

APPROVED MINUTES
CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
861 RIVERLAND DRIVE, CHARLESTON, SC, 29412
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2021

Committee Members Present: Ms. Dale Aren, Finance Committee Chair, Mr. Collin Bruner (via teleconference), Mr. Eduardo Curry, Ms. Mattese Lecque, Mr. Teddy Manos (via teleconference), and Mr. Brad Taggart.

Committee Members Not Present: Ms. Lisa King

Staff Present: Mr. David Bennett, Mr. Kevin Bowie, Mr. Charlie McManus, Mr. Phil Macchia, Ms. Gina Ellis-Strother, Mr. Greg Elliott (via teleconference), Ms. Renee Dickinson (via teleconference), Mr. Steve Hutton (via teleconference), Ms. Patty Newshutz (via teleconference), Mr. Tommy Hale (via teleconference), Ms. Shanté Ellis, Ms. Marcie Chiappone, Ms. Melissa Muse (via teleconference).

I. Call To Order and Welcome

A. Introduction of Guests and Notification to the Media

The Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission Finance Committee met on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at the CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC. Ms. Aren called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Curry informed those present that notification of the meeting had been sent to the local news media and others requesting notification and asked that the record reflect the Commissioners present.

V. New Business

A. FYE2022 Budget Review and Discussion

Ms. Aren noted that she met with David, Kevin and Charlie on Monday, March 8 and commended the staff on their hard work and ability to answer questions/provide explanations.

Mr. Bennett also commended staff for their work. He stated that the Commission received the budget proposal electronically on Friday, March 5 and a physical copy on Monday, March 8. He noted that the budget has the following categories:

- o General Agency;
- o Capital Improvement Plan(CIP);
- o Debt Service; and
- o Charleston County Parks Foundation

He reviewed the budget process that began in September 2020. Davie noted that the agency's mission, vision, and values are layered throughout the budget. He stated that the budget reflects the middle construction phase of the Folly Beach Pier, continued development of Old Towne, West Rural Recreation Projects (i.e. Edisto and Willtown), CIP bridge projects (*reviewed by Kevin later in the meeting*), the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Transition Plan projects, transfer of funding to support small Capital repairs, staff adjustments (i.e. 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), Part-time \$0.25 step increase), increased healthcare & retirement costs, no increase in operating millage, and no increase to full-time staff.

Mr. McManus thanked Ms. Aren for her kind words. Mr. McManus noted that due to COVID most of the staff meetings were held via Microsoft Teams which help to maintain a smooth process. He noted that the agency continues to maintain a successful business model. Mr. McManus stated that

the agency is a little over 50% in taxes and just a little under 50% user fees. He reviewed the following major budget impacts included in the proposed budget:

- no increase in operating mills;
- total budgeted revenues for the General Agency Fund is \$35,912,566, which is a 3% increase over the FY 2020-2021 budget, due mainly to an increase in property taxes as Charleston County continues to grow, and a moderate increase in the agency budgeted charges and fees;
- the budget does not include any impacts from the effects of the Coronavirus on general operations but does include \$50,000 in direct costs related to the management of same;
- FY 2021-2022 will see a full year of operations at the new dog park at Wannamaker County Park in North Charleston and at Johns Island County Park, and a new Fishing Dock at James Island County Park;
- the budget includes a 2% cost of living increase for all salaried staff and a full year of the implemented Compensation and Reclassification Study. Wages will see an increase of .25 cents per hour for all part time staff;
- the budget includes an employer increase of 1% in the SC Retirement System, an 8% increase in health insurance premiums and a 14% reduction in Workers Compensation premiums due to an overall reduction in claims over the past 3 years; and
- the budget includes \$2,000,000 in transfers from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund to provide funding for non-bond related large maintenance Capital Projects.

Mr. Bowie reviewed a presentation on the recommended bridge projects to smoothly transition from an old to a new GO bond.

- Projects (\$10,405,000 total):
 - Palmetto Island County Park – Design and Development Plans/Permitting \$900,000;
 - Agency Warehouse Design and Construct \$3M;
 - HQ Office Design Development Plans/Permitting \$500,000;
 - West County Rural Recreation (additional funding) 400,000;
 - East Cooper Aquatic Center – Design Development Plans/Permitting - \$350,000;
 - Cooper River County Park Phase II (Restroom and Picnic Areas) \$1.12M;
 - Spring Grove Master Plan (already have restricted funds of \$75,000 to complete); and
 - Remley's Boat Landing (\$2.5M (CCPRC will apply for reimbursement grand from DNR for \$2.33M.
- Funding Sources (\$10,405,000 total):
 - Direct Placement Bond \$8M;
 - Restricted Funds for Spring Grove \$75,000; and
 - DNR Grant for Remley's Point Boat Landing \$2.33M.
- Bridge Project Timeline:
 - Finishing Previous GO Bond (Old Town County Park and Folly Beach Pier)
 - Present – July 31, 2024
 - Bridge Projects
 - July 2021-Dec 2024
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - July 2021 – December 2023
 - Planning New GO Bond
 - October 2023-June 2024

Mr. Curry asked if there is a list that can be pulled from that is not currently included in the list of recommended projects. He also asked if they are a part of a continued project or in the perspective hopper to pull from. Mr. Bowie confirmed the project list does exist based on the previous Parks, Recreation, Open Spaces, and Trails (PROST) Comprehensive Plan. He noted that Bulow is on the list and currently going through permitting with the Army Corp of Engineers. He noted a permit is currently involved with a legal case. Until the permit is released, staff can't move forward with the project, but funds in the current GO Bond are set aside for a Bulow Master Plan (two-year process) should the permit become available. Mr. Bennett noted the Commission's Strategic Planning Committee and the public will be engaged as the new comprehensive plan is developed. Mr. Bowie stated that the agency's GO Bond borrowing capacity and constructions rates could impact the projects that can be completed.

Ms. Lecque asked if the items included in the current GO Bond and the bridge projects will be completed by 2024. Mr. Bennett asked Ms. Newshutz if Old Town County Park, Folly Beach Pier, and the bridge projects will be complete by 2024. Ms. Newshutz confirmed, but noted a project or two may stretch into end of 2024, but not many. Mr. Bennett stated that the agency is in a good position to continue making responsible steps towards capital project progress.

Mr. Bruner asked what would happen if the DNR grant proposal is not approved. Mr. Bowie confirmed that the project will come back to the Commission to make a decision if the project receives \$0 or partial grant funding. Mr. Bruner asked for the scope of the Remley's Point project. Ms. Newshutz stated everything except the ramp needs to be replaced. Mr. Bennett noted that the agency has a good relationship due to past grants and staff feel confident. Ms. Newshutz noted that the amount of funding from federal government is not steady, but staff will monitor the grant when the funds become available and narrow down the right timing of the request.

Mr. Bennett stated that if any Commissioner's have further questions they can contact anyone on the Executive Management or Senior Management Team as staff will be seeking Commission action on Monday, March 15 during the regular Commission Meeting. He also mentioned that Mr. McManus has a short turn-around timeframe/deadline to get the budget to Charleston County to be included in their budget process.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dale Aren, Finance Committee Chair



Shanté Ellis, Executive Administrative Manager