



MINUTES RECREATION REVIEW TASK FORCE

October 24, 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
Mr. Terry Swain, Fair Play / Oakway

Mr. Derek Burnette, Fair Play / Oakway
Mr. Travis Oliver, Salem
Mr. Davis 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. Dan Alexander, 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 3:33 p.m.

Mission of the Recreation Review Task Force

Mr. Davis opened up the discussion noting this was a new committee and this was the first meeting. He thanked everyone for attending and being a part of the committee. He further noted recreation gives youth something to look forward to. Additionally, he noted when children fall out of recreation, they become at risk in school and society. Finally, he noted the mission of the Recreation Review Task Force should be investing in Oconee's future and investing in recreation improves education and improves the County. They are the future leaders of Oconee County.

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

Westminster

- Mayor Brian Ramey / Herb Poole
- Offer football, soccer, cheerleading, fall softball, volleyball, basketball, spring baseball & softball
- Budgeting problems / financial constraints
- Long Creek to Fair Play
- Serve 852 kids / 589 live outside of the city limits [for 2016]
- Cost to participate: \$30 inside city limits; \$60 outside city limits

- Cost per participant
- Losing participants to Fair Play / Fair Play Youth Center
- Will effect Westminster area in the next few years
- Facilities / Facility updates
- Funding

Seneca

- Rick Lacey
- Serve 70% outside city limits; 30% inside city limits
- Two museums, events, beautification crew, etc.
- Serves approximately 1,000 kids
- Cost to participate: \$30 inside city limits; \$60 outside city limits
- Facilities

Walhalla

- John Galbreath / Brent Taylor
- Serve 1,132 / 404 inside city limits / 728 outside city limits [for 2016]
- Does not offer sports for older age groups due to the unavailability of facilities
- Uses Oconee Academy gym
- 30 basketball teams ages 4 thru 14
- Cost to participate: \$30 inside the city; \$70 outside city limits
- 2 salary employees and 1 hourly employee
- Budget

Salem

- Travis Oliver / David Poulson
- One of the smallest recreation departments in the County
- Offers soccer, basketball, baseball
- Serves between 100 to 125 participants
- 10% inside city limits / 90% outside city limits
- Cost to participate: \$40 per participant regardless of inside or outside city limits
- Uses Tamassee DAR gym and baseball field
- All volunteers
- County facility

Fair Play / Oakway

- Terry Swain / Derek Burnette
- Fair Oak Youth Center
- Offers softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball
- Sending participants to all-stars
- Active board with all volunteers
- Cost to participate: \$60 per participant
- All volunteers
- Sponsor
- Would like to have a paid recreation director and field maintenance help

Oconee County Sheriff's Office

- Sheriff Mike Crenshaw / Corporal Charles Mulwee
- Effecting 3,500 to 4,000 youth
- 9 resource officers
- SRO's want to help
- Juvenile number is increasing in the juvenile justice system
- Countywide
- Draw the older children in
- Travel team
- May not be able to afford the fees
- Role models
- Mentoring

Mr. Moulder asked for each representative to submit their numbers to him via email at smoulder@oconeesc.com and he would create a spreadsheet and run the analysis. Mr. Davis noted when submitting a budget request to include travel.

Mr. Phil Shirley, Oconee County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism [PRT] Director, thanked everyone for what they do and noted they make an amazing difference in the County. He does not program on the County level but wants to make a difference. Discussion continued.

Mr. Brent Taylor, Walhalla City Administrator, addressed the committee noting he has worked in recreation most of his career. He noted the discussion was mainly about youth athletics and asked what the overall goal was. He further noted the variety of interest could also be in adults, seniors, etc. Discussion continued.

Ms. Janet Hartman, Destination Oconee Manager, addressed the committee noting the challenges are great and sitting down and bringing items to a priority list is important. Discussion continued.

Mr. Davis noted funding is the biggest hurdle and noted there was a lot accomplished at this meeting. He thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Moulder thanked everyone for attending the meeting. From each representative, he asked them to provide the following on their financials with information going back five years:

- Revenue broken down by type
- Total number of participants
- Total number of participants by sports broken down by county resident versus city resident
- Expenses broken down by sport
- Participant level by sport
- Break down as much by sport to cost revenue and participants

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 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