

Goose Creek Recreation Commission Meeting

November 4th, 2024

6:00PM

Present:

- Commission: Jeff Reuer, Harris Houston, Lynn Greer, Anthony Radcliffe
- Pending Commission Member: Ryan Agostinelli (via conference call)
- Staff: Recreation Director Crystal Reed, Office Manager Arielle Mann
- Public: Steve Kiser, Council Member Gayla McSwain, Bob Stevens

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Vice Chairman Lynn Greer.

General Public comments:

- Steve Kiser: Background - came to Goose Creek in 1973 with the Navy as a submarine sailor. He is married with 1 son and has always been involved in sports as an adult. Steve is an Avid runner. For his 70th birthday he ran 41 miles for wounded warrior project. Steve ran 24-hour races in his younger years. He is really excited about what he has seen Goose Creek doing over the years, particularly over the last few years. He is an associate pastor of Calvary Nazarene church and loves being active. The church has been involved with the city, and they will be working with the Senior Luncheons coming up. Steve loves being outside and appreciates the paths that Goose Creek has put around the area. In his area, "we don't have anything like that yet". Crystal Reed mentioned we have just received \$600,000 from Berkeley County for connectivity (connecting pathways throughout the city).
- Bob Stevens: Chair Amenities and Infrastructure Committee with Crowfield Community. They (Crowfield Community) are getting ready to make a long-range plan. Pickleball courts are being used all the time here in Recreation. They are in the process of converting tennis courts to a couple of pickleball courts. They are interested in wanting to know what Recreation is doing, and if it coincides with what Crowfield is planning. Crowfield has 16 miles of trails, and they are working on concerns with College Park Road and traffic/public trails and funding for connected trails. They are looking into long-term goals for this project.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

- Vice Chairman Greer requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7th, 2024, meeting.
 - Motion was granted by Commissioner Jeffery Reuer
 - Motion was seconded by Commissioner Anthony Radcliffe
 - Discussion: The group was informed of typos and requested changes. The previous minutes will be corrected and signed at next meeting.
 - All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Reports:

- Vice Chairman Greer requested a motion to approve the financial report for October 2024.
 - Discussion:
 - We're looking good.
 - Our taxes don't fully hit usually until the end of December.
 - Revenue has dropped in memberships, fitness classes, etc. and our marketing team and Sylvia (Fitness Coordinator) have been marketing on socials, adding new classes, and trying to figure out a way to get more members here.
 - Outside of fitness, our youth sports numbers are strong, the city is continuously growing.
 - Pool: Community Programming – we started offering free programs. People thought it was Crowfield Pool and they were not welcome to attend. To let people know it's open to all, we offered movie nights, programs, games, etc. Pool revenue has increased. We had a great summer and will continue to hopefully grow.
 - Expenditures: we are right on track at 78% with 2 more months in the year.
 - When we exceed revenue goals. It has been previously asked: where does that money go at the end of the year? It rolls into our General Fund. When we have large projects, we use those funds. We have several projects this year that were large budget and over budget items such as A/C replacements, Foster Creek Fields, Dogwood Park upgrades, etc.
 - Commissioner Lynn Greer questioned: Where is the Government Grants line item on the budget report of \$70,000 going? N/A is listed.
 - Commissioner Lynn Greer questioned about Miscellaneous Revenue. Crystal Responded that it is mostly from Sponsorship revenue at Central Creek Park. The sponsors are on a 3-year contract, and once that ends, there will be more opportunities to look for additional sponsorships.
 - Commissioner Lynn Greer questioned: Interest Income and where that income comes from. Crystal will clarify with our CFO Tyler.
 - Motion was granted by Commissioner Anthony Radcliffe
 - Seconded by Commissioner Harris Houston
 - All in favor, motion carried.

Recreation Director's Report – Crystal Reed:

- The month of October is when the Recreation Department feels we kick off the busiest time of year for us.
- Fall Fest was massive. We fill like even though we plan for it, we are never ready for the amount of people showing up at our events.
 - Changes: We are adding a shuttle to next year's event to help with parking.

- One issue was scheduling a concert the same night as Fall Fest. We were unaware of what production looks like and we had to cut the space in half and get rid of the hay ride this year.
- We had Randall Fowler in concert that same night and it was a big hit.
- The last concert of the series was this past weekend. We had great comments about the diversity in events that were offered.
- We have hosted the Farmers Market this Summer. Overall, it has been a hit. We are competing with sports after school during the time it is offered. We reached out to vendors for them to provide us feedback on the time due to time change with daylight savings. We shifted the market from 5-8 pm to 4-7 pm. The next 2 markets will be from 4-7 pm with the with last market being a Holiday Market.
- Anthony Radcliffe mentioned the issue with the market being held on Wednesday night. Crystal responded: We reached out with a survey of vendors to find the day that works with them due to their availability in respect to the days they work other markets in the area and Wednesday was the available day they provided us with. We are looking at adding different days for special Markets and the green space at Carnes Crossroads.
- We finished out October with the Halloween Carnival at CCP, and had Fire and Berkeley Electric do a candy drop.
 - Volunteers created a path around the park with different games to get candy.
 - When we started, we had different groups of volunteers setting up a table in the gym and it has grown to a large event at Central Creek Park and really is a Carnival now.
- Events have been doing really well recently.
- Youth Sports: We are finishing up Soccer and Football this week.
 - We are working on improvements at Felkel Field Batting Cages. We replaced nets this year. Turf was torn up, so it was pulled but not replaced. We hired 2 new maintenance team members today. Maintenance workload has grown as the city and recreation grows with it.
 - Youth sports are the bread & butter of our department.
 - Getting the batting cages back up and running is a priority.
 - Dogwood Park: We upgraded and painted the facility. We are planning on making adjustments in 2025 to continue to make it ADA Compliant.
 - Crystal completed out a PARD Grant application last month to hopefully get a new playground at the St. James Park.
 - Foster Creek Field was completed, and we are letting the sod take root. It looks beautiful and we are hoping that when we open that space it reduces wear and tear on the other fields from overuse.
 - We are putting a maintenance turf group, Coastal Turf, on contract. We have learned that with inconsistency of staff we have struggled to make sure we are getting treatment on time. A lot of that has shifted and having a management company stay on track for us will be a game changer. We want our fields to be premier fields.
- Commissioner Houston questioned the playgrounds in the neighborhoods and the shade options for them. Crystal responded that a lot of the newer playground equipment companies offer a shade option after the fact. There is a cancer prevention group that is offering a program

that includes shade sales purchasing assistance with the Recreation department offering sunscreen at parks and playgrounds.

- The main priority for shade is Felkel Field and then neighborhood parks.
- Public attendee Bob Stevens suggested buying in bulk with the shade sale companies to relieve some of the cost.
- Art Commission is making a lot of moves. We are really excited about opening The Creek Collective. Grand opening dates – they are looking at February 2025. The Recreation center hosts an artist on each side once a month and the Artist Guild hosts their shows here. The Creek Collective is small, and we will probably have quarterly shows and specialty art displays, paint & sip nights and other art related events.
- Public attendee Bob Stevens suggested a trail Idea Crowfield Blvd: part of the trail and the extension would be a public trail. They could have some kiosks where artwork would be displayed and have an Art Walk.
- Commissioner Greer asked if the Senior Center would be an option. We have an agreement where we help take care of the property and staff maintenance/custodians.
- Goose Statue Updates: Berkeley County Library and Senior Center are each getting a Goose.
 - They are wanting to put together a Tour De Goose, which would be a bike ride through the city on a route around to see several of the geese statues. There could be competitions for decorating Geese in the future. Art is taking off in the City.
 - There are 41 purchased Geese with more companies that have reached out.
 - Pending Commission Member Ryan Agostinelli questioned the timeline of getting a Goose statue. What is the typical timeline from purchase to delivery? Crystal responded that a lot of the time have the Geese, but it might be held up with the artist. Crowfield had a design competition for the Goose, and they are working with the artist on completing the design.
 - Crystal mentioned when we have the Geese in stock, turn around time is quicker because they can get with the artist, complete the design and get the goose statue out to the business that placed the order. However, it does take more time if we do not have any Geese in storage due to the company, we order from receiving the order, casting the Geese, and shipping the Geese to us.
- Senior Luncheons coming up in November and December. The invitation has been sent out for the Commission Christmas Dinner.
- The department is rolling, the team is happy and feels purpose in what they're doing.
- We had our annual staff appreciation event recently. Employees of the Year nominations were submitted from the department for Part Time and Full Time Employee of the Year. Full Time: Hannah Miller, our Central Creek Park manager, won for Recreation Full Time and Overall City Employee of the Year. The part-time employee of the year was Mrs. Arnetta, our customer service staff member who works at the front desk during the week in the mornings.
- Commissioner Greer asked about the bench for Mr. Terre. The bench is out at the park and the plaque has been ordered. We will coordinate a date and time with the family for the bench dedication.
- Commissioner Greer made a motion for the Commission members to vote for the determination of Mr. Steve Kiser's application for the open Recreation District seat on the Recreation Commission. Mr. Kiser was asked to step out while the voting took place.

- A vote for the commission seat was cast with all in favor, no opposition.
- Steve Kiser's information is listed as follows:
 - Address: 114 Elrod Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445
 - Phone Number: 843-553-5213
 - Email Address: skiser10@comcast.net
- Pending Commission Member Ryan Agostinelli questioned about following up on his appointment. Crystal responded that she would check with Philip Obie at the Berkeley office to follow up.

Public Comments:

- N/A

No closing public comments.

Adjournment:

- Vice Chairman Greer requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.
- The motion was granted by Commissioner Anthony Radcliffe
 - The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harris Houston
 - All in favor, motion carried.

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 2nd, 2024, at 6:00PM

Minutes approved for November 4th, 2024.