

## Shoal Creek Park Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

08-07-2019 1PM Montevallo City Hall

The mission of SCP is to provide a diverse and sustainable retreat for Montevallo residents and visitors that promotes its natural surroundings, health, regional history, environmental education, arts and agriculture.

Members present: Terry Arnold, Susan Fulmer, Cheryl Patton, John Nix, Philip Busby, Dee Woodham, Nisa Miranda

Members absent: Carey Heatherly, Sue Wilder-White, Marty Everse, Kelly Wacker, Ashton Cottingham and Mike Hardig

Ex-officio present: Mayor Hollie Cost, Mary Ellen Heuton (representing John Stewart)

Ex-officio absent: Alex Dudchock, Mike Jones (representing Tom Walker), Eldon Woodie (recently retired from Alabama National Cemetery)

Others present: Will Lumpkin, Tyler Ewing, Maggie Benson

### **General Board Issues and Financial Report**

Minutes for board meeting on 5-1-19 and the strategic planning meeting on 6-27-19 were approved.

Susan reported the current bank balance is \$83,053, about \$40,000 less than last meeting due to the contribution payment to MDCD for the Frank Arnold bridge.

Dee reported that Rob Miller resigned from the board due to business obligations.

The board approved opening a checking account and credit card at Regions bank, with all officers authorized to sign. This will allow the Foundation to accept donations easily and pay for the website and any other expenses more easily.

### **Update on the park**

The Frank Arnold Bridge has been finalized.

The Betty Mahler Loop trail is well-defined, thanks to Terry, Shane and Sydney. MDCD has hired an engineering firm to create a conceptual design plan for the ADA Betty Loop, which will allow us the information to write grants.

TrailVisions was hired for trail building in the wooded areas. They designed the trails at Cahaba Park and are particularly good at designing trails given the lay of the land and in making sure maintenance is minimized.

Shane & Sydney have added trail markers that can be modified over time. Eric, with the county, has finalized the updated trail map. This should be printed and posted at the park next week.

Kellis Vegetation is coming back to spray for privet.

Dee is still working on the plaques for the bridges and the placement of the two picnic tables and kiosks near the bridges.

The barbed wire fencing has been pulled down at the northern most part of the park, near the Frank Arnold bridge, allowing access to the small falls/rapids on cemetery land.

Three people from the Birmingham Audubon Society visited the park. Dee expects the park to be designated as an "Alabama Birding Trail" site in the fall. This will give the park state-wide exposure and probably targeted group activities at the park.

A boy scout wants to build birdhouses for the park. He's in contact with the B'ham Audubon Society to build the correct type of houses for the park.

Philip reported on the cemetery sub-committee. He, Marty and Carey met last week and have started their research. There was a discussion about remembering the people, Indians, who lived on the land before the Perry's.

Dee reported on the Betty Loop plant identification sub-committee, with Mike and Terry. They will work to recommend signage for the trees along the Betty Loop trail.

### **Marketing/communications/fundraising**

Cheryl continues to work with Kelly to create the website and after the Strategic Planning and project priority list is finalized, work on membership and fundraising.

### **Event Committee**

Mary Ellen reminded everyone that the Park Board is working on rules for the park. She will reconvene her sub-committee to think more broadly about events and not just weddings.

### **House Update**

Hollie reported the Rob Walker has presented a preliminary report, with a schematic. He recommends using the house as a small event preparation space. Events would be held outside. The garage would be a catering kitchen and the sewing room would be public restrooms. The house could be for food preparation and dressing areas.

### **Strategic Planning and Future Projects**

Nisa led the discussion, referencing the minutes or summary from the 6-27<sup>th</sup> meeting. She then handed out the Summary of concepts and ideas for SCP and then handed out the summary tally of project votes.

Comments with the concepts and ideas: We need to balance the enjoyment of the park with the financial reality of bringing in revenue. We need to maintain the integrity and uniqueness of the land. The board recognized the importance of creating rules and prices for park usage, which is in process through the park board. Herman, Hollie and Dee will research the legal protection for SCP for City Councils and SCPF members far into the future. Each project should have a

financial reserve for future maintenance and we should remember this when receiving a large donation (ask donor for this future reserve).

The board discussed the projects and tallies at length and decided:

Given the diversity and beauty of the property, we would not use artificial play equipment. Montevallo has other city parks with standard playgrounds containing play equipment.

Projects in process and need to continue to work on the following:

1. Events- The board encouraged annual events, maybe 2-3 a year, and possibly to coordinate with other city events, with these ideas:

Archery, event pavilion, weddings, geocaching, inner tubing, arboretum (tree planting event), theatre, team-building activities.

The board needs to consider whether it wants to handle events or hire companies to provide the concessions.

2. Bird viewing- Dee is working with B'ham Audubon Society. We expect the park to be an Alabama Birding Site. Boy scouts are offering to build bird houses.

3. Cabins/Camping- Hollie wants to investigate and lead efforts.

4. Catering Kitchen- this is a recommendation for the garage of the house by Rob Walker.

5. Connectors to other assets/trails outside SCP- This will be moved to the Trail Committee.

6. Cross Country Training/Racing- Sub-committee of Philip Busby, Will Lumpkin, UM cross-country coach and Mrs. Moore, the Middle School coach.

7. Flower/Pumpkin patch- If a volunteer is interested in doing, we would welcome, especially if it visible from the road.

8. Geocaching- already occurring in the park.

9. Icon/Sculpture- Hollie wants to lead this effort.

10. Innertube/Kayak Launch- Hollie will investigate the liability of having a launch area and take outs. The board didn't want to offer continuously, but thought it might be possible to allow people to bring their own inner tubes or kayaks.

11. Interpretive Signage/Tag Trees- sub-committee formed: Mike, Terry and Dee. We'll start by labeling the Betty Loop Trail, Cheryl will re-visit the pollinator grant signage (Mike has already designed a sign), and the city will pursue a CAWCA grant.

12. Mountain Biking- All trails are multi-purpose, but we can promote more biking opportunities.

13. Picnic Areas- Dee, Shane & Sydney

14. Trails/ADA Accessible Trails- Dee and Hollie. MDCD has paid for conceptual design and cost estimate to use for grants.

15. Develop Cemetery- the sub-committee has been formed and has started research and has ideas about preserving the area.

16. Dog park- If we get the grant, this will move forward.

Potential Projects for the future

1. Arboretum, Demonstration Farm & Pollinator Meadow- Mike Hardig, Ashton Cottingham and John Nix

Projects no longer supported for at least the next 2 years:

1. Craft School Campus
2. Disc golf- UM has one
3. Sensory Park

**NEXT MEETING**

**1PM Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at City Hall**