1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation
4. Introduction of Board Members
5. Minutes
   • Approval of March 10, 2020 Minutes
   • Review of June 9, 2020 Workshop Minutes
6. Public Input
7. General Discussion
   • September 8th Meeting
   • Huger Park
   • Sandridge Park - Update
   • Proposed Aynor and Loris Recreation Centers - Update
   • Parks and Open Space Plan - Update
   • Board Member Updates
8. Nomination and Election of Officers
9. Announcements
   • Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Meeting TBA
   • Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting – September 8, 2020 at 12:00pm
10. Adjourn
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 Schildtkecht, 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”.

Parks and Open Space Board Meeting - August 11, 2020
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.
The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board met on Tuesday, June 8, 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, Kevin Kiely, Lisa Davis, Dr. Sarah Diaz, and Samuel T. Johnson Jr.

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

Board members absent: Austin Cooke, Eric Westover, Pamela Dawson, Suzanne Pritchard, and Thomas Mezzapelle.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kevin Gause called the meeting into to order at approximately 12:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to a lack of quorum, Chairman Gause moved items 8. Old Business, 9. Presentations, and 10. General Discussion before item 7. New Business. Chairman Gause gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Kevin Gause asked all board members to introduce themselves.

MINUTES – March 10, 2020 Minutes

The Board did not vote on the minutes.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

OLD BUSINESS

South Strand Recreation Center – Recreational Trails Program Grant and PARD Grant

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen announced that the County has been awarded an $85,000 Recreational Trails Program Grant. Ms. Cowen explained that the Grant is an 80-20 reimbursement Grant where the $85,000 Grant is the 80% and the County’s 20% is match is mostly in-kind staff labor, equipment use, and materials. Both Keep Horry County Beautiful and the Parks and Open Space Board will be contributing funds towards the match for signage. The Parks and Open Space Board is also contributing $4,000 towards the paving of the concrete Discovery Trail. The $85,000 will be
reimbursed to the County after implementation. Ms. Cowen updated the Board on the Butterfly Garden that will serve as a trailhead for the Discovery Trail and was installed in October as part of United Way’s Day of Caring. Ms. Cowen stated that the Garden was freshly mulched, was coming back in nicely, and was being well maintained. Images of the Garden, new sidewalks, and new playground were shared. The playground was installed through a PARD Grant and is part of the Master Plan for the Center.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Parks and Recreation Budget – Paul McCulloch, Parks & Recreation Director**

Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Parks and Recreation Director, Paul McCulloch, gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). Mr. McCulloch stated that 3rd Reading for County Council is expected to occur June 16th, 2020. The FY21 budget is a replica of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget (FY20). The electronic message board projects originally scheduled for FY20 will be postponed until FY22. It was originally delayed due to the Planning Department’s Sign Ordinance changes in FY20. In addition, the camera systems project for the Recreation Centers, which was originally planned for FY21, will also be held off until FY22. The total for those two projects was approximately $250,000.

Mr. McCulloch continued by giving a brief overview of the projects that the Parks and Recreation Department achieved in FY20. The following projects were outlined by Mr. McCulloch:

- **Green Sea Floyds**: Bleacher pads, installed metal roofs on concessions and storage building, some fence repairs, infield lip renovation, painted dugouts, painted bathrooms, and bleacher repairs;
- **Michael Morris Graham**: Some fence repairs, added new parking lot with approximately 250 parking bumpers, new metal roof on picnic shelter, tee ball bleacher pads, purchased tee ball bleachers, constructed tee ball dugouts, removed old sheds, infield lip renovation, paint dugouts, and paint bathrooms;
- **Pee Dee Park**: Fence work, bleacher pads, purchased new bleachers, infield lip renovation, painted dugouts, painted bathrooms, and bleacher repairs;
- **Waccamaw Park**: Drainage work, infield lip renovation, major work on the big field, painted dugouts, and painted bathrooms;
- **McNeil park**: Bleacher pads, fence repairs, infield lip renovation, paint dugouts, painted bathrooms, anchor picnic tables and trash can holders;
- **International Drive Ball Fields**: Painted bathrooms, fence repairs, improve entrance, installed material bays, field lights for baseball/softball, and installed gutters on shelter;
- **South Strand Recreation Center**: Removed and replaced playground, installed new swing seats, installed gutters on shelter, sidewalk for new playground/shelter, epoxy coated the lobby floor, waxed the multipurpose rooms floors, refinished gym floors, painted gym, lobby and multipurpose room walls, painted bathrooms, new lobby furniture, sneeze guards at front desk, installed field lights for soccer and baseball/softball, some fence repairs, soccer field renovation, and repainted parking lot lines;
- **Socastee Recreation Park**: Bathroom renovation, drainage project on soccer fields and disc golf course;
• North Strand Recreation Center: Flower bed at front entrance, refinished gym floors, new lobby furniture, sneeze guards for front desk, and painted lobby and multipurpose room walls;
• Carolina Forest Recreation Center: Soccer field renovation, epoxy coated the lobby floors, re-stained outside concrete, waxed the multipurpose rooms floors, refinished gym floor, painted gym, lobby and multipurpose room walls, painted parking lot lines, put up split rail fence in front of PAL, created the 5k Panther Run, and sneeze guards for front desk
• Hwy 22 / 17 Bus Intersection: Erosion control: redid front entrance flower beds, and painted swings and fence;
• Vereen Memorial Gardens and CB Berry Community Center: Finish and replace fence on Kings Highway, and redid front parking lot;
• White Oak Park: Installed new playground;
• Bayboro: Installed new playground, installed new swings, installed new basketball backboards, and painted basketball court lines;
• Loris Nature Park: Metal roofs on all picnic shelters, coquina all walking trails, installed gutters on shelter, and thinned woods out around amphitheater;
• Simpson Creek: Metal roofs on picnic shelter and concession building;
• James R Frazier Community Center: Walking trails installed, refinish gym floors, painted parking lot lines, sneeze guards for front desk, and lobby painted;
• Carolina Forest Bike and Run Park (HULK): Drainage project/ Landscaping
• Yauhannah Landing: Reopened brand new parking lot
• Chris Anderson Landing: Paved parking lot;
• Enterprise Landing: All debris removed, parking lot reclaimed and repaved;
• Old Reaves Ferry Landing: Parking lot painted
• All Playgrounds: Mulch added, pressure washed and sanitized; and
• All Landings: Dividers and ballards painted;
Chairman Gause commented on the amount of work that the Parks and Recreation Department accomplished during FY20.

Mr. Kiely inquired about Impact Fees. Mr. McCulloch stated that Impact Fees had not been adopted and would be looked at by Council at a later date. Mr. Kiely asked that that would have a significant impact on the Parks and Recreation Budget. Mr. McCulloch stated that Impact Fees would affect funding for future growth, but the funding for Parks and Recreation comes from a variety of other sources that are projected to remain steady.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Huger Park
Chairman Kevin Gause introduced the Agenda item and turned the floor over to staff. Ms. Cowen updated the board on the progress of the Master Plan. In addition, Ms. Cowen stated that she had been in contact with both the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution about their potential donations towards the park. Both entities were seeking funding from their State Chapters and/or National Organizations and were narrowing down the scope of their potential donations. Ms. Cowen stated that Mr. McCulloch and she were also in contact with DR Horton
about the Park. Currently, staff is requesting advice from the Board on their preferred format for the presentation of the preliminary Master Plans for the park to the partner organizations. Ms. Cowen stated that previously there had been two options discussed: 1) staff going to each organization and getting their preference on a series of plans; or 2) all the groups come together at one workshop to discuss the plans. After either of these options, the Parks and Open Space Board would vote on a plan to move forward, based on the input provided. Ms. Cowen stated that no decision needed to be made at this meeting, but that in light of the new COVID restrictions and potential concerns she wanted the Board to begin considering it now. Lisa Davis inquired about the number of groups involved in the project. Ms. Cowen stated that there were roughly 30 people that would need to be involved. Multiple members of the Board expressed concerns due to COVID and the potential for 30 people to be in a confined space. Chairman Gause suggested that an outdoor space could be used. Mr. McCulloch suggested that a Recreation Center gym could be used to assist with spacing people out. Mr. Kiely expressed his desire to hold a workshop in a presentation format at the Carolina Forest Recreation Center.

Board Member Updates

- Kevin Kiely, District 3- wanted to acknowledge Betsy Fay and Beautify Carolina Forest in their ongoing work with beautification throughout the widening of Carolina Forest Blvd.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was not held and no action was taken on the following items due to lack of quorum.

2020 Meeting Schedule – September 8th Meeting Proposed Change
Sandridge Park
Ducks Unlimited National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Application

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Gause announced that Vice Chairman Pamela Dawson was appointed to the Planning Commission and would be leaving the Parks and Open Space Board. Mr. Gause then read a letter, written by Mrs. Dawson, to the Board. The letter thanked the Board for their service and wished them well. Chairman Gause noted that Mrs. Dawson would be missed and wished her the best.

Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Strategic Planning Workshop- June 23, 2020 in TBA

Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting- July 14, 2020 12:00pm, in Multi-purpose Room B, Government & Justice, Conway

ADJOURN

With no further business, Chairman Kevin Gause entertained a motion to adjourn. Kevin Kiely made a motion and Lisa David seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:35 pm.
Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Briefing Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: August 11, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: September 8th Meeting

ISSUE:

Foreclosure Court is using 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 needs to meet in an alternate location for their September 8, 2020 meeting.

CONCLUSION:

The Parks and Open Space Board can either meet in the Government and Justice Center in rooms D and A, as currently reserved, or the Board can meet at an alternate location.

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. All of these meetings are scheduled to be held in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Center. The location for these meetings has been advertised to the public.

ANALYSIS:

Foreclosure Court has reserved Multipurpose Room B on September 8, 2020. Parks and Open Space Board can choose to utilize multipurpose room D and E, or the Board can choose to meet at an alternate location.
Horry County Parks and Open Space Board
Briefing Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: August 11, 2020
From: Planning
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Senior Planner
Cleared By: Leigh Kane, Principal Planner
Regarding: Huger Park

ISSUE:
What is the status of Huger Park?

CONCLUSION:
Staff is creating the Huger Park Master Plan and beginning the process of planning a Workshop to present the plan. DR Horton and Horry County Parks and Recreation are coordinating temporary landscaping and permanent irrigation until the design can be finalized and implemented.

BACKGROUND:
On January 10, 2013, Horry County acquired the land to create the Huger (Ten Oaks) Park. There have been multiple iterations for the future design for the Park. Currently, the park is planned to be a Memorial Park for General Isaac Huger, who alongside Generals Francis Marion and Peter Horry fought in the American Revolutionary War. The land on which the ten Live Oaks stand, (the area for the park) was once part of Isaac Huger land holdings in the South Carolina Lowcountry, which also included thousands of acres that are now part of the City of Myrtle Beach. The preservation of the ten Live Oaks together with the commemoration of General Isaac Huger has been the main area of interest.

ANALYSIS:
On February 12, 2020 a Conceptual Master Planning Workshop for Huger Park was held. Participants included representatives from the Sons of the American Revolution, Daughters of the American Revolution, Beautify Carolina Forest, Carolina Forest Civic Association, D.R. Horton, Horry County Parks and Recreation, Horry County Planning & Zoning, the Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, Horry County Board of Architectural Review and Historic Preservation, Coastal Carolina University’s Horry County Archives, the Horry County Historical Society, and the Horry County Museum. Multiple park designs concepts were developed. Representatives from stakeholder groups are coordinating with their State and National organizations to garner potential interest in additional funding and support for contributions to
specific elements of the plan. Staff is synthesizing the preliminary concepts and creating three Master Plans to present to the stakeholders at a Workshop.
ISSUE:

What is the status of Sandridge Park?

CONCLUSION:

Horry County Planning and Zoning, the Ride 3 Coordinator, and Parks and Recreation are coordinating with SCDOT and Mead and Hunt on the planning, design, and reconstruction of Sandridge Park.

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 which must be replaced. 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. Replacement of the park components must be consistent with the Land Water and Conservation Fund Grant which originally funded the park. Horry County Planning and Zoning Staff, the Ride 3 Coordinator, Horry County Parks and Recreation, SCDOT, and Mead & Hunt have been coordinating with the National Parks Association on the reconstruction plans for Sandridge Park. The next project update is expected in October or November.

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 gold 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.”
ISSUE:

What is the current status of the proposed Loris and Aynor Recreation Centers?

CONCLUSION:

While there has been some discussion regarding potential sites, there is currently no funding available to consider site acquisition, feasibility studies, or facility design.

BACKGROUND:

Horry County’s Capital Improvement Plan includes funding for two additional recreation centers in the ten (10) year plan, however no expenditures for these projects are included in the FY2021 budget. These two projects are included in FY2023 and FY2027 in the plan, but currently all new larger capital projects are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional funding would be necessary to cover operations within the centers.

At the February, 2020 Infrastructure and Regulation Committee Meeting, direction was given by Councilmen Al Allen, District 11, and Paul Prince, District 9, on the future potential locations for the Loris and Aynor Recreation Centers. Councilman Prince directed Parks and Recreation staff to look for potential parcels for the Loris Recreation Center within a 1-mile radius of the existing Loris schools. Councilman Al Allen directed Parks and Recreation staff to consider the parcels around Michael Morris Graham Park for the Aynor Recreation Center.

ANALYSIS:

The Town of Aynor and residents within the surrounding unincorporated area do not have access to recreation beyond what is available at area boat landings, Aynor Town Park, and the fields at Michael Morris Graham Park. The Town has a continued interest in the development of a recreation center, as this project was proposed in the County’s 1999 Recreation Needs Assessment. The residents in the Loris area have a similar situation. A lack of close proximity programmed recreation opportunities and growth along the Highway 9 corridor has increased the need for a recreation facility near the City of Loris. Aynor and Loris are in need of recreation
centers that will meet both the needs of municipal residents and those in surrounding unincorporated areas.