

**IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION
PLANNING SESSION MEETING**

Saluda Shoals Park
River Center
October 15, 2018
6:00pm

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Smyers
Eve Mittendorf

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Harmon
Bruce Loveless
Tim Stewart
John Sowards
Gary Boyd

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Bill Harmon, at 6:00 p.m.

II. REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The news media was notified, and a notice and agenda posted at the park sites one week prior to the planning session meeting.

III. PLANNING SESSION

Mark Smyers communicated the following introduction: The intent is to discuss and review the Mission, Vision and Values of Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, the history and status of the current 2010-2020 Strategic Master Plan and the process and goals of a new 2020 – 2030 Strategic Master Plan and how that will serve as a map to guide planning of recreational services over the next ten-year period.

The Executive Director and Commissioners engaged in a brainstorming session to share and discuss the purpose of ICRC, the value ICRC offers the community, the strengths, the opportunities, the critical factors to success, and the major issues. The Commissioners also shared the history, the success and the remaining goals of the current 2010 – 2020 strategic plan.

The current 2010 – 2020 plan heavily involved rebuilding community trust and stakeholder relationships as well as the community's desires to renovate and build new facilities; most of the goals were achieved. The only remaining goals from the current Strategic Plan that the community requested was an aquatic facility and the greenway trail; both of which included partnering with other public or private entities to achieve.

Mission, Vision, and Values

- **Vision**
 - Creating community through people, parks, and programs
- **Mission**
 - The Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission exists to enhance the quality of life for all citizens of the district through the development of recreation programs and facilities that promote a lifestyle of wellness, physical activities, and cultural experiences for all ages
- **Values**
 - Safe and accessible recreation facilities and services

- Health and wellness for all residents with a focus on youth development and senior programs and services
- Preservation of green space
- Development and celebration of the arts

The goals of the plan include:

- Clearly define the purpose and value of the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission in the community
- Inventory existing conditions
- Compare facilities and programs to national/state standards to help determine what our standards and aspirations could/should be
- Engage in extensive community dialogue to provide opportunity for participation in the process by all stakeholders
- Identify community needs and desires
- Establish realistic short-term and long-term goals
- Develop strategies for responsible resource allocation to achieve the community's goals
- Produce a strategic document that is accountable, flexible and best reflects the overriding wishes of the community

What is our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) purpose?

- Creating opportunity
- Support needs of community
- Creating programs
- Build a sense of community: multi-generational, therapeutic recreation
- Enhancing the quantity and quality of life for
 - Overall community
 - Participants
- Cultural experiences

What is our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) value to the community?

- Builds community
- Promotes and provides for health and wellness
- Develops and mentors youth
- Provides broad access to programs
- Allows for community involvement
- Provides environmental education and awareness
- Provides community facilities for forums
- Lifeline

What are our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) products?

- Programming - for fulfillment of our purpose
- Facilities - for fulfillment of our purpose
- Services - for fulfillment of our purpose

Who are our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) stakeholders?

- Community at-large
- Businesses
- Public Officials
- Seniors
- Families
- Special Interest Groups (i.e., athletics, special needs, education, recreation)
- The Saluda Shoals Foundation
- Religious community
- Lexington Richland School District Five
- Staff
- Lexington Recreation and Aging Commission

- Richland County Recreation Commission
- Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT)
- Homeowner's Associations
- Civic Groups
- Citizen groups
- Corporations
- Hospital systems
- Critics
- Elected officials
- Business leaders
- Partners that can assist with scholarships/sponsorships/grants
- Customer groups
- Neighboring schools

What are our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) strengths?

- Quality of product
- Quality of staff
- Financial stability
- Fiscal responsibility
- Transparency
- Unity of purpose (staff → executive director → commissioners)
- Environmental education
- Facilities
- Overall condition of parks
- Common purpose in goals
- Collaboration
- Planning
- Financial condition
- Rich in park and program diversity
- Creditability with Elected Officials
- Trust
- Positive work environment

What are our (Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission) opportunities?

- Focus on programmatic opportunities
- Develop programs that reach underserved community members
- Provide more community input (develop open lines of communication, e.g., report card)
- Richland County financial support for users from the Richland County District
- Raising capital resources through sponsorships, user fees and fundraising
- Educating the community on purpose and value of parks and recreation
- Hiring – reflecting our community
- Continued community support
- Enhance the existing parks e.g., Mungo Park, Melvin Park
- Enhance programs
- Greenway trail
- Partnership with Saluda Shoals Park Foundation
- Therapeutic Recreation

What are factors critical to our success?

- Understanding community needs and trends
- Fiscal management
- Managing community and stakeholder expectations
- Building a broad consensus with stakeholders

- Building and maintaining positive relationships
- Leadership and staff
- Developing Board relationships with public and business community members
- Trust

Major issues?

- Lack of capital resources
- CCP renovations
- How do we accommodate population growth in Chapin
- Connectivity
- Bond capacity
- Need creative financial solution for Greenway trail

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION