



Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes
May 15, 2023



Board Member Attendance:

Ianta Burks, Chairman	BOC Chairman Appointee	Present
Ronald Miller	District 1 Appointee	Present
Rickey Lovelace	District 2 Appointee	Present
Carlos Benifield, Vice Chair	District 3 Appointee	Present
Tyrone Dillard	District 4 Appointee	Present
Carlos Frazier	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Present
Vacant	Parks and Recreation / At Large	Vacant

Guest Attendance:

Troy Hodges	Director/Parks and Recreation	Present
Tiffany Moen	Deputy Office Administrator	Present

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ianta Burks called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Notice to the public was posted on the Clayton County Parks and Recreation website and social media.

II. RECOGNIZE CITIZENS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Herman “Drew” Andrews introduced himself and is a resident of District 4. He spoke about concerns listed below and Director Hodges responded to all as noted.

- Restrooms at Independence Park: Funding has been received and vandal resistant restrooms to be installed at the park.
- Purpose of price increases at Spivey Splash: Seasonal pass increases to continue park improvements and out of county costs increased the most to focus on providing for county residents. Daily admission increases to have one admission fee for all visitors to increase line speed and reduce disagreements about child’s age. Only children 2 and under in a swim diaper can enter free of charge.
- Youth seasonal employees pay not being based on special skill set: lower level employees make the least, lifeguards make more due to increased responsibilities, and lead lifeguard make more than lifeguards.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The April 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes were presented to the Board for review, discussion, and approval. No revisions noted. Ronald Miller made a Motion to approve the Minutes and Carlos Benifield seconded the Motion. All in favor; no objections. The Motion was approved.

IV. BUSINESS

A. Follow Up: Pine Circle Park

Ronald Miller visited the park and referenced concerns being the park is off the beaten path and no street lighting causing safety issues. He added that there is an unknown development

being built across the street. His recommendations included directional signage to the park to increase patrons which would increase safety. He referenced a longer term solution being relocating the park to a different location such as to the Ellenwood PUD. Director Hodges said he will contact T & D about signage. Chairman Burks mentioned highlighting different parks each on the website to increase awareness of park facilities. She will include marketing the parks on the next agenda.

B. Baseball Field Tarps

Carlos Benifield asked about having tarps for baseball fields during rain. He is seeking to remedy concerns about the infields being unlevel and the batter's box not drying out particularly at Rum Creek. He added that the park is not being maintained as the fields need raking, mowing, spraying for bugs, and potholes on the infield. He added that the coordinators are seen performing maintenance, so he doesn't understand the need for maintenance. The board discussed the type of dirt/clay that the fields are made from, common issues with it, and a need to purchase dirt to level all the fields. Director Hodges said that tarps do not work with the department's fields as they have been tried in the past, that the fields are maintained daily, it would cost millions to level all the fields, the fields have been treated for ants, and any Parks & Recreation staff will maintain the fields as needed and assigned. He will provide information as to whether the fields were maintained this past Tuesday or Saturday. The board and director discussed what exactly "maintained" includes for the fields.

C. Better Umpires & Referees

Carlos Benifield mentioned that an umpire was not paid for 3-4 games, that an umpire did not know how to call games and was being instructed by a county employee, and who does the county use for umpires. He said that umpires are not paid enough so there are no quality umpires for the county but that being ridiculed is part of sports. Director Hodges said that the county contracts with Peach State Umpires and the issue is that no one wants to volunteer to umpire because they are ridiculed by parents and coaches. He added that parents/coaches will be removed from the park if they ridicule the umpires. Director Hodges will follow up with the stage of current umpire contract.

D. All Star Games for Sports

Carlos Benifield asked about having an All Star game for each sport. He feels that the activities are competitive because trophies are given out and parents pay for the children to participate. The board discussed whether Parks and Recreation teaches youth the fundamentals of sports or prepares them for the next level and whether the activities are competitive. Director Hodges said that the department's Athletics is recreation and not competitive so there won't be an All Star game. He added that they have tried such games in the past and they didn't work well because kids do not show up after the season ends because vacations have started.

E. Scholarships

Carlos Benifield asked if parents could still receive scholarships for football. Director Hodges stated it is more of financial assistance than a scholarship. The child of a head coach can receive a full scholarship/assistance for their child to participate. If a parent demonstrates a financial need, their child may receive some financial assistance/scholarship for registration fees.

F. Virginia Gray Repair Update

Rickey Lovelace said he has noticed items at the center that need repair including gym floors (left side), equipment needs replacing, the track floods when it rains, and they need a second AED at the center. Tiffany Moen said that new Matrix equipment was ordered and will be

delivered on June 10, 2023. Director Hodges said that the floors did have some repair work done, there should be two AEDs, and Building & Maintenance would be responsible for any building leaks.

G. Flat Shoals Repair Update

Rickey Lovelace asked about repairs to Flat Shoals Park. Director Hodges said that field 1 is the main issue and it is a current project for the department. The funds have been identified and the field should be usable by the end of summer but definitely completed by next baseball season.

V. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Parks and Recreation Director Troy Hodges provided an update on current projects and events related to Clayton County Parks and Recreation. Director Hodges informed the Board of the following:

- Employee Day at Spivey Splash is 5/20/2023 and Opening Day is 5/27/2023.
- Fall sports registration is now open. In the future, county residents will be afforded the opportunity to register prior to out of county participants.
- Over 500 season passes to Spivey Splash have been sold. Total season passes for the year is 1000.
- Summer camp still has few remaining spots and usually is full by the first week of camp.
- Corporate sponsor update: Troy Stubbs, Kobo Simpson, and Nigel Grant are working on sponsorship information/documents for marketing to corporations.
- A new schedule of fees planned for January 2024 and out of county fees will be increased for all sports, programs, and activities.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Tiffany Moen reminded the board that there is no June meeting due to the Juneteenth holiday and asked if the board still wanted to meet at Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center for the July meeting.
- B. Chairman Burks asked if the facility managers could be present that the beginning of the board meetings to introduce themselves. Tiffany Moen said she could facilitate that for future meetings.
- C. Director Hodges informed the board that the football league will not be changing. The other agencies have agreed to follow the county's volunteer background requirements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Carlos Frazier made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Ronald Miller seconded the Motion. The Clayton County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.