, March 13, 2023, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eduardo Curry, Chair



Marcie Chiappone, Executive Administrative Associate