

**Approved Minutes**  
**Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC)**  
**Regular Commission Meeting**  
**861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412**  
**Monday, March 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm**

**Commission Members Present:** Brad Taggart (Chair), Mattese Lecque (Vice Chair), Amy Adams (Secretary/Treasurer), Garrett Lacy, Lisa King, and Merriweather Mulé (via teleconference).

**Staff Present:** Kevin Bowie, Phil Macchia, Charlie McManus, Gina Ellis-Strother, Steve Hutton, Eric Stewart, Mark Madden, Melissa Muse (via teleconference), Patty Newshutz, Tommy Hale, Shanté Ellis, Ray Ely, Mackenzie Hlydburg, Lisa Knisely-White, Chris Wheeler, Lauren Keane, and Matt Moldenhauer.

**Legal Counsel Present:** Dwayne Green.

**Guests Present:** None.

**1. Call to Order and Welcome**

Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media

The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, March 9, 2026 at CCPRC's Headquarters, Charleston, SC and virtually via [youtube.com/@CharlestonCPRC](https://www.youtube.com/@CharlestonCPRC). Commission Chair, Brad Taggart, called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to news media and persons requesting notification.

**2. Public Comments**

None.

**3. (ACTION) Approval of February 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#044-2526)

**4. Planning and Development Update**

Planning & Development Director, Patty Newshutz, reviewed the progress staff are making related to their assigned Capital Improvement Projects, project solicitations, and potential land acquisitions.

**5. Financial Services Update**

Chief Financial Officer, Charlie McManus, presented and reviewed the checks over \$7,500 and financial reports for the month of January.

**6. (ACTION) FYE27 Budget Approval**

Motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 budget and submit to the Charleston County Budget Office was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#045-2526)

## **7. (ACTION) Donation Acceptance – Jim Booth Art Work Donation**

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate, finalize, and execute a written gift agreement for the acceptance of four original Jim Booth artworks depicting scenes from the Commission parks and facilities was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#046-2526)

## **8. (INFO) Bylaw Updates**

Commission authorized the Executive Director to work with Legal Counsel to update their current bylaws and present them for approval at a future meeting.

## **9. (INFO) Website Update**

Ellis-Strother introduced Hyldborg, the Digital Marketing Coordinator, noting that she led the coordination and update of the new website. Ellis-Strother and Hyldborg acknowledged Knisely-White's contribution for building the agency's first website. The agency changed from CivicPlus to SimpleView as its vendor. Hyldborg asked the Commission to view the website as the front door to the backyard. Website is full of imagery. Hlydburg reviewed the features and highlights of the new website. The website will launch on March 19.

## **10. (INFO) Parks Attendance Reporting Update**

Stewart reviewed the history of how attendance was manually counted at the various locations and how the reports for the Commission are compiled. Cell phone data via PlacerAI is now being utilized to reduce the amount of time and manual productivity for staff to produce the report. The technology is now able to provide use reporting on unmanned locations including boat landings. Bowie noted that the new technology has made it clear that the 3 million visitors that staff thought they were serving actually easily exceeds 4 million visitors.

## **11. Agency Highlight: Old Towne Creek County Park (OTCCP) Update**

Newshutz reviewed the history and progress of the facility. Substantial project completion anticipated at the end of March 2026. Stewart introduced Lauren Keane, OTCCP Manager, and Wheeler, OTCCP Maintenance Specialist. Stewart reviewed the park hours, fees, amenities, pay by phone pedestrian access, and maintenance yard/District 2 offices/staff parking. Madden thanked the P&D staff for their close work with Recreation staff on the interpretation for the facility. Madden reviewed the sites natural and historical programming theme of Cultivating Communities. There will be programs that feature Emily Ravenel Farough and Mary Just for their contributions to shaping West Ashley. Events will include Wine Down Wednesday, Cultural History Programs, Educational Field Trips, Children's Nature Programs, Bird Walks, and Self-Guided Interpretive Displays. Hutton noted that a leased office space will no longer be needed as recreation staff will be moved into the main house of the facility. Hutton noted that the grand opening is anticipated in late April-early May. Invitations for the grand opening will go out soon. King asked if picnic tables will be available to patrons. Staff confirmed. Green asked there will be rentable shelters. Hutton confirmed not at the start of the park, but maybe down the line. Taggart asked if the park has water access. Hutton confirmed that there isn't at this time due to some safety concerns. Bowie noted that there will be several plaques acknowledging the contributions of various citizens to make this project come to life.

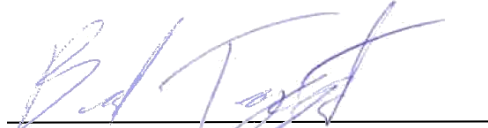
## **12. Next Meeting & Announcements**

Regular Commission Meeting, Monday, April 13, 2026, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters,

Charleston, SC

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Taggart, Commission Chair



Shanté Ellis, Executive Administrative Associate