

**Richland County Recreation Commission
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 18, 2011
6:00PM**

Commissioners in Attendance:

Wilbert Lewis
George Martin, Jr.
Barbara Mickens
Weston A. Furgess, Jr.

RCRC Staff in Attendance:

James Brown, III
Kenya Bryant
Cornelia Watts
Tara Dickerson
Curt Wilson
Ronnie Kinnett
Bob Hickman
Robert Allen
Charles Eubanks

Others in Attendance:

James Bridgett, Jr. Consultant/Parliamentarian
Councilman Norman Jackson
Councilman Kelvin Washington

1. Call to Order:

In the absence of Chair J. Marie Green, Commissioner Wilbert Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Mickens and second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Lewis, Mickens, Furgess and Martin.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approved minutes from the March 21, 2011 Regular Board Meeting and April 11, 2011 Special Call Board Meeting made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Lewis, Martin, Mickens and Furgess.

4. Public Input:

Mr. David Edmond thanked Commissioner Furgess for letting him know that the meeting was being held tonight. Mr. Edmond stated that he wanted to share some concerns in reference to tennis in the Southeast community, in which he lives in the Lower Richland area. Mr. Edmond stated that his background in tennis started when he was twelve years old, playing competitively up until the 90's and then a tennis instructor in Hilton Head. Mr. Edmond added that he has two daughters and one played JTL a couple of years ago. Mr. Edmond stated that he does not get to the courts as often now but he has noticed that the courts at Caughman Road Park are unoccupied most of the times. Mr. Edmond reported that there are a lot of kids in his community that are just running the streets with no productive activity and in his opinion if they were aware of the tennis courts and the availability of the courts then they might be directed to some productive programs at Caughman Road Park. Mr. Edmond stated that the City of Columbia built the Southeast Park which is close by Caughman Road so that gives him an indication that there are tennis players but it is just a matter of matching them up with the opportunity. Mr. Edmond asked if it was some way the Commissioners could make a concerted effort to get the information out to the young people in the community so that the courts would be better served.

Commissioner Lewis thanked Mr. Edmond for his comments and concerns and asked Staff for a response.

Mr. Robert Allen, Recreation Director, reported that Hunter Strausburger is now the Tennis Pro at Caughman Road Tennis Center and we did offer youth tennis for the fall and the spring. Mr. Allen stated that the youth that did sign up, we had to bring them to the Richland County Tennis Center in order to make a league. Mr. Cliff Toms who is now at the Richland County Tennis Center and Mr. Hunter Strausburger have been into the schools at Hopkins, Gadsden and Southeast working with the Physical Education teachers to offer instruction to the children. Mr. Allen stated that we offered programs at the Caughman Road Tennis Center but there was only a few to sign up so they work with them on a clinic basis but we continue to actively strive to provide programming in the area even though tennis has been down in this area for a while.

Commissioner Furgess stated that transportation is a problem in the rural areas also.

Mr. Allen stated that they will also work with the summer day camps at Caughman Road and Hopkins offering tennis to the children enrolled in the camps. Mr. Allen stated that transportation will not be a problem because the kids will already be on site and it will also help introduce and expose the game to kids that may not have transportation otherwise.

Commissioner Lewis asked Mr. Brown to have someone follow-up with Mr. Edmond after the meeting.

Councilman Norman Jackson stated that he was here to answer questions or concerns from the Director's report.

5. Financial Report: (Information)

Mr. Curt Wilson reported that Management is concentrating on repairs that were put on hold during the winter months and pointing out because of that cash flow has dropped compared to last month on the cash flow chart included in the Board's package. Mr. Wilson stated that this will be the case between now and the end of the fiscal year because we do have many areas that need repairs. Mr. Wilson stated that we do still have a policy that if we do need anything new, that it is strictly on an emergency basis.

Mr. Wilson reported other funding received for March about \$4,100 from PARD grant, reimbursing 80% expenses for sign at Eastover Park.

Mr. Wilson reported that the budget has been completed and the Executive Director will address it during his report.

Mr. Wilson reported that March was not a very good month for LinRick, but overall they only dropped \$3,000 in their revenue from last month and they are 4.7% below where they were last year in total revenue.

6. Bond Construction Update: (Information)

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett reviewed status of Bond construction projects listed on the Bond Construction Update included in the Board package.

Commissioner Mickens commented that Polo Road looks very good and she is sure the parents are very satisfied.

Commissioner Furgess asked how many football fields are at Polo Road and Mr. Kinnett advised one.

Commissioner Lewis stated that he failed to mention that the Financial Report as well as the Bond Construction Update was information for the Board.

7. Executive Director Report: (Information)

Mr. James Brown, Executive Director, reported Agency Updates as follows:

AGENCY UPDATES

- Chairwoman Green, Mr. Bryant and I met with County Council Chairman Paul Livingston as the first step of our Communications Plan with County Council. The meeting went very well, with the Chairman expressing that he was very happy that the Commissioners and staff are working well together. The next step is for all Commissioners, Council members and key

Commission staff to have a "Meet & Greet." Chairman Livingston said he would give me a call with a good time to do this;

- Management has decided to provide in-house leadership training for new and current Division Heads, Directors and Supervisors;
- A meeting has been scheduled for May 3, 2011, for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises to provide information on Phase 2 of the Bonds projects. The meeting will be held here at the AAC from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Cottontail Festival was cancelled Saturday due to inclement weather. After discussing it with the local authorities it was determined that it was unsafe to have the event;
- A tentative date of Thursday, April 28th has been set for the groundbreaking of Crossroads Community Center. The event will be held at 10:00 am, more information is forthcoming;
- The Grand Opening of the Richland County Tennis Center went very well. Representative Joe McEachern along with County Councilwoman Gwen Kennedy was in attendance.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- Working with Irmo Little League to tear down and replace 6 dugouts and improved drainage issues at Friarsgate Park, which is part of a PARD grant. The dugouts at Polo Road park will be the next improvement project;
- Currently reviewing quotes to improve the tennis courts at North Springs Park and Meadowlake Park, which are currently cracked. The tennis courts at Meadowlake have been closed due to a patron falling on the court while playing;
- Currently reviewing quotes to improve the roof at Crane Creek Community Center. There is a leakage problem in some areas;
- Taurus Lewis, Division of Facility Operations and I met with the Caughman Road REC this past Thursday. There was a concern with the funding in the bond for the renovation of the racquetball courts and the installation of a climbing wall. There is no funding for needed improvements of the gymnasium roof which leaks during heavy rain. There is \$120,000.00 in the bond for this project and it was determined by the community along with Councilman Norman Jackson in attendance that we should approach County Council to redirect the bond funds to improve the roof instead of installing a climbing wall, which is not needed. I agree with the community's concern and would like to pursue this with County Council and redirect those funds. The cost of the racquetball courts is \$20,000.00 so there will be \$100,000.00 left to fix the roof.

2011-12 PROPOSED BUDGET

- The proposed budget to be submitted to County Council has been finalized. Please review and if the board wishes we can conduct a Special Called Meeting to discuss details. We have to submit the budget to Council by May 6th, so we have between now and that date to finalize it. Here a few points I would like to provide you before you look through it:
 - No current programs have been cut, but have been restructured so that they are implemented with more efficiency;
 - This budget, for the first time in recent years, includes funds for needed new equipment that will assist our Property Management staff in effectively and efficiently doing their jobs;
 - The budget includes operational funding for new facilities (Crossroads Community Center) and new amenities (St. Andrews Pool);
 - It also provides funding for new DHEC requirements such as ADA Lift Stations for swimming pools which are \$7,500.00 per pool (Hopkins, St. Andrews, and Trenholm Parks);

Commissioner Lewis stated that he supports the recommendation concerning the climbing wall and the racquetball courts but he is interested in history behind it getting through on the bond.

Mr. Brown stated that Lisa Smarr, who is now over the Adult Senior Program, met with Mr. Leopard and it was decided that a climbing wall was needed at Caughman Road Park. Mr. Brown stated that he did not know it was in the Bond until Mr. Kinnett gave him the Bond information and he thinks it is truly a liability.

Commissioner Lewis stated that as far as we know, no one has brought it to our attention that there is a strong desire for a climbing wall and Mr. Brown stated no one but Ms. Smarr and Mr. Leopard.

Commissioner Furgess and Commissioner Mickens agreed that it is a liability and asked if a meeting was going to be set up with County Council.

Mr. Brown stated that a meeting will be set up with Councilman Norman Jackson because that is his district and Mr. Bridgett also shared some information.

Mr. Bridgett stated that Mr. Boulware, Ms. Green and he met with Frannie Heizer, the bond attorney, and she pointed out a clause in the bond where you can tweak which gives

you some leeway to move money around. Mr. Bridgett suggested that Ms. Heizer be called because she can explain it better.

Commissioner Lewis stated that this would be our first item that we have identified to redirect funds from the original bond and Mr. Brown stated that yes this would be the first.

Mr. Brown stated that he met with Councilman Norman Jackson, Kenya Bryant, Ronnie Kinnett and Tony Cooper to walk the property today at Caughman and it is a huge piece of property. Mr. Brown stated that the package was distributed at the last Board meeting and he would like for the Board to review it and ask questions.

Commissioner Furgess stated that the Board does have the package and after input from the walk, questions and review from the Board, then you can go back to Councilman Jackson and advise the direction of the Board.

8. Other Business:

Mr. Kenya Bryant reported that the Historic Columbia Foundation sent a letter today informing us that the 2011 Preservation Award Committee has selected Pine Grove Rosenwald School to receive an award for Preservation/Restoration from the Historic Columbia Foundation. Mr. Bryant read the letter distributed to the Board noting that the award will be presented at the annual Preservation Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, May 3 at noon at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's Satterlee Hall.

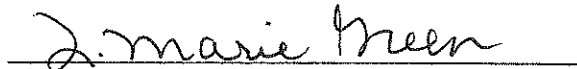
9. Executive Session:

No items for Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Lewis, Furgess, Mickens and Martin.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.



J. Marie Green, Chair

Minutes approved on this 16th of May 2011.