

IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING UPDATE ON STRATEGIC MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

Crooked Creek Park
March 30, 2010
6:30 PM

I. Call to Order

Elizabeth Taylor opened the meeting and guests were welcomed.

II. Requirements of the Freedom of Information Act

The news media was notified and a notice and agenda posted fifteen business days prior to the meeting.

III. Presentation on Strategic Plan update.

Elizabeth Taylor distributed the 2010 – 2020 Strategic Master Plan Summary. Ms. Taylor communicated the plan had not changed since presented by the task force and adopted by the Commission on September 23, 2009. Elizabeth Taylor informed the public on the status of each of the facility priorities:

- Saluda River Greenway Trail – the greenway is generating a lot of support regionally from Central Midlands, River Alliance, PRT (Parks, Recreation & Tourism), and the Department of Transportation. Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission would be involved from a management of the trail perspective.
- Multi-Use Outdoor Facility (Chapin) – Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission received approval of a \$1M bond to purchase land. Currently, the Commission and staff are looking at potential tracts in the Chapin area.
- Indoor/Outdoor Facility (Irmo) – The current facility in Irmo (Seven Oaks Park) is at programming capacity. This park serves 3 times the population in the Irmo area compared to the population of Chapin and the facility is 2/3 the size of Crooked Creek Park.

In addition, Commission and staff are in discussion with Lexington County regarding use of 23 acres on the B.C. Components property (frontage) for potential business development opportunities. This would get the property back on the tax roll and the remaining 90 acres would be used for development of recreational space. This would benefit both the County and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission.

In regards to the financial objectives, as directed in the Strategic Plan, the Commission will stay within the District's 8% bond capacity.

- Nature's Theater at Saluda Shoals Park – The Nature's Theater is currently a Saluda Shoals Foundation project. The Foundation has formally started a capital campaign and a committee has been formed and is moving forward on raising money.
- District Wide Trails – part of the master plan will include district wide trail recommendations.
- Aquatic Center – while the Commission and staff understand a need for an aquatic center in the community, it is very difficult to meet the financial objectives of the Strategic Plan regarding operational costs. However, we are working with the Lowman Home in discussing programming opportunities for seniors, which meets one of the program priorities.

IV. Public Questions and Responses

Name: George Duke

Address: 637 Webster Point, Chapin, SC 29036

Name: J.B. Brown

Address: 155 Bay Point Drive, Chapin, SC 29036

Question: George Duke - What is the key for the Department of Transportation; why would they be interested in the Saluda River Greenway Trail project?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – it provides alternative transportation and connectivity in the community. The project would connect a trail from the Lake Murray Dam, down Bush River Road and then along the Saluda River from Saluda Shoals Park to Columbia.

Question: George Duke – Is the trail on this side of the river?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – Yes – the trail is on the north bank of the river.

Question: George Duke – Where in Chapin are you looking for additional land?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – near Crooked Creek Park.

Question: J.B. Brown – Wasn't Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission looking at annexation in Chapin at one time?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – I'm not aware of ICRC annexing property in Chapin; there was a gentleman who wanted to donate some property, but he wasn't able to make that happen.

Question: George Duke – (regarding the multi-use facility in Chapin). Why can't you put the multi-use facility at the B.C. Components property?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – the multi-use outdoor facility was identified by the task force as a need in the Chapin area. The Commission and staff will develop a master plan in the upcoming year according to the strategic plan objectives.

Question: J.B. Brown – Are you optimistic you can purchase property in Chapin for \$1M?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – yes, we are very optimistic.

Question: George Duke – (regarding the multi-use outdoor facility in Irmo). Why can't you build a new facility on the B.C. Components property?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – the Commission could build a new facility on the B.C. Components property. However, a new facility would be no less than \$11M dollars and would leave little money left to develop the identified remaining facilities (in the Strategic Master Plan Summary).

There are two pieces to meeting the facility objectives in the Irmo area:

1. Financial piece – do the financial resources meet the objectives identified by the task force in the Strategic Plan?
2. Community – are the local community members around Seven Oaks Park supportive of moving the facility? The homeowners in the Whitehall community do not want to see Seven Oaks Park relocated; the park has been there for 35 years and is woven into the fabric of that community. Also, the community members would not be able to walk to the park; there is no easy walking access to the other side of St. Andrews Road.

Question: J.B. Brown – Is it easier and more cost effective to build a new facility in Irmo?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – in the next year the Commission will hire a planner to help design and recommend the best use of current property and development recommendations for facilities identified in the Strategic Plan.

Question: J.B. Brown – Why can't you put in a tunnel under St. Andrews Road to the B.C. Components property? A tunnel was developed on Harbison.

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – (to the recording secretary) please capture that question/comment.

Question: George Duke – How is there more demand at Seven Oaks Park if there is no growth in the area?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – There is a lot of current demand; seniors are in the park from 6:00am – 3:00pm and children come into the park from 3:00pm – 9:00pm.

J.B. Brown – the demand is due to good programming, which is attracting current population.

Question: George Duke – Is the district wide trail plan different than the Greenway Trail?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – The Greenway Trail will be a part of the district wide trail plan.

Question: George Duke – What is your thought regarding the 2010 property assessment?

Response: Elizabeth Taylor – It will be interesting to see the results of the assessment; the property values may not change given the current economic conditions. In addition, if there was growth, ICRC would only receive 1% “windfall” in the year of the assessment.

V. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.