



MINUTES RECREATION REVIEW TASK FORCE

November 21, 2017

Oconee County Administrative Offices, Council Chambers
415 S. Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691

MEMBERS

Mr. Julian Davis, III, Chairman
Mr. Herb Poole, Westminster
Mr. Rusty Cater, Westminster
Mr. Brian Ramey, Westminster
Mr. John Galbreath, Walhalla
Mr. Danny Edwards, Walhalla
Mr. Brent Taylor, Walhalla
Mr. Rick Lacey, Seneca
Mr. Dan Alexander, Seneca
Ms. Terry Swain, Fair Play / Oakway

Mr. Derek Burnette, Fair Play / Oakway
Mr. Travis Oliver, Salem
Mr. David Poulson, Salem
Sheriff Mike Crenshaw, OCSO
Corporal Charles Mulwee, OCSO
Lt. Mark Lyles, OCSO
Mr. Phil Shirley, Parks, Recreation, & Tourism
Ms. Linda Oliver, West Union
Mr. Davis Scealf, West Union
Ms. Katie D. Smith, Staff Liaison

The Oconee County Recreation Review Task Force met at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all members present [except Mr. Rusty Cater, Mr. Danny Edwards, Mr. Brent Taylor, Mr. Rick Lacey, Mr. Dan Alexander, Mr. Travis Oliver, Lt. Mark Lyles, Ms. Linda Oliver, & Mr. David Scealf] and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council acting as staff liaison.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition it was made available [*upon request*] to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

No members of the media were present.

Call to Order:

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Ramey made a motion, seconded by Sheriff Crenshaw, to approve the October 24, 2017 minutes as presented. Members noted a Scribner's error on the October 24, 2017 minutes, which has been corrected. Mr. Ramey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Poulson, approved 9 – 0 to approve the amended October 24, 2017 minutes.

Mr. Derek Burdette came in at this time for the meeting.

Discussion Items

Discussion regarding City Recreation Data form

Mr. Davis noted there were some of the forms back in and asked if there were any questions regarding the forms. Further, he noted the form is for a five year plan and although some don't have records to reflect this, one or two years back would help. Discussion continued.

Continued Discussion regarding Budget

Mr. Davis noted the goal of the budget is get a clear picture of what recreation is costing each of the cities and the County. He further noted there was not a true understanding from a Council perspective of what the cities, city residents, and county residents pay. Discussion continued.

Discussion regarding Recreation / Tourism impact on Cities

Mr. Davis asked each member to give an overview of what draws residents into their areas.

Discussion followed from representatives from each city with various opinions expressed, to include but not limited to:

Fair Play Youth Center

- Location
- Recreation

Westminster

- Recreation
- Music Centre
- Apple Festival / Mayberry Days
- Chau Ram park [closed during winter months]
- School events
- Church events

Salem

- Uses DAR, which is in Tamassee
- Challenging to get people to the city of Salem

Walhalla

- Recreation
- Oktoberfest
- Mayfeast

Discussion continued.

Mr. Brent Taylor came in at this time for the meeting.

Discussion regarding Oconee County PRT tourism impact – Mr. Phil Shirley

Mr. Phil Shirley, Parks, Recreation & Tourism [PRT] Director, addressed the members of the task force using a PowerPoint presentation [copy filed with these minutes] highlight the following:

- County Parks [Chau Ram, High Falls, South Cove]
- Resource Management
- Tourism
- Product Development

Discussion continued to include but not limited to:

- Countywide recreation
- Budget
- Fund any type of recreation would not be a loss
- Hospitality fund
- Recreation is important
- Tournaments
- ATAX funds
- Growth in cities & County

Mr. Davis asked for the following from members of each city:

- Facility upgrades – what is the current need that each facility has regarding upgrading their facility [i.e. roofing, etc.]; what would be the cost
- 5 year recreation program would be under the current assumption of where you are headed with zero funding and what would the recreation program be if it was funded
- What is the overall goal you are wanting to achieve

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed the members to include but not limited to the following:

- Juvenile crime has increased
- Costs \$45 to \$55 a day to house a juvenile
- Westminster experienced thousands of dollars of damage due to juveniles; parents are paying the restitution
- Engage youth

Lengthy discussion continued to include but not limited to:

- Families can turn the tournaments into a family vacation due to the length of the stay
- In Westminster, can visit Chau Ram Park, Wildwater, etc.
- Travel teams
- Raise money
- Unavailability of facilities
- Growth for Oconee County
- Tournaments
- Tourism

Goals for Next Meeting

- 5 year plan where the cities are heading under the current circumstances and where they want to take the recreation group
- 5 year recreation program would be under the current assumption of where you are headed with zero funding and what would the recreation program be if it was funded
- What is the overall goal you are wanting to achieve
- Bring in completed city recreation data form

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the Oconee County Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Adjourn:

Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting, approved unanimously, at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council & Staff Liaison