

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission Work Session Meeting

May 26, 2021
Seven Oaks Park
6:30 PM

Members Attending: Bill Harmon, Gary Boyd, Akil Ross, Tim Stewart, Laura Huggins

Non-Members Attending: Mark Smyers, Eve Mittendorf

Mark Smyers distributed an invitation to Dolly Patton's retirement on Thursday, June 4, 2021; the event was organized and funded by the Saluda Shoals Foundation. Mr. Smyers presented an overview of the agenda items; one of the items includes adoption of the FY 22 budget. Mr. Smyers asked if there were any questions; there were no questions from the Commission.

Mark Smyers shared an update on a property donation from Dominion; the parcel is a rail-line. Dominion owns and maintains the property, but CSX used the spur to deliver coal to the power plant at the back of the Lake Murray dam. Dominion has been working with CSX on removing the rails from the spur line. Discussion occurred on the timeline, location of the line, and tax map numbers. Chairman Harmon inquired on the approximate closing costs. Commissioner Stewart stated approximately \$5000. Mark Smyers communicated that amount includes survey cost. Discussion occurred regarding use of property. Chairman Stewart shared the intended use of the space is for greenspace and walking trails. Commissioner Huggins inquired on the width of the trails. Commissioner Stewart stated approximately 30-40 ft. Discussion occurred regarding beginning and end of rail-line (St. Andrews to Bush River). Discussion also occurred regarding the long term vision of the property and connectivity to the greenway, other trails and schools. Commissioner Huggins inquired on the maintenance cost and insurance cost. Mark Smyers stated that there is not a significant amount of maintenance cost.

Mark Smyers reviewed the current short term bond program and reminded the Commission that the program sunsets in December. As a result, staff is presenting for Commission approval a new bond resolution that will re-start the short term bond program for 8 years; the 8 year mark backs up to the next strategic plan. Chairman Harmon inquired if the bond resolution would have any tax implication for citizens. Mark Smyers stated no; this is a funding mechanism for large capital projects up to \$6.5M; every project/capital purchase is presented to Commission for approval and is always at the discretion of the Board. Commissioner Ross requested confirmation that these monies are only used for capital purchases. Mr. Smyers stated yes. Commissioner Ross inquired on the amount of the last bond program. Mr. Smyers stated \$2M for five years.

Mr. Smyers presented the Park School Agreement; staff re-negotiated the indoor arrangements; indoor activities have increased in the last 3-4 years. Mark Smyers presented a lease agreement for outdoor facilities for approval; staff no longer need Nursery Road and Irmo Middle School to program activities. Mr. Smyers shared that staff will continue to maintain Leaphart and Chapin Elementary. Commissioner Ross stated that the Park School Agreement between Lexington Richland School District V and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is the longest park school agreement in the State. Mark Smyers stated both the school district and ICRC see this as an important arrangement for the kids and the community.

Mark Smyers shared an update on the Lower Saluda Greenway; the Executive Director presented to Lexington County Council an update on the Lower Saluda Greenway and asked

County Council for a letter of support and partnership in seeking Federal grant opportunities. Lexington County Council gave the Executive Director direction to work with the attorney moving forward. Mr. Smyers shared that there are no financial reports due to timing of hiring a new finance director. Mark Smyers stated that staff will deliver the March, April, and May financials in the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting. Mr. Smyers communicated that staff typically present budget amendments in May; however, no budget amendments will be presented this month. Mark Smyers reminded the Commission that there were budget amendments presented in March 2021 Commission meeting.

There being no further discussion, the Commission and staff moved to the General Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission
GENERAL SESSION

May 26, 2021
Seven Oaks Park
7:00 PM

Members Attending: Bill Harmon, Gary Boyd, Akil Ross, Tim Stewart, Laura Huggins

Non-Members Attending: Mark Smyers, Eve Mittendorf, Jay Downs, John Cantey, Alfred Comfort, Ray Jones

Bill Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Chairman Harmon delivered the invocation. Guests were welcomed.

I. REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The news media was notified of the meeting; it was posted on the website and a notice and agenda was posted at the park sites one week prior to the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURA HUGGINS TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 28, 2021, MINUTES AS PRESENTED. AKIL ROSS SECONDED. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were submitted as presented.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 21/22 Budget Adoption

Mark Smyers shared that a Public Hearing for the FY 21/22 budget was held on May 25, 2021; one member from the public attended and staff presented the budget.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TIM STEWART TO ACCEPT THE FY 21/22 BUDGET AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY AKIL ROSS. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Property Donation – Dominion Energy

A MOTION WAS MADE BY AKIL ROSS TO GRANT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT A PROPERTY DONATION FROM DOMINION ENERGY. SECONDED BY LAURA HUGGINS.

Commissioner Ross inquired on a timeline. Mr. Smyers stated that Dominion is continuing the clean-up of the rail-line; anticipated timeline is probably end of July or August.

VOTE TAKE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Bond Resolution Petition

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TIM STEWART TO ACCEPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE BOND RESOLUTION PETITION. SECONDED BY GARY BOYD. VOTE TAKE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Park School Lease Agreement with Lexington Richland School District V

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURA HUGGSIN TO ACCEPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE PARK SCHOOL LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT V AND IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION. SECONDED BY AKIL ROSS. VOTE TAKE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smyers shared that through the month of April, the Saluda Shoals Park staff and Saluda Shoals Foundation partnered to host a jazz series on the back deck of the Environmental Education Center; patrons were treated to three different local artists, Reggie Sullivan, Flat Out Strangers, and Mark Rapp; this was the most successful Jazz Series to date with 380 total participants.

Mark Smyers stated staff conducted the annual Piggin and Pickin on May 1st at Saluda Shoals Park; this is a South Carolina Barbeque Association sanctioned event which hosted 338 participants and 22 competitive BBQ cooking teams. The Seven Oaks and Crooked Creek Park teams closed out the spring athletics season and are now focused on Summer Camps. Mr. Smyers stated many in the community rely on the summer camp programs to keep kids engaged and active through the summer months; it requires a lot of attention to detail, with a lot of moving parts and staff do an awesome job keeping that going. Mark Smyers also shared that staff will be adding additional features to enhance the Summer Safari program, which will help the kids combat against summer learning loss.

Mr. Smyers shared that staff partnered with the University of South Carolina to conduct a research project comparing the positive impact that participation in Summer Day Camps can have on childhood obesity; the benefit of this partnership include access to the results and that the University of South Carolina pays for the cost of the kids in the study to attend the summer day camp. Mark Smyers stated that this is a huge benefit for the patrons and a great partnership to have with the University.

Mark Smyers shared that on May 4th Melvin Park saw significant damage from a severe storm; the National Weather Service issued a statement that indicated the winds were between 80 and 90 MPH, equivalent to an EF-1 tornado; many trees were either blown over or snapped in half from the strong winds. Mr. Smyers also communicated that one of the football bleachers was destroyed as it rolled across the football field; the agency lost several signs near the baseball fields, with the worst of the damage to the tennis courts. Mark Smyers stated that the tennis benches were blown over and gouged the surface of the courts as well damaged the interior and perimeter fencing. Mr. Smyers commented that the most important detail was nobody got hurt; staff quickly worked with the insurance company and cleaning-up the debris; at this point all of Melvin Park is operational again, except for the tennis courts. Mark Smyers shared the tennis court surface is in the process of being repaired and staff are working with a contractor to get the fencing fixed; early estimates are pointing to having the tennis courts open the end of June.

VI. COMMISSION RESPONSE

Commissioner Huggins thanked staff for their continued effort in repairing the tennis courts at Melvin Park. Commissioner Ross thanked staff for putting together the opportunity to be a part of the Lower Saluda Greenway. Commissioner Ross communicated concern that individuals cut a tree down at Saluda Shoals Park. Mark Smyers shared that there was a tree cut down by a visitor at Saluda Shoals Park; this tree was part of the ranger's educational programming due to its large burl; a burl is a result of a tree that has been damaged or diseased and to protect itself it develops a burl. Mr. Smyers communicated disappointment that future students and public will no longer be able to learn about that particular burl and to see how nature heals itself. Vice Chairman Boyd inquired if ICRC would have baseball tournaments in the summer. John Cantey stated there will be travel teams. Commissioner Stewart complimented staff on the budget and bond. Commissioner Stewart shared appreciation of the park school agreement and the partnership between School District V and Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission. Chairman Harmon thanked staff and welcomed the new Finance Director, Alfred Comfort.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARY BOYD TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY LAURA HUGGSIN. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION