



Oconee County Parks & Recreation

Lisa Davol, Director

Board of Commissioners

John Daniell, Chairman
Mark Thomas, Post 1
Chuck Horton, Post 2
Amrey Harden, Post 3
Mark Saxon, Post 4

Citizens Advisory Committee on Recreation Affairs Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2021

Members Present: Richard Ashmore, Jeanne Barsanti, Jason Hewell, Melissa Hopkinson, Leslie Hunsinger, Dan Moore, Kimberly Thomas

Members Absent: Giles Moree, Wesley Scott

Staff: Lisa Davol, Whitney Sperlik, Pat Sebring (OVP Facility Supervisor)

Guests: Robin Stevens (Tennis), Mike Luffler (Pickleball), Amanda McCoy (Horse Community)

BOC: None

Press: Julia Fechter (Oconee Enterprise)

Minutes:

1. Call to Order. The Recreation Committee convened the regular meeting at Oconee Veterans Park. Richard Ashmore called the meeting to order.
2. Approve the Agenda. Jeanne Barsanti made a motion to approve the agenda. Melissa Hopkinson seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Approve March 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Jason Hewell made a motion to approve the minutes and Melissa Hopkinson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Pat Sebring – Park Supervisor. Pat Sebring shared her educational and work experience background prior to working with OCPRD. Previous experience included Assistant Director in recreation, serving on a citizen Parks and Recreation board, overseeing a soccer club, working with Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services and serving on the Oconee County comprehensive plan citizen group. In addition, Sebring informed the group of her current responsibilities with the department. Sebring manages Oconee Veterans Park, to include staffing, rentals, User Groups, contractual programs and interns. Barsanti asked what ideas from previous experience would she like to bring to Oconee County. Sebring responded she was involved in a Master Plan Greenbelt that offered multi-use trail connectivity within the community with developers paying for public park space and/or investing in public park and recreation developments. Thomas suggested bringing in a person from Athens-Clarke County greenway initiatives to discuss the pros and cons of strategizing such a plan.
5. Program and Park Updates. Whitney Sperlik provided program updates to include spring programs ending with After School program ending May 21, summer registration ongoing and Oconee Park Foundation status. Thomas inquired how the school facility usage fees were impacting programs. Davol stated that football and cheer were alerted of the possibility last year, thus more prepared for the increase. Davol also explained that the fee was listed separately to enable parents to see the program fee and additional school use fee. The need for school facilities at this time to meet program demands was also discussed.



Oconee County Parks & Recreation

Lisa Davol, Director

Board of Commissioners

John Daniell, Chairman
Mark Thomas, Post 1
Chuck Horton, Post 2
Amrey Harden, Post 3
Mark Saxon, Post 4

Davol shared park updates to include official park hours, water infiltration issues, HVAC issues, OVP tree plantings, HCM outdoor basketball court resurfacing, scout little free library project, BSC restroom repairs, BSC maintenance shop progress, HP abandoned wells filled and establishment of Oconee Mountain Bike as a User Group. Davol also shared the BOC Strategic Goal of Quality of Life and its parks and recreation related objectives. Thomas asked about CARES Act funding supplementing HVAC park upgrades and offered to write a letter of support to provide CARES Act funding the park to the BOC. The committee agreed on supporting this proposal.

6. Other Business.

- Sperlik asked any interested persons to stay after the meeting to discuss the Oconee Parks Foundation.
- Richard Ashmore reiterated his request to update the park master plan with work conducted by a professional contractor.
- Lisa Davol requested agenda items for future meetings.
- Ashmore requested holding future meetings at various park sites.

7. Public Comment.

- Robin Stevens (Tennis/COTA) – Stevens thanked the Recreation Advisory Committee and OCPRD for keeping tennis on the upcoming SPLOST project list from the original 2004 OVP master plan. In addition, she stated that Oconee has some of the best maintained public tennis courts in the state. She also said that COTA will be hosting a USTA adult tournament at OVP in the next 2 weeks with 500 players across the state participating. Stevens also informed the committee of the recent COTA donation of a metal coated picnic table for the OVP tennis courts in memory of their local league coordinator that passed in 2020.
- Mike Luffler (Pickleball) – Asked Thomas if she met with Dr. Lockman to play pickleball and Thomas said they played for 2 hours. Luffler also said that there would be a national pickleball tournament in Atlanta this weekend. He stated that the HCM indoor participation had seen extreme growth and that the HCM outdoor courts were dicey. Luffler also stated that there would be nowhere to play pickleball in the county July 19-22. Davol explained that there would be a youth basketball camp held at HCM during those dates since OVP was being used by the Oconee Senior Center in preparation for their building expansion.
- Amanda McCoy (Horse Group) – McCoy asked if it would be possible to work with the Oconee Mountain Bike group to educate them on horse encounters on the trails. Davol stated that could be arranged with the bike group. McCoy stated that she met with Davol and Andy Dunston, Heritage Park Facility Supervisor, a few years ago. She said her mission was to grow the horse community and wanted to bring the facility to a state that allowed more horse usage. She stated that the arena footing needed to be addressed to make this happen, barrier between sand and concrete needed to be established and a second well might also be required to handle horse events. Hunsinger asked about the costs for such renovations and McCoy said she would be willing to assist with the Oconee Park Foundation to help raise funds for these ventures. Barsanti agreed with the need for the footing and concrete separation for horse usage in the arena. Ashmore stated that it was a multi-use facility and that it would also need to be able to meet the needs of other users.



Oconee County Parks & Recreation

Lisa Davol, Director

Board of Commissioners

John Daniell, Chairman

Mark Thomas, Post 1

Chuck Horton, Post 2

Amrey Harden, Post 3

Mark Saxon, Post 4

-
8. Motion to adjourn made by Richard Ashmore. Motion seconded by Jeanne Barsanti. Motion passed unanimously.

Next RAC Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 5 p.m. at Oconee Veterans Park - Community Center

3500A HOG MOUNTAIN ROAD • WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA 30677

PHONE: 706.769.3965 • FAX: 706.769.3967

ldavol@oconee.ga.us

www.oconeecounty.com