Approved Minutes
Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC)
Regular Commission Meeting
861 Riverland Drive, Charleston, SC, 29412
Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Commission Members Present: Brad Taggart (Chair), Mattese Lecque (Vice Chair), Amy Adams (Secretary/Treasurer), Lisa King, Merriweather Mulé, and Noah Rosenthal.

Commission Members Not Present: Garrett Lacy

Staff Present: Kevin Bowie, Phil Macchia, Charlie McManus, Gina Ellis-Strother, Steve Hutton, Christine Volousky, Eric Stewart, Melissa Muse (via teleconference), Patty Newshutz, Tommy Hale, Shanté Ellis, Kari Lavoie, Chris Fludd-Clark, and Matthew Rosebrock.

Legal Counsel Present: Dwayne Green.

Guests Present: Nikki Bowie and Jessica Gray.

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

   Introduction of Guests and Notification to Media

   The Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission met on Monday, May 11, 2026 at CCPRC's Headquarters, Charleston, SC and virtually via 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. **Star Guard Presentation**

   Chief Operations Officer, Steve Hutton, introduced Kari Lavoie, Emergency Services Manager, and Star Guard Elite organization representative, Jessica Gray. The Star Guard Elite organization oversees CCPRC's Lifeguard and Safety Certification Program. Gray presented the Elite Leadership award to Lavoie and commented that she is the first recipient of this award. Gray commended Lavoie's dedication to having high safety standards and being a motivating presence for staff. Lavoie thanked Gray and the Star Guard Elite for the award. She also thanked Nikki Bowie for hiring her into the Emergency Services Department and being the mentor that enabled her to be in the position to receive this award.

4. **(ACTION) National Beach Safety Week Proclamation**

   Motion to approve the National Beach Safety Week Proclamation was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#049-2526)

5. **(ACTION) Approval of April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

   Motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#050-2526)

6. 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.

a. (ACTION) Award of Contract – Design Build Construction Services Cooper River County Park Revetment and Waterside Improvements

Motion to enter a contract with Caper Romain Contractors, Inc, in the amount of $3,101,732.00 for the design-build construction of shoreline revetment and waterside improvements at Cooper River County Park, and overall project budget $3,256,732, with funds coming from the approved CIP budget was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#051-2526)

b. (ACTION) Engineering Services for Edisto Island Youth Recreation Center Change Order 002, RREC-002

Motion to approve a Change Order to the Davis & Floyd Inc. contract for additional services, in the amount of $51,000.00 with funds coming from the approved CIP budget was made by Commissioner Adams and approved by the Commission. (#052-2526).

c. (ACTION) Engineering Services for Shem Creek Boat Landing Parking Lot Extension – Change Order 001, BOAT-006

Motion to approve a Change Order to the JMT contract for additional services in the amount of $52,304.00 with funds coming from the approved CIP budget was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#053-2526)

d. (ACTION) Bear Swamp Road Extension Land Transfer

Motion to approve Commission approve deed transfers for subdivided parcels B1, B2, B3 and B4 for the Bear Swamp Road extension from CCPRC to the City of Charleston was made by Commissioner Mulé and approved by the Commission. (#054-2526)

7. Financial Services Update

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

McManus confirmed that the GO Bond sales were very successful after a very competitive bid. Funds will be available at the end of the month.

8. (ACTION) Award Contract: Supplying & Producing Fireworks Display for Annual for the Holiday Festival of Lights (HFOL)

Motion to enter into a contract with Pyrotecnico Fireworks, Inc. for the annual Holiday Festival of Lights (HFOL) fireworks display for the base year with four additional one-year options with funds coming from the approved General Agency Budget was made by Commissioner Rosenthal and approved by the Commission. (#055-2526)

9. (INFO) Foundation IRS Update

Gina Ellis-Strother and Tommy Hale reviewed the recently filed IRS forms with the Commission.

10. Executive Session: Contractual Matter (Real Estate Acquisition)

Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss a potential real estate acquisition in the East County for development of a future recreational site was made by Commissioner King and approved by the Commission. (#056-2526)

11. Post Executive Session:

Upon returning from Executive Session, Commissioner Taggart stated that no action was taken.

12. Next Meeting & Announcements

Ms. Lecque asked for the Executive Director Review/Evaluation Committee to be reinstated and for the attorney to create a tool to evaluate the Executive Director. Mr. Green confirmed that it is best practice to have an evaluation tool with goals that would allow feedback and potential opportunities to assess for compensation reviews as well. Mr. Green noted that it would protect the Commission and the Executive Director when giving feedback. Mr. Green stated that this process has been followed for the past two Executive Directors. Mr. Green noted that Board turnover also would solidify position parameters, goals, and objectives.

Motion to reinstate the Executive Director Review/Evaluation Committee and legal to come up with an evaluation tool to be distributed for Commission review/approval within 60 days was made by Commissioner Lecque and approved by the Commission. (#057-2526)

Bowie confirmed that staff are diligently trying to get Old Towne Creek County Park open as soon as possible.

Regular Commission Meeting, Monday, June 08, 2026, 5:30pm at CCPRC Headquarters, Charleston, SC

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Taggart, Commission Chair

Shanté Ellis, Executive Administrative Associate