



HORRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 12:00 pm
Horry County Government & Justice Building, Room B, 2nd Floor
1301 Second Ave, Conway, SC 29526

- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - 3. Invocation**
 - 4. Introduction of Board Members**
 - 5. Minutes**
 - Approval of March 10, 2020 Minutes
 - 6. Public Input**
 - 7. New Business**
 - 2020 Meeting Calendar – September 8th Meeting Proposed Change
 - Sandridge Park
 - Ducks Unlimited National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Application
 - 8. Old Business**
 - South Strand Recreation Center – Recreational Trails Program Grant
 - 9. Presentations**
 - Parks and Recreation Budget - Paul McCulloch, Parks and Recreation Director
 - 10. General Discussion**
 - Huger Park
 - Board Member Updates
 - 11. Announcements**
 - Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Strategic Planning Workshop – June 23, 2020 at 11:30am at TBA
 - Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting – July 14, 2020 at 12:00pm in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Center in Conway
 - 12. Adjourn**
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF HORRY)

**Horry County Parks & Open Space
Parks & Open Space Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board met on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 12:00 noon in the Multi-purpose Room of the Government & Justice Center located at 1301 Second Avenue in Conway, SC. The following Parks & Open Space Board members were present: William Kevin Gause, Pamela Dawson, Kevin Kiely, Lisa Davis, Eric Westover, Dr. Sarah Diaz, and Samuel T. Johnson Jr.

Staff present included: Senior Planner, Ashley Cowen; Parks & Recreation Director, Paul McCulloch; and Administrative Assistant Grayson Hardee.

Board members absent: Austin Cooke, Suzanne Pritchard, and Thomas Mezzapelle.

The following visitors were in attendance: Christine Ellis with the Winyah Rivers Alliance; Cara Schildtknecht, the Waccamaw River Keeper; Charles Perry with The Horry Independent; Tyler Flemming with The Sun News; and April O’Leary with Keep Horry County Beautiful and Horry County Rising.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kevin Gause called the workshop to order at approximately 12:00 pm, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Eric Westover gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Kevin Gause asked all board members to introduce themselves.

MINUTES - November 12, 2019 Meeting & January 14, 2020 Workshop

Chairman Kevin Gause entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting and the January workshop. Kevin Kiely made a motion and Pamela Dawson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Open Space Subcommittee Appointments

Pamela Dawson announced to the Board that she, Eric Westover, and Thomas Mezzapelle would like to make up an ad hoc subcommittee. She explained that the ad hoc subcommittee’s focus would be to promote the preservation of open space and to promote the protection and

conservation of environmental and natural resources. Ms. Dawson stated that Eric Westover would be like to the Chairman. Mrs. Dawson asked if staffed agreed with their scope and focus. Ashley Cowen stated that the decision is up to the Chairman, but that the scope seemed to be within the parameters of the Board's established powers. Chairman Gause said he agreed with the scope and focus and then appointed the ad hoc subcommittee as outlined by Vice Chairman Dawson. Chairman Gause appointed Mr. Westover as the Chairman of the Open Space Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

Chairman Gause asked if anyone would be interested in forming a Recreation Ad Hoc Subcommittee. After some discussion, Mr. Gause appointed Austin Cooke, Kevin Gause, and Kevin Kiely to this subcommittee with the chairman to be determined at a later date.

2019 Open Space Network Additions

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen gave the Board a report on the open space conservation additions in 2019. There were 740.5 acres added into conservation. In total, Horry County has 67,817 acres in conservation. She stated Westmoreland II was bought by the City of Conway and is 152.11 acres in total. The ASL Inc – Lee's Landing property, a wetland mitigation bank, is 36.69 acres. Ms. Cowen elaborated on the specifics of wetland mitigation banking. Ms. Cowen also stated that conservation land affects the County's CRS rating because the more open space the County can claim, the lower the CRS score. Ms. Cowen stated that this lowers FEMA flood insurance for the community. The Open Space Institute Land Trust Inc properties are 88.61 total acres and Holliday Associates, LLC properties are 463.09 acres total. Ms. Cowen then showed a map of where these new conservation parcels are located in the County.

Ms. Cowen also noted that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources acquired two parcels totaling 522.4 acres, which were previously under conservation and did not count towards the additional open space added to the 2019 numbers. Ms. Cowen stated that she wanted to note these specific parcels, because SCDNR would be adding them to the Waccamaw Heritage Preserve, which increases the amount of publically accessible conservation land in the County.

OLD BUSINESS

South Strand Recreation Center Master Plan

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen showed the Board the current site conditions as well as the proposed Master Plan elements on the site. She stated that there is not funding for all of the improvements, but the County has applied for a Recreational Trails Program Grant for hopes to accomplish those trails within the next 18 months. Ms. Cowen said the Master Plan could be added to the Parks and Open Space Plan as an amendment. Kevin asked if it could be funded through impact fees. She said elements of the Master Plan could be added through Impact Fees because they are increases in capacity for the Center, but Parks & Recreation would need to agree and that would have to be outlined in the Impact Fee document, if Impact Fees are passed. Sarah Diaz asked if something similar to this could be done in other areas of the County, to which Ms. Cowen responded "absolutely".

Chairman Gause entertained a motion to support the Resolution. Pamela Dawson made a motion for the Board to make the Resolution to support the South Strand Recreation Center Master Plan. Eric Westover seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Rural Civic Arena – Paul McCulloch, Parks & Recreation Director

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Paul McCulloch stated that the Rural Civic Arena Subcommittee of the Infrastructure and Regulation Committee, of which he and Ms. Cowen are members, were approached by six property owners or their agents about being potential locations in the western part of the County for the Rural Civic Arena. Mr. McCulloch showed the Board where the six properties are located and explained the characteristics of each. Mr. McCulloch also showed the Board conceptual plans that Ms. Cowen created for each property and explained the amenities for each. Staff asked if anyone had any questions. Pamela Dawson asked if the arena could potentially be used as an emergency shelter. Staff said possibly, but it would need to be designed that way.

Proposed Recreation Centers – Paul McCulloch, Parks & Recreation Director

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Paul McCulloch explained the need for new recreation centers, outlined the potential locations as directed by County Council, and took questions from the Board. Mr. McCulloch stated that Council is currently considering the Michael Morris Graham Park site for the Aynor Recreation Center, and the parcels within a one-mile radius around the Loris Elementary, Loris Middle, and Loris High Schools for the Loris Recreation Center. Mr. McCulloch displayed a map of the Loris Schools illustrating a one-mile radius around those locations. Mr. McCulloch explained that the Loris Recreation Center would not be located within the City of Loris, but instead be in the County. Mr. Gause inquired about the potential for the Loris Recreation Center to be placed farther into the Green Sea area. Mr. McCulloch stated that they were looking into multiple options for that area. Samuel Johnson asked about the budget for the Recreation Centers. Mr. McCulloch stated that for the time being they were looking at property acquisition and that construction of the Recreation Centers was being estimated and built into the long term fiscal plans.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Parks and Open Space Plan DRAFT

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen said she had gathered most of the new information that the Board had requested that she add to the Parks and Open Space Plan and was beginning to review the material to incorporate into the Plan. She stated that it would probably be June before she has a draft ready for the Board.

Huger Park

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen gave a brief overview of the Conceptual Planning Workshop that took place on February 12th at the Carolina Forest Recreation Center. She listed the representatives that attended, showed pictures from the workshop, and presented the conceptual plans that were created by each group. Mrs. Cowen stated that the Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution working within their individual organizations and coordinating with their state and national organizations to determine what they could potentially offer to the Park. Ms. Cowen stated that it is their desire that the County incorporate each of their contributions into the Master Plan for the Park. Kevin Kiely applauded Ms. Cowen's work in putting the workshop together. Mr. Kiely also expressed his concerns about parking for the park. Chairman Gause asked Mrs. Cowen how long she needed before the Board made a decision about the next Huger Park Workshop. Ms. Cowen stated that the Board has some time, because the Daughters of the American Revolution are not meeting until mid-March. Pam Dawson asked the Board to consider getting a big group together to discuss a decision on Huger Park.

Planning & Zoning Department Updates

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen updated the Board on the current IMAGINE 2040 implementation efforts going on in the Planning & Zoning Department. She provided some upcoming meeting dates and explained what will be discussed at those particular meetings. Chairman Gause thanked Ms. Cowen for everything she does. Ms. Cowen stated that if the Board would ever like to have staff from the Planning & Zoning Department come to their meetings to present upcoming ordinances, zoning changes, etc that it could be arranged.

Board Member Updates

- Kevin Kiely, District 3- some additional traffic lights and a bike and pedestrian path on Carolina Forest Boulevard.
- Pamela Dawson, District 4- Enterprise Boat Landing opened, the South Strand Recreation Center now has lighting, and playground equipment will be there soon.
- Lisa Davis, District 6- no updates
- Eric Westover, District 7- said he was still getting to know his community.
- Sarah Diaz, District 8- no updates
- Kevin Gause, District 10- Coastal Carolina University's old wall was moved and installed on the baseball field at Loris High School.
- Samuel Johnson, District 11- no updates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Litter Coordinators Meeting- March 24, 2020 at 11:30am in Multi-purpose Room B, Government & Justice Center, Conway

County Council Spring Budget Retreat- April 2-4, 2020

Infrastructure & Regulation Meeting- April 28, 2020 9:00am, Council Conference Room

Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting- May 12, 2020 12:00pm, in Multi-purpose Room B, Government & Justice, Conway

Board Park Visits- Sandridge Park

Baby Animal Day- April 3, 2020 8:00am-1:00pm Playcard Environmental Education Center
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Keep Horry County Beautiful Events- March – April, 2020 *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED” see handout

Greater Burgess Cleanup- March 7, 2020

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Kevin Gause entertained a motion to adjourn. Eric Westover made a motion and Sarah Diaz seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 pm.



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Decision Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: June 9, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: 2020 Meeting Schedule – September 8th Meeting Proposed Change

ISSUE:

Foreclosure Court has requested to use Multipurpose Room B, in addition to rooms C and E, of the Government and Justice Center on September 8, 2020. The Parks and Open Space Board has this room reserved for their scheduled meeting.

PROPOSED ACTION:

Option 1: The Parks and Open Space Board may move their meeting to one of the following dates:
Monday, September 7th
Wednesday September 9th

Option 2: The Parks and Open Space Board may cancel their September meeting.

Option 3: The Parks and Open Space Board may have a Workshop off-site at a park or other facility.

Option 4: The Parks and Open Space Board may take no action.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff does not have a recommendation at this time.

BACKGROUND:

On November 12, 2019 the Parks and Open Space Board voted on the 2020 Meeting Schedule. The Board voted to hold eight (8) meetings on the following dates: January 14, March 10, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, and November 10. The Board also agreed that up to four (4) of these meetings could be converted to workshops, with the understanding that according to the establishing ordinance at least one (1) meeting must take place per quarter with a total of at least four (4) meetings in a year.

ANALYSIS:

To allow the Foreclosure Court to utilize room, the Parks and Open Space Board can move their meeting date to Monday, September 7th or Wednesday, September 9th and use Multipurpose Room B or they may cancel their meeting. Alternatively, the Parks and Open Space Board can choose to take no action, thereby keeping their regularly scheduled meeting on September 8th in Multipurpose Room B and allowing Foreclosure Court to only use Multipurpose rooms C and E.



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Decision Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: June 9, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: Sandridge Park

ISSUE:

Should the Parks and Open Space Board request that SCDOT transfer the responsibilities of designing and reconstructing Sandridge Park to Horry County?

PROPOSED ACTION:

Vote to recommend that SCDOT transfer funding and responsibility of park planning and reconstruction of Sandridge Park to Horry County.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of the extension of El Bethel Road to Hwy 701 South, also known as the Conway Perimeter Road, Sandridge Park will lose roughly .73 acres of existing parkland. The cost of replacing the public park land and components of the park which have been displaced is built into the cost of the road construction. Horry County's Ride 3 Coordinator has been working with Horry County Parks and Recreation, SCDOT, and Mead & Hunt on the reconstruction plans for Sandridge Park.

On March 12 and March 16, 2020 members of the Parks and Open Space Board met at Sandridge Park to discuss preliminary plans from SCDOT and Mead & Hunt for the renovation and reconstruction of the Park. Board members met with Ride 3 Coordinator, Parks & Recreation staff, Keep Horry County Beautiful Liaison, and Planning & Zoning staff to discuss the potential future of the site. After much discussion about the potential for the park, Board members instructed the staff liaison to draft a letter requesting the transfer of the responsibilities to the County and to include the letter as action item on the next Board agenda for consideration.

ANALYSIS:

In Chapter 15 of the Horry County Code of Ordinances, Article VII, Sections 15-124 and 15-125, the Parks and Open Space Board is charged with the purpose and objective “to promote the expansion of quality open space for a wide range of recreational opportunities including playgrounds, playfields, plazas, parks, mini-parks, picnic areas, bicycle or hiking trails, or golf courses for all county residents”. The Board is also given the general powers and duties “to coordinate activities of volunteers, organizations businesses and corporate entities and governmental agencies for the identification, conservation, preservation or development of all categories of open space, areas for expansion of a variety of recreational facilities, and areas of environmental and natural resources in Horry County;” and “to encourage such planning, activities and development as may be necessary or advisable to identify, promote, acquire, lease, preserve, protect, maintain, or develop open space, recreational sites, and natural resources.”



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

1301 Second Avenue
Suite 1D09
Conway, SC 29526

Phone: (843)915-5340
Fax: (843)915-6340

June 9, 2020

RE: Sandridge Park

To: County Council, SCDOT, Mead & Hunt, and the Horry County Ride 3 Coordinator

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board recognizes the importance of Sandridge Park to the Sandridge community and the vital role that parks and recreation play in all the communities. The Board also understands South Carolina Department of Transportation's duty to replace the .73 acres which will be displaced by the construction of the extension of El Bethel Road to Hwy 701 South, also known as the Conway Perimeter Road. Furthermore, the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board applauds the efforts of SCDOT, Mead & Hunt, and those involved in attempting to redesign Sandridge Park to replace those elements which will be displaced by the roadway construction. However, the Board would like to recommend that the funds for the redevelopment of Sandridge Park, as well as the responsibility of redesigning the park, be turned over to the Horry County.

Turning over the responsibility of the redesign of Sandridge Park to the County will enable the Parks & Recreation Department to elicit public input from the community that utilizes the Park. The community will be able to provide valuable and irreplaceable input about the future of the park's amenities. This kind of community involvement is critical to the success, eventual use, and community devotion to the Park. When communities are involved in park conception, design, and implementation, the park itself will be safer and better utilized. Sandridge Park has significant local support and can provide a meaningful gathering place for children, families, and seniors from all over the southern side of Conway if designed with the community's assistance.

The Parks and Open Space Board requests that SCDOT transfer the funding and responsibility of the Sandridge Park planning, design, and reconstruction to Horry County to enable the utilization of public involvement to garner input on the future amenities and needs for the park.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact our Board Chairman, William Kevin Gause, or our Staff Liaison, Ashley Cowen, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

CC: Ashley Cowen – Senior Planner and Staff Liaison to the Parks and Open Space Board,
Horry County

cowen.ashley@horrycounty.org

843-915-7894



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

William "Kevin" Gause, Chairman
District 10

Pamela Dawson, Vice Chairman
District 4

Suzanne Pritchard, District 1

Austin Cooke, District 2

Kevin Kiely, District 3

Lisa Davis, District 6

Eric Westover, District 7

Sarah Diaz, District 8

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. District 11

Attest:

Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Staff Liaison to Parks and Open Space Board

RE: Sandridge Park



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Decision Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: June 9, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: Ducks Unlimited National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Application

ISSUE:

Should the Parks and Open Space Board support the Ducks Unlimited Grant Application to fund the acquisition and subsequent preservation of a 980 acre undeveloped riverfront property in Horry County?

PROPOSED ACTION:

Provide a letter of support for the grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND:

Ducks Unlimited is partnering with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to seek the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant in order to purchase 980 acres of undeveloped riverfront property from a willing seller with the ultimate goal of preservation for these parcels. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has agreed to be the long term owner of the property and to partner with Ducks Unlimited in seeking funding from the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program.

ANALYSIS:

The Conservation of this 980 acres would fit into a larger network of needed conservation in the middle-Waccamaw region within Horry County. The Parks and Open Space Plan identifies this portion of the region as the “Middle Waccamaw Conservation Gap” in the Priority Conservation Areas Map. This area is characterized by a large gap in land protection along the River upstream of the City of Conway. Increased protection in this “Gap” will contribute to addressing flooding issues, increasing recreational access and opportunities, and improving corridor connections for wildlife.

If awarded, the purchase and subsequent conservation of this property will contribute to achieving IMAGINE 2040’s overarching goal of Environmental Sustainability, one objective of

which is to “Conserve the essential pollution filtering, ground water recharge, and habitat functions of wetlands and floodplains” specifically by “work[ing] with conservation partners to strategically conserve land along the Waccamaw and Little Pee Dee Rivers for the dual purpose of protecting ecologically significant habitats and minimizing future flood losses.” This property is also located within the Scenic and Conservation area of the Future Land Use Map and will contribute towards improving the County's Community Rating System score, as the property is almost entirely within the flood zone.



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board

1301 Second Avenue
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Conway, SC 29526

Phone: (843)915-5340
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June 9, 2020

RE: Letter of Support for Ducks Unlimited National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant application

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chairman of the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, I would like to express support for the Ducks Unlimited proposal to the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant, which if funded, will conserve a 980 acre undeveloped riverfront property along the Waccamaw River in Horry County. We understand and support the fact that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has agreed to be the long-term owner of the parcels and is partnering with Ducks Unlimited in seeking these Grant funds.

The Conservation of this 980 acres will fit into a larger network of needed conservation in the middle-Waccamaw region of Horry County. The Horry County Parks and Open Space Plan identifies this portion of the region as the "Middle Waccamaw Conservation Gap" in the Priority Conservation Areas Map. This area is characterized by a large gap in land protection along the River upstream of the City of Conway. Increased protection in this "Gap" will contribute to addressing flooding issues, increasing recreational access and opportunities, and improving corridor connections for wildlife. If awarded, the purchase and subsequent conservation of this property will contribute to achieving Horry County's Comprehensive Plan's overarching goal of Environmental Sustainability. One objective of this goal is to "conserve the essential pollution filtering, ground water recharge, and habitat functions of wetlands and floodplains" by "work[ing] with conservation partners to strategically conserve land along the Waccamaw... for the dual purpose of protecting ecologically significant habitats and minimizing future flood losses."

The conservation of this property represents a strategic link in the riverine corridor. It not only falls within a priority area in Horry County's plans, but also in the South Atlantic Blueprint, the Coastal Zone for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Upper Waccamaw River Waterfowl Focus Area, the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative Waterbird Focus Area, and the Early Successional/Grasslands Focus Area. Securing this property for conservation is recommended by the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this Letter of Support. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or our Staff Liaison, Ashley Cowen, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William Kevin Gause
Horry County Parks and Open Space Board Chairman
wkgause@sccoast.net

CC: Ashley Cowen – Senior Planner and Staff Liaison to the Parks and Open Space Board,
Horry County
cowen.ashley@horrycounty.org
843-915-7894



Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Briefing Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: June 9, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: South Strand Recreation Center – Recreational Trails Program Grant

ISSUE:

What is the status of the South Strand Recreation Center Recreational Trails Program Grant Application?

CONCLUSION:

Horry County has been granted the South Carolina Recreational Trails Program Grant.

BACKGROUND:

On August 6, 2019 the Parks and Open Space Board voted to contribute \$4,000 towards the installation of the Horry County Discovery Trail and to seek alternate funding for the remaining portion of the Discovery Trail at the South Strand Recreation Center. In January 2020, Horry County staff submitted Recreational Trails Program grant application to SC Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, requesting roughly \$81,000 to complete a portion of trails identified in the South Strand. This Master Plan was recommended for approval by the Parks and Open Space Board on March 10, 2020. The Board and Keep Horry County Beautiful provided letters of support for the grant application submission.

ANALYSIS:

In May 2020, Horry County was notified that the South Strand Recreation Center Trails project was awarded an \$85,000 grant to build an outer-perimeter multi-use trail with mile markers, an accessible Discovery Trail and concrete connector trails. The Recreational Trails Program Grant has a project period of April 29, 2020 through October 31, 2021. Implementation of the project will be a collaborative effort of Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Public Works, and Planning staff.