

**IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING  
GENERAL SESSION MINUTES**

Seven Oaks Park  
October 23, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

Members Attending

John Sowards, Scott Wilhide, Emily Shuman, Tom McLean

Members Absent

Bruce Loveless

Non-members Attending

Elizabeth Taylor	Eve Mittendorf	Jim Wellman	Jeanette Wells
Jay Downs	Jason White	John Cantey	Michael Gibson
Don Sylvestre			

Chairman John Sowards called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and delivered the invocation. Guests were welcomed.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Sowards submitted the October 23, 2013 agenda as presented; there being no objections the agenda was approved.

**II. 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.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairman Sowards submitted the September 26, 2013 minutes as presented; there being no objections the minutes were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Don Sylvestre thanked Tom McLean for all his support over the years. Commissioner McLean shared his appreciation and excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

- A. 2014 Health Insurance Benefits – Michael Gibson, Gibson & Associates  
Mr. Gibson distributed the 2014 renewal benefits; including the 2014 health, dental and vision benefit summaries and recommendation.

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

Staff reports were submitted as presented.

Jay Downs shared an update on agency capital projects including Seven Oaks Park baseball tower demolition and installation of the new baseball field lighting. The Epting Camp property construction, design and engineering is underway; soil boring has started. The design construction is underway at the Saluda Shoals athletic property. Staff is waiting to hear from DHEC regarding grading requirements. In addition, staff is preparing an RFP for the zipline as well as the preliminary work for the connector road between the current Saluda Shoals Park and the east property.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2014 Health Insurance Benefits**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCOTT WILHIDE TO APPROVE THE 2014 HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS AS PRESENTED. EMILY SHUMAN SECONDED. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **B. 2014 Commission Meeting Schedule**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCOTT WILHIDE TO APPROVE THE 2014 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. EMILY SHUMAN SECONDED. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Elizabeth Taylor thanked Eve Mittendorf for the work, research and consideration of the agency and staff in the recommendation for health benefits; staff is fortunate to have Ms. Mittendorf as part of the team. Ms. Taylor communicated that staff continue to make substantial progress in the construction and design development of the new and existing properties; the community is becoming very excited. The recreation staff, led by Jack Terrell, are making plans with a volunteer committee to have a golf tournament on March 14, 2014 to raise money for the youth athletic scholarship fund. Opening day at Seven Oaks Park is scheduled for March 15, 2014. Ms. Taylor, shared that the annual art's celebration, unearth, was held at Saluda Shoals Park on October 4, 2013, which included visual art, music, Shakespeare in the Park and a concert. Children's Theater will be celebrating Halloween at Saluda Shoals Park with a production of Sleepy Hollow. The environmental staff will hold their annual event of will o' wisp for the toddlers and Crooked Creek Park will host Halloween at the Park, which typically hosts approximately 1000 children. Holiday Lights will kick-off on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at the Chairman's Lighting; Jason White is the director of Holiday Lights this year. The sleighbell stroll is scheduled for Monday, November 25 and the sleighbell trot is on Tuesday, November 26, 2013. The sponsorships are currently at \$42,500. Ms. Taylor also shared, on behalf of staff, appreciation for Commissioner McLean's years of service to Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission and to the staff.

## **VIII. COMMISSION RESPONSE**

Commissioner Shuman thanked staff for Commissioner McLean's retirement reception. Commissioner Wilhide shared his sentiment in Commissioner McLean's retirement. Commissioner Wilhide also stated that he is looking forward to working with Commissioner Harmon. Chairman Sowards thanked staff for their hard work and support of Commissioner McLean. Chairman Sowards requested that staff celebrate the accomplishments of the agency and to have a wonderful and safe holiday; the next meeting is scheduled in January 2014.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the General Session meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eve Mittendorf  
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION