

Chester County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

R. Carlisle Roddey Chester County Government Building

Conference Room at 6:00 PM

September 12, 2022

Commission Members Present: Jerry Thomas, Hiawatha Clifton, Justin Temple, Tripp Lundsford, Forest Baker

Commission Members Absent: Jamie Wooten, Jermaine Map

Staff Present: Mike Levister, Joe Roberts, Robert Hall

Meeting Called to order at 6:06 by Hiawatha Clifton with the pledge and invocation.

Jerry Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2022, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.

The first topic was the Chester County Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan. Motion to table by Jerry Thomas, seconded by Justin Temple. Vote carried unanimously.

The second topic was a Chester County Park Improvements and Maintenance needs. Joe Roberts was present to discuss how park maintenance is currently facilitated. Joe stated that there are currently eight employees in the Facilities Maintenance Department that are responsible for maintaining all of the county facilities as well as addressing maintenance/improvements in the parks. Roberts stated that he would like to see the additional staff in the Facilities Department, as well as the Recreation Department have staff dedicated to park maintenance such as grass cutting, lining fields, removing trash, etc. The only contractors helping with park maintenance is the crew cutting grass at the David Minors Complex in Great Falls. Roberts stated he would like to see better communication, planning and a more proactive approach rather than a reactive approach to Recreation Maintenance needs. Roberts stated the Rodman Complex construction and upgrades would stress the Facilities Department resources and would require additional staff to support the complex. Hiawatha Clifton expressed his appreciation for the Facilities Maintenance department. Hiawatha stated that it is important to plan for additional fields and practice facilities due to the number of participants. Hiawatha would like to see more planning sessions to discuss the number and available athletic fields and the current scheduling issues. Taken as information only, no action taken.

The third topic was the Disc Golf Report. Forest Baker presented a proposal for a disc golf course. The course would be installed on existing county property and land clearing would be required as needed. Baker stated that the only disc golf course between Chester and Columbia is at Chester State Park and there are fees associated with park entry. The Advisory Board will review existing park locations that may be viable for a disc golf course. Motion to table by Jerry Thomas, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton. Motion carried unanimously.

The fourth topic was Rodman Complex Master Plan. Robert Hall presented the Alliance Engineering proposal and the approved sales tax funding that was allocated to both Rodman Baseball/Softball and Soccer. Hall stated that Council agreed to allocate the remaining funding to begin construction at Rodman. Hall introduced the representatives from Alliance Engineering to discuss the proposed drawings and to answer questions from the board. Alliance Engineering presented the new proposed drawing and discussed the code enforcement and topology concerns with the drawings that had initially been approved as a part of the Rodman Master Plan. Alliance representatives discussed the narrow distance between the baseball/softball fields that the previous design showed. Alliance discussed how parking, Complex ingress/egress, emergency services access, and ADA resources will be improved with the new proposal. The new proposal would allow for office space for the Parks and Recreation Director and would

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eventually provide a storage building. The overall estimated cost of the proposal would be \$4.1 million. Construction is estimated to take five to nine months if permitting has been completed. Kelly Lundsford discussed concerns with baseball and soccer teams playing/practicing in close proximity and the safety concerns that it presents. Kelly also had concerns about why the number of proposed soccer fields were changing. Kelly would like to preserve as many soccer fields as possible and would like to see at least maintaining a 5th field in the proposal. Alliance Engineering representative stated that as fields were added to the proposal, there would also need to be additional parking spaces added for code compliance. Tripp Lundsford stated that we need to be planning for growth. Kelly again advocated that she would like to see a 5th field implemented and concession stands for soccer. Kelly would like to see capacity improvements at the complex improved instead of improving the current facilities that are currently there. Roxann James presented the board members with a packet containing the previously approved Rodman Master Plan as well as information to show the projected growth within the community. James would like to see the original proposal fulfilled to help support the projected growth coming to the Rodman community. David Loftin discussed the original master plan and concerns about the changes with the Alliance proposal. David addressed concerns with the press box and meeting rooms being smaller, parking, ingress/egress concerns for emergency services, and the change from 5 field baseball/softball pinwheel to 4 fields in a pinwheel configuration. Loftin questioned why the county approved plans that cost \$80,000 that are no longer being considered. Jerry Thomas questioned some of the facilities not being on the drawing. Thomas stated that there was an existing master plan that has been approved by council and would need to be reapproved if changed. Robert Hall stated that this would be the first phase of the Rodman Complex Master plan and the rest of the master plan would remain as previously approved. The advisory board members discussed what changes to the master plan would be approved with the new proposal. Hiawatha Clifton made a motion to recommend council approve Alliance Consulting Engineers, inc. proposed conceptual drawing p22029, dated August 1st 2022, which is a modification of the Rodman Master Plan from five baseball/softball fields to four baseball/softball fields.

Hiawatha Clifton made the motion, seconded by Justin Temple. The vote carried unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:36 by Justin Temple, seconded by Hiawatha Clifton.