

IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION
**STRATEGIC PLANNING
TASK FORCE MEETING**
Saluda Shoals Park - River Center
February 23, 2009
6:00pm

Task Force Members Attending: J.B. Brown, Julia Lee, Jimmy Addison, Lynn Willis, Stan Shealy, Nickie Dickson, Gary Reinhart, Lee Parker, George Duke, David Edwards, John Holladay, John Taylor, Glenn King, Cynthia Robinson, Byron Roberts

Task Force Members Unable to Attend: Steve Gantt, David Wright, Barbara Willm, Danny Brabham

Non-Members Attending: Irene Tyson, Elizabeth Taylor, Eve Mittendorf, Jack Terrell, Jim Wellman, John Cantey, Belinda Rhodes

At 6:00pm Irene Tyson welcomed guests and asked for a motion to approve minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY LYNN WILLIS.

Discussion occurred regarding correction to minutes on page 3, item 13 to include Harbison Community Pool. Discussion also occurred regarding page 2, item 3 COG population projections that seniors will be the majority in Chapin over the next 20 years. Stan Shealy stated the senior population will likely increase, but will not be the majority of the population. Discussion also occurred regarding lower housing values as a result of younger families in the Chapin. Irene Tyson suggested stating, "There will be an increase in senior and young family populations." Discussion occurred on page 4, item 7 regarding identifying in-district and out-of-district users and available facilities.

VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

MEETING SUMMARY: DRAFT, March 3, 2009

The following is a summary of the discussion during the February 23 Task Force Meeting. The discussion began with the assignment from the February 9 meeting: brainstorm ways to effectively partner with Richland County. While no clear ideas for partnership were offered, the following points were made.

- How well does the supplemental fee for out-of-district users equal the level of service they receive? Is the fee adequate for what they receive?
- What if there were no supplement fees?
- Need to serve those who live in the district but do not use.
- Lexington County/ICRC taxes vs. Out-of-District Fees
- Lexington County is not going to annex the Richland County part of Lexington Richland School District 5, but what if the Irmo Fire District is used as a model for cooperation and service?
- Partnership = win for Richland County: If the taxes are higher, there would be lower fees.

- Can't assume all out-of-district users are from Richland County – many come from Saluda and Newberry Counties and other parts of Lexington County.
- Dutch Fork area = largest growth for region
- Number of participants in sports programs: in Chapin, ICRC is the only provider; in Irmo, there are multiple providers
- Make programs accessible to low income residents.
- Partner within Lexington/Richland School District 5, then those beyond the school district.

❖ **FINANCE FOCUS GROUP: JIM WELLMAN**

Jim Wellman presented the finance focus group report. The focus group concluded the Commission has positioned itself to ensure its continued stability by effective financial management, conservative budgeting of income and expenditures, and professional oversight (audit). In addition, the group determined that while total income for ICRC is derived from multiple sources, the largest percentage is taxes, grants and user fees. The focus group was given three hypothetical projects to recommend funding for and following was their recommendation: 1) \$500,000 project could be funded from current operations and excess fund balance, 2) a \$1M project could be funded through additional sources such as revenue bonds, contributions, and partnerships, 3) the larger projects, \$5M, would require additional support from County Council.

Discussion occurred regarding estimated assessed property value increases. Cynthia Robinson asked Mr. Wellman to explain tax increment funding (TIF) and how it works. Jim Wellman communicated that a TIF is a specifically defined geographic area where the governing body (such as County Council) designates a portion of the property tax collected for a specific purpose. It can be a part of the millage rate or a separate fee imposed.

Impact fees are fees charged to developers or new homeowners that help offset the increased cost to the community infrastructure (such as schools, roads, fire service, recreation commissions etc.) by the addition of new residents to the area. Usually this is in addition to property taxes and is a onetime charge.

Hospitality taxes are fees imposed by the governing body for such things as hotel room and prepared restaurant meals. These fees are then allocated by the governing body as they see fit. Usually these fees are designated to promote tourism, much like the accommodations tax.

❖ **STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS: ELIZABETH TAYLOR**

Elizabeth Taylor presented the stakeholder interview summary report; 28 stakeholders were interviewed between October 2008 and February 2009. The goal of the meetings was to identify the stakeholder's perceived value and benefit of ICRC. The consistent message as the number one value was safe/accessible family recreation; followed by health and wellness and preservation of green space. The largest concern regarding community issues and problems was health and wellness and the items most requested to be included in a master plan was completion of the Lower Saluda Greenway, Nature's Theater and trails. George Duke inquired if the stakeholder's interviewed live within the Irmo Chapin Recreation District. Elizabeth Taylor replied, some.

❖ **COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: DR. BOB BROOKOVER**

Dr. Brookover presented his findings from the assessment, applauding the Commission for the depth and thoroughness of its outreach to the community. The Commission's efforts resulted in record responses to the survey, which supports a solid vision among residents. Glenn King and George Duke requested copies of the needs assessment report and PowerPoint presentation. Elizabeth Taylor communicated she would email the documents to the task force members.

The Task Force requested three additional data sets from the Community Needs Assessment report.

1. Needs based on respondents from Lexington County vs. Richland County and others (Newberry and Saluda)
2. Needs based on age group (three major groups)
3. Needs based on user vs. non-user

MOVING FORWARD

Now that all research and data have been presented to the Task Force, the work begins in prioritizing the programming and facility needs for the Commission. One of the most challenging issues, in-district vs. out-of-district users, cannot be solved by the Task Force. The Task Force should send a message to the Commission that this needs to be resolved. Elizabeth Taylor will address this during the March 9 Task Force meeting.

The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission provides facilities and programs that serve a large regional area. While 42% of its funding is received through taxes paid by Lexington County residents who reside in the Lexington Richland School District 5, the majority (58%) of funding is received through other sources (user fees, grants, interest, and other). Therefore, the market for the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is regional, encompassing several counties in the midlands of South Carolina. Special events draw participants from beyond the midlands.

Based on the input received from numerous sources (focus group, stakeholder interviews, community needs assessment), the following assumptions have been made regarding community values, programs, and facilities.

Community Values – expectations for the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission Programs

- Safe and accessible recreation
- Health and wellness
- Preservation of green space
- Youth development

Priority Program Needs

- Aquatics
- Concerts, performing arts
- Fitness classes for adults
- Outdoor adventure
- Teen activities – wellness and recreation
- Senior programs – wellness, recreation, and support services
- Visual Arts
- Special needs programs
- Self-improvement

Priority Facility Needs

- Aquatics
- Theatre/cultural arts – Nature’s Theatre
- Fitness and recreation center
- Rollerblade and Skateboard park
- Indoor walking track
- Lower Saluda Greenway and trails
- Soccer fields
- Balance of large community parks and smaller neighborhood parks

- Multi-purpose facility – tennis, soccer, aquatics, indoor team sports

Location of New Facilities

With the regional market of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission programs, the Task Force is asked to consider where new facilities should be located in order to best serve the market. The market exists regardless of political lines: how can the ICRC best serve *the market*?

Task Force Assignments

During the March 9, meeting, the Task Force will discuss these priorities and establish priority recommendations for programs and facilities. In addition, the Task Force will discuss recommended locations for new facilities. Please accept the following assignments and arrive prepared to discuss these priorities. Assignments can be handwritten or typed – we just want your opinions.

1. Define the user groups and their program needs. (Note: a program is a broad category that can encompass many activities. For example, wellness is a program that has the following activities: aerobics, yoga, Weight Watchers®, water aerobics. Youth competitive sports are a program with baseball, tennis, soccer, and softball.)
 - Seniors
 - Active Seniors
 - Elder Care Services
 - Youth
 - Families
2. Define the different types of parks and benefits:
 - active recreation,
 - neighborhood
 - trails and green space
 - schools
3. Based on the priority programs and facilities, please mark (on the enclosed map) ideal and strategic locations for new facilities that will best serve the market.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.