

## *Chester County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board*

Gateway Conference Center

Zoom Meeting ID: 509 344 1031

6:00 pm

March 8, 2021

Commission Members Present: Jerry Thomas; Wade A. Young; Justin Temple; Anthony Worthy; Hiawatha Clifton; Brad Jordan; Tripp Lunsford

Commission Members Absent: Jamey Wooten; Jermaine Mapp

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Jerry with pledge and invocation.

A motion to approve the minutes was by Hiawatha. The motion was seconded by Tripp. The vote passed unanimously.

The first topic was the 2014 One Cent Sales Tax, which was saved and tabled for another meeting.

The next topic was the Possible County Recreation Center. The advisory board was visiting and told by Robert D. Long there is a possibility for using Chester Technology Park for recreation since the YMCA is no longer available. He also stated there may be the potential to build several small recreation centers around the county. This would also require partners in financing to build. It is estimated that a 30,000 square foot facility would cost \$122 per square foot.

The third topic revolved around the Pride Baseball Organization. The Pride Baseball Organization is a mission based organization looking to build a \$10 million project in Chester County. They would like to build within the current Rodman Park or on the land next to Rodman. The organization would like for Chester County to give them the land because they feel that the organization's tournaments will bring in lots of revenue to the county and surrounding areas.

The baseball tournaments will be held every weekend with 40 to 80 teams each weekend of the year. The current estimated revenue for the tournaments is believed to be in the millions. However, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board President, Jerry Thomas, has stated numerous times once the current Rodman

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plan is completed that the county can hold its own tournaments and utilize the revenue. Not only would the tournaments bring in extra revenue from the teams and their families, but also, the businesses within the county can grow. This will lead to more hotels and restaurants.

If the Pride Baseball Organization is allowed to operate tournaments on the weekends, the County will need to write a Memorandum of Understanding, or M.O.U., to discuss who will use the fields and when. The members of the advisory board would also like to know the affect on lower class ball players. This is because they may not be able to afford to play baseball on a travel ball club.

It was also stated that the Pride Organization is also seeking to operate in the White Oak community of Fairfield.

Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:30 pm.