

**Richland County Recreation Commission
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 19, 2010
6:00PM**

Commissioners in Attendance:

J. Marie Green, Vice Chair
Charles Epps, Secretary
Wilbert Lewis, Commissioner
George Martin, Commissioner
Barbara Mickens, Commissioner
G. Todd Weiss, Commissioner
Weston A. Furgess, Jr., Commissioner

RCRC Staff in Attendance:

James Brown, III, Interim Executive Director
Cornelia Watts
Ronnie Kinnett
Taurus Lewis
Cynthia Robinson
Tony Cooper
Steven Tindal
David Stringer
Tiyana White
Jamie Cathy

Others in Attendance:

James E. Bridgett, Jr., Consultant/Parliamentarian
Joey Holleman, State Newspaper

1. Call to Order:

Vice Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Ms. Green welcomed any special guest or attendees and recognized Sarah Pinckney, retired RCRC employee.

2. Adoption of Agenda: (Action)

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Mickens and second by Commissioner Epps. Commissioner Epps asked to amend the agenda and add two items, one from The Reid Chapel AME Church for waiver of fees at LinRick Golf

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Course for the Aubrey Willard Crawford Invitational Golf Tournament and the other from the Youth Commission of the Gethsemane Baptist Association for waiver of fees at Meadowlake Park. Vice Chair Green stated the items would be added under Other Business. Motion approved unanimously to adopt agenda with amendments by all members present; Green, Epps, Mickens, Martin, Lewis, Weiss and Furgess.

3. Approval of Minutes: (Action)

Commissioner Weiss noted correction of ending time on minutes for March 18, 2010. Motion to approve minutes from March 11, 2010; March 15, 2010; March 18, 2010 with correction; March 29, 2010 and April 6, 2010 made by Commissioner Epps, second by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present: Green, Epps, Furgess, Weiss, Mickens, Martin and Lewis.

4. Public Input: (Information)

Mr. Hainsley Lewis, citizen from the Lincolnshire community, addressed the board and asked what progress, if any, has been made in regards to the proposed gym for the Crane Creek Community Center?

Vice Chair Green asked Ronnie Kinnett about the status and Ronnie advised that the project had not come up for the Design Phase and that it maybe in Phase III of the Bond. Mr. Hainsley Lewis stated that the last he heard, it was in Phase II and Ms. Green did not think that it had changed. Ronnie Kinnett checked his Bond List and the gym is in Phase II and he apologized for the confusion. Mr. Kinnett explained that at present, we are doing request for qualifications for construction management teams for Phase II, followed by picking a design and engineer group, and on to permitting which takes about three to six months then design which is about a year away.

5. Bond Construction Update: (Information)

Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reported that the program is still on schedule. First project grouping of playground equipment, four of seven parks are complete. The three project groupings involving fencing, lighting, irrigation and restrooms- irrigation well drilling awarded and started at Northsprings Park, Group B (field fencing at six parks) and Group E (field lighting/fencing/irrigation at five parks) are currently out for bid and are due April 22, 2010. Tennis Pro Shop ahead of schedule, awaiting final permit approval and 100% design complete, bid phase ongoing. Polo Road Park project design is 50% complete parking lot, irrigation, restroom, fencing and stair design ongoing. St. Andrews Park design development phase ongoing. Preliminary discussions for pool design conducted on April 12, 2010 and applied for zoning variance on parking spaces. Bluff Road Park will duplicate St. Andrews building and still waiting on where to put new recreation building.

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Commissioner Lewis asked if this information was on the website because the more information that we make available to the general public about where we are on the different projects, serves the community well.

Ronnie stated that this information will be available on the website.

Commissioner Epps stated that he chairs the Bond Ad Hoc Committee and they have discussed that the information will be on online for RCRC and the general public can keep up with the progress. The committee met on April 14th to open submittals for RFQs and there were 16 firms, deemed responsible to apply, bids were opened and witnessed before the Ad Hoc Committee and I want to say that the committee is doing a great job just as we did on the first phase of the bond. We will do a short list and come back on April 28th to review and evaluate.

Commissioner Lewis asked who serves on the Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioner Epps stated that he chairs the committee, Frannie Heizer-Bond Attorney, Ronnie Kinnett, Bryan Crider-Construction Manager and Mr. Jim Bridgett-RCRC Consultant. Tony Cooper has also been a big help but he does not have a vote, things are going well. Mr. Kinnett stated that Tony Cooper helps to make sure they stay in compliance with procurement issues or any kind of confidentiality issues. Commissioner Epps stated that Frannie Heizer commented that she has sat in on many but this has been one of the best.

Commissioner Weiss asked when things are not exactly on time or under budget you will let us know right, this report looks too good.

Ronnie Kinnett answered absolutely and introduced Chris Jones from MB Kahn to speak about the Cross Roads Community Center. Mr. Kinnett stated that in his opinion, they have been doing a very good job.

Mr. Chris Jones reported that the projects are all on schedule with the Tennis Pro Shop a little ahead of schedule. They have received great feedback from Richland County on the permit process especially on the Tennis Pro Shop with help from Ronnie. Mr. Jones stated that the Cross Roads Community Center is a 5,000 square feet masonry building modeled similarly to the other community center for Garners Ferry but a little smaller, but it is very useful in the way that we have designed it. Mr. Jones stated that the architects Chris and Heather, will talk about the particulars. Once this is approved, we will go ahead through design and development, because we have already prepared a schematic estimate based upon the drawings presented here and we are within budget. This building is very attainable on the site that we have. We do have some challenges with the underground utilities but we will work through them. Mr. Jones stated that he looks at the estimates and then look for cost opportunity, ways to save money by doing different things with different materials to stay under budget.

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Commissioner Lewis asked if the designs were being done with input from the community. Mr. Kinnett answered I don't know how much input we've gotten from the community yet, we are working with a clean slate and we can take these first drawings to the community if the Board feels that we need to. Commissioner Lewis expressed his concern that the community centers are for the community and we need input and feedback from the community to see if their needs are being met. Commissioner Lewis suggested the community or CAT teams that were discussed in a previous meeting. Mr. Jones stated that this would not be a problem.

Commissioner Mickens asked if they would be able to stay under budget with underground utility challenges. Mr. Jones stated that he would, in the schematic portion of the estimate, there is a placeholder for underground system.

Commissioner Epps stated that if he was not mistaken, MB Kahn, our construction Manager, stressed that as we go along with this that they would get feedback from the community but I don't know if it was so much in the design phase.

Chris Beard and Heather Mitchell from the Bordeaux Group presented Crossroads Community Center Designs to the Board explaining that the existing buildings, a Church and Daycare would be demolished to allow installation of new project. The basis for the design was the Ballentine Community Center.

Commissioner Furgess asked what would be done with the open space in the back and Mr. Beard stated that grass would be planted. Commissioner Furgess asked how many curb cuts you would have going out and entering. Mr. Beard stated that there is one entering and one leaving and we will use the same ones.

Mr. Jones added that there is some preliminary design talk about in the very back of the community center to add spaces, we are still doing the final count on spaces.

Commissioner Furgess asked if a traffic count had been done and Mr. Jones advised that taking all things into consideration, once we get to the point where this is an acceptable design, we will fine tune those requirements. Mr. Kinnett commented, stating that this was a good question and that Richland County Permitting will make us go through traffic counts before they issue permits for the site, but we are not quite at that stage yet.

Vice Chair Green asked when it is time to get community input, will it be initiated by you or is there something the Board needs to do? Mr. Kinnett stated that the sooner the better so he can move forward and Ms. Green suggested Ms. Taylor and Ms. Weston, members of the community that we are already working with. Mr. Kinnett stated that he would be more than willing to meet with them and he is sure they would like it. He will get with staff and set up a meeting.

6. Killian & North Springs LID Projects: (Action)

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Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reported that he received a request from Richland County Stormwater Management to give Richland County Public Works authorization to design and install two stormwater retrofit projects at Killian and Northsprings Parks. Both projects are in the Crane Creek watershed and are highly visible. These projects will be used to improve storm water quality, reduce run off volumes and facilitate infiltration and clean water in the Crane Creek watershed. The sites will also provide the opportunity for public education and enhance the appearance of parks. Richland County Public Works/Richland County Government will provide all the funding, design, construction, etc. for the projects. Richland County Recreation Commission will be responsible for providing water for plant establishment, watering the plants as they become established and the future maintenance of the system. Mr. Kinnett stated that he feels the projects will provide the Recreation Commission with the opportunity to not only partner with the Richland County Storm Water Management but improve the appearance of our facilities while providing a water quality educational opportunity and at the same time helping us with CAPRA. The estimated cost of this project is \$150,000 to be funded by Richland County. These two sites are where we have run off coming off parking lots and Mr. Kinnett explained that the Rain Gardens catch the water that runs off the parking lots and helps filter it before it goes into the storm water system. These are low impact development projects (LID).

Commissioner Weiss stated for information that his temple recently installed a Rain Garden at 6719 North Trenholm Road funded by Arcadia Lakes and they provided the people power to get it done and it is pretty neat. It does a lot for the community and the rain water run off theme. Commissioner Mickens stated that it does a lot for the building.

Mr. Kinnett stated that we are looking at an area at Northsprings where the drainage flows from the parking lot and possibly at Killian the area below the parking lot and area below the playground and basketball courts. This is all part of the green initiative to help build a better environment.

Commissioner Furgess asked if you will still have to maintain the retention pond. Mr. Kinnett stated that we will have to maintain this as well but there is no retention at Killian. Some of the stuff we built was actually built before they had modern codes. This is actually going to enhance some areas where we had some concerns.

Commissioner Furgess asked if we will be grandfathered in. Mr. Kinnett stated that we are probably already grandfathered in but this is like an improvement of what we already have at no cost to the Commission.

Mr. Kinnett recommended that Richland County Recreation Commission approve the request from Richland County Storm Water Management to move forward with the design and installation of storm water retrofit projects for Killian and Northsprings Parks provided that they include water lines and hose bibs installations as part of the project.

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These water lines are to provide the Recreation Commission staff a means to water the plants until they become established.

Motion made by Commissioner Epps to approve the recommendation from Ronnie Kinnett and Staff, second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Epps, Weiss, Mickens, Furgess, Lewis and Martin.

7. Interim Executive Director Report:

James Brown, Interim Executive Director, presented to the Board fee waiver requests from the Youth Commission of the Gethsemane Baptist Association sponsoring its fourth annual youth sports day on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Meadowlake Park and the Aubrey Willard Crawford Invitational Golf Tournament scheduled by the Reid Chapel AME Church on May 14, 2010 at the Linrick Golf Course.

Vice Chair Green asked what will we be giving up to honor the request from Reid Chapel AME Church Aubrey Willard Crawford Golf Tournament in terms of waving the fees to use the greens, etc? Mr. Brown stated fees for using the greens, 18 holes of golf, golf carts, range, ball and everything.

Commissioner Lewis asked if this request is consistent with other request received from faith based institutions to use the facilities. Mr. Brown explained that this is his first experience with it. Commissioner Lewis stated that the concern is with the type of precedent we may be setting, I am in favor of it. Mr. Bridgett, Parliamentarian/Consultant, stated that your policy letter does allow it with a recommendation from the Executive Director and an approval by the Board. Vice Chair Green restated that the Executive Director needs to recommend it yay or nay and we approve. Ms. Green questioned the number of days for the Tournament and Mr. Brown advised just one day.

Commissioner Epps stated that it is his understanding that it will benefit the community. Commissioner Lewis stated that he thinks it is wonderful but once we make this exception we will see more and we need to be consistent.

Mr. James Brown, Interim Executive Director, recommended complete waiver of fees by the Board. Commissioner Lewis asked how much is it and Mr. Brown stated \$36.00 per person. Vice Chair Green asked Mr. Brown if he wanted to combine both request in one motion or separate. Mr. Brown stated that they can be combined.

Vice Chair Green stated that the other request for waiver of fees request is from the Gethsemane Baptist Association sponsoring its fourth annual youth Sports day on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at Meadowlake Park. Ms. Green asked for a motion to waiver the fees for these two requests.

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Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Administration to waive the fees for the two organizations, seconded by Commissioner Furgess. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Lewis, Furgess, Mickens, Martin, Weiss and Epps.

Commissioner Epps stated that he invites everyone to come out to Meadowlake Park on May 1st where in the past between 1,500 and 2,000 kids participate in track and field. We have approved this event in the past and it benefits communities all over Richland County. Mr. Brown added that the event is a success and that he recommends that we continue it.

8. Other Business:

Vice Chair Green stated that Mr. Brown took care of the two additional items added under other business. Ms. Green stated that a financial report was included in the package and if anyone was going to give a report. Mr. Brown advised that Mr. Curt Wilson was on vacation and would give a financial update at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Brown also advised that Mr. Wilson would be back on Monday and if anyone needed information before next Board meeting that he would get it to them.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and receive legal advice made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Epps. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Epps, Mickens, Martin, Weiss and Lewis.

9. Executive Session

Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Commissioner Martin and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Weiss, Martin, Mickens, Epps, Lewis and Furgess.

Vice Chair Green stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Motion to accept the low bid from MAR Construction for Phase II renovations to the Rosenwald School made by Commissioner Epps and second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Epps, Mickens, Martin, Weiss, Furgess and Lewis.

Motion to accept David Stringer, Human Resource Manager's, recommendation for the Interim Executive Director's interim salary made by Commissioner Mickens, second by Commissioner Epps. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Mickens, Epps, Lewis, Martin, Furgess and Weiss.

Motion to authorize the attorney to finalize severance discussions for the former Executive Director made by Commissioner Weiss and second by Commissioner

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Epps. Voting in favor Weiss, Epps, Lewis, Martin and Furgess; Opposed Green and Mickens. Motion passed.

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

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:37p.m.



J. Marie Green, Vice Chair

Minutes approved on this 17th day of May, 2010