

CHESTER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE  
MAY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Members present: Travis Lott, Samuel Higgerson, Chairman Patti Carter, Sara Dillman, Superintendent Billy Belton, John Reith, Collette Powley, Danielle Conway, Alderman J.D. Maes, Alderman Bob Buckham and Alderman Bryce Hill. Not present: Sarah Roth.

Higgerson motioned for approval of the previous month's minutes, Lott seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

No public comment.

Alderman Maes reports that budget is due, few items currently listed for the park. Mentions strategic plan. Chairman Carter states that should approved later in the agenda.

Carter reports that rec ball and yard sale are moving forward. Fall festival and Christmas on the River plans are underway. Carter also reports we will have a full Rec Ball Committee for the 2022season and it will include committee and non-committee members.

Belton reports rec ball is going well and Chester has already hosted two tournaments. Last weekend there were 13 teams using the Cohen Complex. Gave maintenance report for Cohen Complex.

#### Project Reports

Bicycle Park: Lorin Mott has agreed to assist in constructing a larger bicycle path through the woods at Cole Memorial Park. Carter said the city has the equipment to create a large dirt path with minimal cost to the city. A time will be scheduled to meet with Mott, Lott, Reith and others interested to look at the area.

Pedal Path: Pedal Path is still being evaluated for placement at the old tennis courts in Cole Memorial Park. Could purchase a portable path that stakes down, but would need to remove every winter. Placing a sealant on the old surface and painting lines, etc. would be more cost and maintenance effective.

Home Tweet Home: Mississippi Valley Art Guild was ask about houses. Conway offered that her father-in-law could assist in hanging houses. More information needs to be released to the public about the program and to solicit the efforts of local youth and craftsmen.

Camping: Carter reports that the Strategic Plan includes a plan to install three or four electrical hookups at Cole Park for camping. Alderman Hill suggest turning the old ball diamond into a camp grounds. Hill states there is much more room on a level surface for electric camping hookups. Carter states that area is included in another area of the plan, and the city would face

high cost to run water and electric to that many spots on the old diamond. Hill contends that camper sales have skyrocketed during the pandemic and state she thinks the city should capitalize on the trend of RV camping.

Summer Camps: Carter reports that the space camp has outpriced the city's means, with a cost of \$275 per day as well as costs for lodging, food and travel. Carter said the cost to move forward with the space camp would mean a high cost for participants, which could be exclusionary for many children in Chester, Parents would prefer a smaller camp that was more affordable. The committee reviews plans for a Kid Kamp for younger children and Survival Camp for young adults.

Farmers Market: Carter reports we currently have 12 registered vendors. Season started off slow. We have some new vendors. Hardee's lot is working well.

Eclipse: Carter explained the difference between Task Force and Committee responsibilities. The Task Force address public safety, education and the logistics. The Committee will help organize and execute activities and events for the community and visitors.

Strategic Plan: The plan is just in need of numbers being plugged in. Lott made a motion to allow Carter to plug in the numbers and present it council when complete. Higgerson seconded. Roll call of members with: Lott, Higgerson, Dillman, Reith, Powley, and Conway voting yes. Motion carried.

Reith made a motion to adjourn. Higgerson seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Travis Lott and Patti Carter