

Mayor
Ricky Waring

Council Members:
Bob Jackson
Russ Touchberry
Aaron Brown
Terry Jenkins
Kima Garten-Schmidt
William McIntosh



Town Administrator
Lisa Wallace

Town Clerk
Beth Messervy

Town Attorney
G.W. Parker

TOWN *of* SUMMERVILLE

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING #2 of 2
PARKS AND RECREATION WORKSHOP
March 30, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mayor Ricky Waring, Councilmembers Kima Garten-Schmidt, Bob Jackson, Aaron Brown, Russ Touchberry, Terry Jenkins and Bill McIntosh. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wallace and Town Attorney GW Parker. A quorum was met. Public and press were duly notified. The meeting took place in the Annex building at 200 South Main Street, Summerville, SC 29483.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Waring called the meeting to order at 3:40pm in the Training Room of the Annex building. Due to the number of citizens attending, it was decided that the meeting should be moved to the Council Chambers. After a brief recess, the Mayor called the meeting to order again at 4:00pm.

ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION (VISION, MISSION, GOALS)

Bob Brookover, one of the meeting facilitators, led a short discussion with Council on what they believed should be the role of parks and recreation in the community. Council was encouraged to consider throughout the presentation who the parks and recreation department serves, what programs they should provide, and what might be missing currently. Mr. Brookover briefly discussed capital/maintenance costs, subsidized programs, and profit centers. It was noted that Parks & Recreation currently performs a lot of duties outside of a typical Parks and Recreation Department. This accounts for over 20% of the salaries and wages and 17% of the operational costs of the department.

COMPS AND TRENDS

Mr. Brookover shared several slides regarding the past, current, and projected demographics in Summerville. He shared national participation trends across various activities. He shared data showing how Summerville measured to agencies serving similar population size. Summerville is below the median for residents per park and acreage of park land per residents. Staffing was noted to be below the lower quartile.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW (2018)

Mr. Brookover reviewed the 2018 Strategic Plan and the process that resulted in this document. He highlighted the top 5 facilities and top 5 programs that were listed as priorities in the strategic plan. He reviewed the satisfaction gaps that existed for facilities and programs as well. He noted the progress on some of the listed goals from the plan.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND PRIORITIZATION

Several potential projects were discussed. Updating the playgrounds at Huger, Doty, and Wassamassaw were discussed. It was mentioned that playgrounds should be updated on a regular schedule. The Cuthbert Community Center was another potential project. Council suggested that they would like to consider an outdoor pavilion as a replacement. The skatepark renovation was also briefly discussed.

The group spent some time discussing a potential splash pad at Doty Park. Ms. Evans shared that she believed this site would be ideal given its accessibility from Rollins Edwards Community Center for summer camps. There was general support given for this concept. The group then looked at a conceptual expansion of Doty Park and what opportunities that could afford to the site. It was noted that one element was an expanded playground that would “connect” to the splash pad. A brief discussion relating to partnering with the local school district for additional services such as tennis courts ensued.

The woodlands property was briefly discussed. It was noted that this site was recently suggested for a possible sports complex. However it was noted that many conversations and considerations would need to be made prior to any decisions being made. It was noted that a site for additional rectangle fields was also a need for the department.

The Summerville Ashley River Preserve was noted. The fishing pier and boardwalks are currently being designed. There are some decisions that will need to be made on the remaining portions of the land.

PRIORITIES FOR FY 24 BUDGET

Several comments were made in support of the Cuthbert Community Center and the splash pad. Mayor Waring suggested that he would like recommendations from Ms. Evans as part of the coming budget retreat on priorities.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Messervy, Town Clerk

APPROVED:



Ricky Waring, Mayor