



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

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2024

Members Present: Richard Ashmore, Joe Avolio, Jason Hewell, Dan Moore, Robin Stevens

Members Absent: Leslie Hunsinger, Ray Kopaniasz, Giles Moree, Wesley Scott

Staff: Lisa D. Davol, Whitney Sperlik

Guest: Dr. Dirr

BOC: None

Press: None

Minutes:

1. Call to Order – The Recreation Committee convened the regular meeting at Oconee Veterans Park. Richard Ashmore called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm
2. Approve the agenda. Jason Hewell made a motion to approve the agenda. Dan Moore seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Approve September 17 Meeting Minutes. Robin Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes and Joe Avolio seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Dr. Dirr – Park Trees Improvements and Recommendations. Davol introduced Dr. Dirr to the group and his volunteer involvement with assisting the parks in tree selection and attainment from nurseries. Dr. Dirr provided a list of recent tree plantings at OVP and HCM, total of 19 trees planted in June of this year, with total cost per tree to remove, purchase, transport and plant. Dr. Dirr reminded the committee of the 126 diseased plane trees removed in 2019, replanting efforts and future planting ideas to include priority areas, diversity tree selections and funding mechanisms. He also informed the group of the ash trees that are dying with some already being removed and others needing to be removed. Dr. Dirr asked about the Oconee Parks Foundation and Moore provided information regarding their efforts. Moore suggested the foundation might consider a tree committee and grant committee to assist with projects like this for the parks. Dr. Dirr stated he and his wife would donate \$5000 to the park tree project in memory of their daughter to match another \$5000 toward park trees. Stevens said trees represent life and were a nice way to memorialize people.
5. Park and program. Davol provided status on park projects to include Dawson Park, OVP Tennis Expansion, Heritage Park improvements, DAR project and OVP Rotary Senior Center pavilion. Sperlik gave updates on programs for fall, winter registration, and upcoming events such as the Rotary Car Show, Bat Festival at Heritage Park and the Trick or Treat Trail at OVP. Hewell asked about the OVP



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entrance/exit improvement and Davol stated that the county has the design and was waiting on Parkside development to move forward to start the construction.

6. Other Business.

- Avolio responded to a comment by Jeanne Barsanti at the last advisory meeting regarding the trails at Heritage Park. Avolio who biked the trails recently said he reached out to John Devine with GA Bikes and Devine said SORBA that used to provide more trail maintenance assistance was a massive board that struggled with turnover; however, he said SORBA was getting back together and was interested in helping with maintaining the trails. Stevens added she had hiked the horse trails and appreciated the trail signage.
- Avolio said he spoke with Pat Sebring after the July meeting and asked about the HCM Disc Golf next round improvements.

7. Public comments.

8. Motion to adjourn made by Jason Hewell. Seconded by Dan Moore. Motion approved unanimously.
6:01 pm

Next RAC Meeting scheduled for November 19 at 5 pm at Oconee Veterans Park