

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Steve Pressley did the invocation. Present: Jason Nelms, Chairman, Steve Pressley and Terry Meier, Jay Worley, CRPA Director, Bryan Reynolds CSA Director and CRPA Staff. Absent: Mark Preetorious, Vice Chairman and Amy Turcotte, 2nd Vice Chairman

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The February 9, 2022 advisory board meeting was canceled. The December 8, 2021 advisory board meeting minutes were approved. Steve Pressley motioned, and Terry Meier seconded the motion to approve the previous minutes. The motion carried 3-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

Sarah McColley AICP, Project Manager & Landscape Designer/Planner and David Lintott, LEED AP, Landscape Designer with TSW was present to discuss the NE Cherokee County Parks Plan.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

b. Board Members

There were no reports from any advisory board members.

c. Director

i. Agency Updates

Director Worley introduced to the advisory board our newest hired professionals. Lakia Langston was not able to attend the meeting, because of program conflicts. She has worked many years as a part time worker, and Kiki has now become full time. She will handle all adult league athletic programs. Jessica Ascenzo was hired at the Aquatics Center in November 2021. Her duties include the Front Desk and Customer Service/Marketing responsibilities. David Hodge has been hired full time at the Aquatics Center. He is originally from California, and he is in charge of Facility Maintenance. Lauren Voss was present to be recognized for passing the CPRP certification. Jarron Amburgey was also recognized for passing the CPRP certification. There are now 11 CRPA employees certified. The Parks Division staff has completed an UGA Super Crew training series certification.

5. New Business

a. Consideration for Approval- NE Parks Master Plan

Sarah McColley AICP, Project Manager & Landscape Designer/Planner, and David Lintott, LEED AP, Landscape Designer with TSW present and discussed with the advisory board a power point presentation about the NE Cherokee County Parks Plan final concept. There maybe a few adjustments made to the final plan. Their presentation discussed the plan's background, planning process, feedback,

park concept plans, phase and cost and the next steps. TWS was available for any questions to be asked by the advisory board. Ms. McColley and Mr. Lintott took turns discussing the parcel specific results of Long Swamp Creek, Cochran Park and Yellow Creek Properties. The Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area received most votes to be the first priority. They also talked about the conditions and limitations, feedback and final results of the 3 locations. There were site images for ideas, opportunities and constraints. The phasing plan and cost estimate were reviewed. Chairman Nelms and the advisory board were appreciative to Ms. McColley and Mr. Lintott for their informative presentation. They were impressed with number of survey results and the feedback from the citizens and the stakeholders. The citizens and stakeholders were really specific in what their wants and needs are from the plans. They are very impressive. Terry Meier discussed with the TWS representatives and the advisory board the size of the maintenance building, restrooms and welcome center and what will be allowed in certain areas of the property. The advisory board feels like the stakeholders are putting their input to the right use and have made good decisions. Their survey results are showing they want to be a part of the planning. The TWS group informed the advisory board it is a pleasure working with the CRPA staff. They were very thankful for the CRPA's staff input, during the planning process. Steve Pressley asked about the possibility of ballfield being built at the Yellow Creek property. The TWS panel showed him there was a slight possibility where ballfields could be built related to the arrangement and topography of the property. There was a brief discussion about the Native American and their history relating to the property. The consideration for Approval- NE Parks Master Plan presentation will be made at the Cherokee County BOC meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. After the TSW's concluded their final concept presentation for Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area, Cochran Park, and the Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area. Motion made by Steve Pressley, seconded by Terry Meier to approve the NE Parks Master Plan. Motioned carried 3 – 0.

b. Consider for Approval- Naming of Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area

Director Worley made a recommendation to the advisory board to officially name the property- The Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area. "Conservation Area" was included because it signifies the conservation easement agreement we have with the Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia. "Yellow Creek Road" keeps it simple, but also signifies its location which will serve beneficial to those who travel regionally to the park for its outdoor components. Motion made by Steve Pressley, and seconded by Terry Meier to approve the Naming of The Yellow Creek Road Conservation Area. Motioned carried 3 – 0.

c. Consider for Approval- Setting new fees for FY23 (begins October 2022)

Director Worley discussed with the advisory board as result of operating costs associated with many of our programs not all programs, we have made some inflation adjustments for FY23 to cover our direct costs associated with each program. The primary adjustments are due to increased costs in supplies, staffing, and utilities. There has been research done by the staff, and they have contacted surrounding communities to ensure we are still at or below affordable market rates. The recommended changes range from .50 cents an hour to \$75 per team depending on the activity. The advisory board wanted to make sure with the rising cost of inflation. We are not setting the new fees for FY2023 to low. The

advisory board recommended to revisit the new program and facility fees and bring them back to the June 8, 2022 meeting for further review. Director Worley informed the advisory board they have the authority to approve and set fee changes. This action will not require BOC approval.

6. Old Business

There were no old business.

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Terry Meier to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Steve Pressley. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m. Steve Pressley did the invocation. Present: Jason Nelms, Chairman, Mark Preetorious, Vice Chairman, Steve Pressley, Terry Meier, Jay Worley, CRPA Director and CRPA staff. Absent: Amy Turcotte, 2nd Vice Chairman

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The April 13, 2022 advisory board meeting minutes were approved. Terry Meier motioned, and Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the previous minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There were no appearances or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman Nelms.

b. Board Members

Mark Preetorious updated the advisory board about the Hickory Flat elementary gym's ribbon cutting ceremony held on Friday, June 3, 2022. All other advisory board members were apologetic for not being able to attend due to work commitments and other obligations.

c. Director

i. Agency Updates

Director Worley told the advisory board it has been a busy past few months. He discussed the 2021 Annual Report. The format of the annual report is just a simple one-page report which highlights the agency's accomplishments for 2021. Director Worley told the advisory board there should be more coverage in Cherokee County's annual report under the community services section. Shawn Schumacher introduced Lokia Langston and Frankie Sanders introduced Skylar Cox to the advisory board. Lokia's responsibilities are adult programs such as softball, kickball, flag football and basketball leagues. Skylar graduated from the University of Tennessee, and she will handle the therapeutic programs. She grew up in Cherokee County, and her first day of work was at summer day camp. There was a discussion on recruiting new staff and staff shortages. Chairman Nelms stated if we lose one or two more staff, then it will start to affect the level of service we provide. He also encouraged everyone to contact and use your relationships with other constituents to make them aware of the need to be competitive when it comes to employment retention. Shawn Schumacher discussed being the project manager of the construction of the new dugouts at Hobgood Park and other improvements will included: the tennis courts at Hobgood are getting resurfaced. The last gravel parking lot at Hobgood Park is getting replaced. Hunky Mauldin complex is getting batting cages. There are some run off areas getting repaired. Steel beams are being installed at the Buzz, and the construction project for the Buzz is on track. The adventures express summer day camp received an \$155,000 grant boost, and most of these funds will be used to reimburse staff payroll, arts and craft projects. Adam Fussell is applying for

the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program - GOSP which provides dedicated funding mechanism to support parks and trails as well as protect and acquire lands critical to wildlife, clean water and outdoor recreation across the state of Georgia. The pre-application funds were granted of \$600,000 with matching funds by the county. We submitted the second application which is in final review. If we are selected a contract will be signed, and we will have 24 months to complete the projects. CRPA was 1 of 15 recipients to be selected. There were 8 local governmental entries and 7 state department of natural resources chosen.

5. New Business

a. Consider for Approval- Setting new fees for FY23 (begins October 2022)

Director Worley discussed the proposed program and rental fees for FY2023 with the advisory board. He informed the advisory board these new fee changes would take effect in the FY2023 beginning October 1, 2022. The advisory board had asked to revisit the setting new fees for FY2023 from the April 13, 2022 meeting, because of the increasing cost of inflation and the facility rates had not been changed in years. They wanted to make sure the price changes were fair, reasonable and competitive. The recommended changes range from .50 cents an hour to \$75 per team depending on the activity. The facility fee changes were from \$25 an hour to \$35 an hour for the fire station and the recreation center 's community rooms. Union Hill Community Center fee change was from \$45 an hour to \$50 an hour Monday – Thursday and Friday, Saturday and Sunday fee change was from \$75 an hour to \$100 an hour. Union Hill Community Center's security deposit fee change which is refundable, if the facility is left in satisfactory condition will change from \$150 to \$300. After a discussion, Mark Preetorious motioned, and Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the new fee setting effective FY2023. The motion carried 4-0.

b. Consideration for approval on the Wildlife Ordinance

Director Worley discussed the Wildlife Ordinance recommendation with the advisory board. He stated if the Wildlife Ordinance is approved, there will be a scheduled public meeting at an upcoming Board of Commissioner's meeting, followed by a BOC discussion and possible vote at that time. The advisory board had some questions and comments about language and the existence of the ordinance. There was a discussion about who would enforce the ordinance. The city of Marietta has a similar ordinance, and this should be a positive way to handle the wildlife issues within our parks. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit the feeding of unconfined wildlife in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Cherokee County, Georgia, so as to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to prescribe penalties for failure to comply. Mark Preetorious motioned, and Terry Meier seconded the motion to approve the Wildlife Ordinance. The motion carried 4-0.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Steve Pressley to adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Terry Meier. Motioned carried 4-0.

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022
Regular Meeting 6:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

Steve Pressley called the meeting to order 6:05 p.m. Present: Steve Pressley, Amy Turcotte, 2nd Vice Chairman, Jay Worley, CRPA Director, Bryan Reynolds, CSA Director and CRPA staff, Absent: Jason Nelms, Chairman, Mark Preetorious, Vice Chairman and Terry Meier

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The August 10, 2022 advisory board meeting was canceled. The June 8, 2022 advisory board meeting minutes will be approved on December 7, 2022, when there are enough advisory board members to have a quorum.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There were no appearances or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman Nelms.

b. Board Members

There were no reports from the board members.

c. Director

i. Agency Updates

Director Worley started by introducing the advisory board to several new hires to the agency. The new Facility's Division Director is Mark Holder. Director Worley stated Mark Holder had been with the City of Roswell for 30 years starting right out of college. While there he handled youth and adult leagues and he also worked on the parks side. Mark Holder informed the advisory board, after retiring from Roswell he saw an opportunity to come and work for Cherokee County. He is looking forward to working with his great co-workers. Director Worley said for the first since the pandemic the Aquatic Center is at full staff since March of 2020. Tom McGerty was hired from New York, and he is the new Aquatic Center Manager. Tom McGerty informed the board he worked at Long Island Recreation Department for 16 years. He was a life guard, pool manager, the assistant pool director. He also ran summer youth and adult tennis and softball. Tom said it is not a job, when you love coming to work every day. The Aquatic Center is headed in a good direction, and this should be a good winter and summer seasons. Kendall Gianfala was hired as the Aquatic Center Facility Coordinator. Kathryn Pope was hired as the new Facilities Manager. Mark Holder stated Kathryn has been amazing and has done an outstanding job in her new role. Director Worley talked about the reorganization within the agency. Frankie Sander is now the Administrative Division Director. Adam Fussell is now the Recreation Division Director. Jessica Hallman is the Marketing and Community Outreach Coordinator. Stephen ShROUT the Parks Division Director was fully staffed, until about 2 weeks

ago. The parks division now has 2 position's available. Registration for Cherokee Youth Basketball k-8 grade concluded on October 2, 2022. Cameron Riles is over CYB. There are 3,700-3,800 registered in k-8th grade, and there are around 85-100 high school teams registered. We will have 4, 000 participants registered by the end of October 30, 2022. All schools in the county are on board with the CYB program. The Great Pumpkin Fest will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022. There will be hayrides, food trucks, vendors and the pumpkin sling shot. The festival will be a fun filled and happy day. The Buzz recreation center construction is right on target, and the building is starting to take shape. The HVAC equipment is being delivered and the floors will be installed soon. Director Worley talked about soft openings, and the advisory board is always welcome to visit the work site. The Hometown strong park improvement grant ribbon cutting was held at Kenney Askew Park on August 15, 2022. The improvements included a walking track, a pavilion and landscaping. Director Worley discussed the SE construction design conceptual plans, and Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Program - GOSP which provides dedicated funding mechanism to support parks and trails as well as protect and acquire lands critical to wildlife, clean water and outdoor recreation across the state of Georgia. The pre-application funds of \$600,000 were granted with matching funds by the county. There will be a 2-year window to complete projects at Long Swamp, Yellow Creek and the Cochran properties. He also discussed the agency's FY2021, and Director Worley stated there is reserve available for a rainy day.

5. New Business

a. Review of Strategic Master Plan 2020-2024

Director Worley reviewed the strategic master plan 2020-2024 poster with the advisory board. He informed the advisory board that each priority line items gets a status dot of either: green-for priority is completed, yellow-work is in progress or red-nothing has been done. The develop high priority parks and recreation facilities as recommended in the current master plan had 3-green dots, 2-yellow dots and 2 red dots. The improve the maintenance and overall appearance of parks and facilities had 2-green dots, 2 yellow dots and 1- red dot. The increase available operating and capital funds had 4-green dots. The expand programming and recreation opportunities had 4-green dot, 1-yellow dot and 1-red dot. The ensure continue viability of the organization through organizational improvements, staff development, fiscal responsibility and public awareness had 4-green dots, and 3- yellow dots. After a brief discussion, the advisory board commented and also commended the staff on how many green dots and actions that have been completed. Bryan Reynolds, CSA Director gave the advisory board information on the current SPLOST. Cherokee County's penny sales tax will be a six-year extension which will be on the election's ballot on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. If the SPLOST is approved it will be an extension, and it will take effect when the current one expires, in June 2024. CSA Director Reynolds gave the advisory board a brief discussion on the Cherokee County SPLOST projects, and which county departments and cities will benefit from it if it is approved.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. Adjourn

Motion made by Steve Pressley to adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m., seconded by Amy Turcotte. The motioned carried.