



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

Stonecrest Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

*Councilwoman Tara Graves – Chair
Karyl Clayton – Vice Chair
Beverly Cooper - Secretary*

*Councilman George Turner
Charnessa Grace
Jamil Salem*

*Ieisha Fuller
Kennard Turner*

Revonda Cosby, ex-officio

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Citizen Access: [Stonecrest YouTube Live Channel](#)

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Councilwoman Tara Graves, Chair at 7:06 pm.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Starlett Bailey, City Clerk's Office
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

Overall limit in public comments is 20 minutes. Limited to 2 minutes per speaker. Speaker can only speak once in public comments. Public comments are restricted to topics regarding Parks and Recreation

- IV. **AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Welcoming new Director of Leisure Services/Staff Members

Ben Dillard stated that Leisure Services is working on proposing items for ARPA, the Master Plan implementation, and helping the department grow since he has been in his role with the City of Stonecrest.

Mr. Dillard was asked if he could update the committee on either the Master Plan implementation or Salem Park. He confirmed a lot of the Salem Park work was done and approved out of SPLOST, the pavilion roof has been repaired, playground documents have been submitted to finance and the equipment is ready to be installed after one more vote. He also stated the City Engineer, Hari Karikaran, will be presenting his proposal for the parking lot designs, and that they have reached out to the Atlanta Hawks Foundation to inquire about partnering with Leisure Services to get the basketball courts done. Mr.

Dillard stated that if everything goes accordingly, Parks should be done by year end and that Leisure Services is looking to add trails, water fountains, and possibly another pavilion.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner expressed that the Advisory Committee is only in place to advise the Council.

Councilmember Tara Graves asked Mr. Dillard about the fence at Salem Park and he confirmed that the fence will be repaired in the areas that need it most with the ARPA Project and the rest will be replaced with the design of the parking lot.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner asked Mr. Dillard for a snapshot of his vision for all the Stonecrest parks in the next two to five years. Mr. Dillard stated that he envisions walking trails at both Salem and Fairington need work, pocket parks, and destination parks like the Botanical Gardens. He confirmed that Carroll County Park is closest to what he envisions.

Member Revonda Cosby asked if there was an update on the Botanical Gardens and Mr. Dillard stated he has nothing new, but confirmed work is in progress.

b. Open Discussion on Park Visits

Councilmember Tara Graves asked the committee if anyone was able to do any park visits. Vice-Chair Karyl Clayton answered that she visited Fairington, Panola Shoals, and Everett Park and the parks need more curb appeal, stressing Fairington's boulders, and the fencing on the front. Also, the signage for Fairington is not appropriately placed. Vice-Chair Karyl Clayton also suggested adopt-a-park, addressing the graffiti and signage at Panola Shoals, and camera security at the parks, as well as Southeastern for a BMX park.

Member Revonda Cosby asked that Director Dillard introduce himself to the community, and encouraged security at Panola Shoals, as well as visits to the South River.

Member Ieisha Fuller stated she would like to see more opportunities for dog parks with water features, waste bag dispensers, lighting for trails that lead to tennis courts, and curb appeal.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner expressed his concern with litter control, the addition of the asphalt in the parking lot, and kudzu at east end of Brown's Mill Park.

c. Decision on Park Recommendations

Councilmember Tara Graves invited Tameika Porter to speak on any upcoming events. Tameika Porter stated that preparations are active for Screen on the Green and discussed some of their vendors. She also mentioned that Leisure Services is working on trunk-or-treat and welcomes any car clubs for that event.

d. Upcoming Parks Events or Recommendations

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner added that on major holidays there should be something

going on. Tameika Porter added that there were plans for Juneteenth, but they were unable to pan out. She stated they will happen and asked everyone to visit the aquatic center for the last weekend.

e. Committee Comments

Vice-Chair Karyl Clayton stated that she believes Parks is going in the right direction and encouraged progress.

Member Beverly Cooper mirrored the previous comment.

Member Ieisha Fuller thanked everyone for the great information and would like everyone to be mindful of communication strategy.

Member Jamil Salam added that the pandemic has caused people to separate so community engagement will allow for park utilization.

Member Revonda Cosby stated that park visitation increased 30-40% during and since the pandemic so she would like to continue to work together for the good of the parks. Member Revonda Cosby also encouraged beautification and curb appeal.

Mayor Pro Tem George Turner stated that monument signs for park entrances, way finding signs, and Stonecrest signage around the City are some things that he would like to bring ideas for and participate in.

Councilmember Tara Graves thanked everyone for their contributions, adding that she would also like better lighting and would participate more if lighting was better.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Tara Graves adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.