



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 – July 18, 2023

Members Present: Amanda McCoy Ledford, Dan Moore, Giles Moree, Craig Moses, Kimberly Thomas

Members Absent: Richard Ashmore, Jason Hewell, Leslie Hunsinger, Wesley Scott,

Staff: Lisa Davol, Andy Dunston

Guest: Michael Ransom

BOC: None

Press: None

Minutes:

1. Call to Order – The Recreation Committee convened the regular meeting at Oconee Veterans Park. Kimberly Thomas called the meeting to order.
2. Approve the agenda. Giles Moree made a motion to approve the agenda. Craig Moses seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Approve May 16 Meeting Minutes. Giles Moree made a motion to approve the minutes and Dan Moore seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Oconee Swim League – Kelly Price and Jon Harvey
Kelly Price and Jon Harvey, both swim parents and volunteers, advocated for a county pool.

Price, Shamrock volunteer parent, stated Shamrock had 159 swimmers and turned swimmers away due to the limited number of lanes in private pools. Price said that in GRPA Class B, Oconee County and Wayne County are the only counties without pools (*Note: GRPA District 7 agencies without pools include Franklin County, Hart County, Jackson County, Madison County and Stephens County*). Price said the county meet had to be held over 2 days to accommodate the number of swimmers with Ramsey not available this summer, noting that the Ramsey rental is expensive. Overall, Price said that the Oconee Swim League (OSL) had 700 swimmers.

Jon Harvey said that the OSL had to “share lifeguards” during meets due to the lack of guards available. Harvey stated that a county pool can change generational issues of person not being able to swim, as well as serve those with disabilities.

Price said seniors also utilize public pools and not all can afford private pool memberships.



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Harvey said that the city of Jefferson is constructing a 10-lane competition pool. Harvey added that he knows the county also needs gym space. In addition, Harvey said no one is against park facilities in the community.

Price said she understands the funding reality, but more recreational opportunities are needed.

Harvey responded that historically governments “catch up to growth”, adding that taxes are really low in Oconee County. Harvey said that facilities are needed to support the community growth.

Thomas suggested a 5-year plan, get specifics, architectural design and request in next SPLOST. Thomas recommended providing the BOC was a more tangible plan to review. Thomas proposed a phase approach to the plan and to not just focus on the competitive swimmers. In addition, Thomas suggested speaking with others that have built similar facilities recently to discuss what they liked and what they would do differently.

McCoy agreed that more specifics were needed so BOC understands exactly what the swim group is requesting.

Moree said if taxes higher, but no additional facilities provided then it is an issue.

Moore advised the group to build more support in the community, discuss with potential community partners and have a concept plan to assist in generating support.

Moses asked what would be the funding source, revenue projections and operating expenses.

5. Other business if needed.

- Davol shared an update on the LAS site provided by the Water Resources Director.
- McCoy thanked Tyler Hartzog and park staff for their support with the horse event at Heritage Park.
- Davol provided an update on the Heritage Park engineering and cost estimate project.
- Davol requested additional agenda items for future meetings.

6. Public comments.

- Michael Ransom said with community support, funding would follow, and BOC would follow. Ransom stated operational cost would increase and an increase in the millage rate may have to be discussed, adding that the people moving to the county are coming with more expectations of services and facilities.

7. Motion to adjourn made by Giles Moree. Seconded by Craig Moses. Motion approved unanimously.

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