

Recreation Committee Meeting

September 18, 2025

A meeting of the Recreation Committee was held on this date beginning at 2:04 p.m. at 80 Broad Street and over video conference call.

Councilmembers Present: Councilmember Caroline Parker (Chair), Councilmember Jim McBride, Councilmember Kevin Shealy (*virtual*), Councilmember Keith Waring (*virtual*), and Mayor William S. Cogswell, Jr.

Staff Present: Jason Kronsberg, Director, Parks; Laurie Yarbrough, Director, Recreation; Elizabeth Dieck, Chief of Staff; Daniel Riccio, Section Chief, Community Services; Melissa Cruthirds, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Katie Dahlheim, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Hampton Logan, Executive Assistant and Special Projects Manager – Chief of Staff; Jennifer Cook, Clerk of Council; and Wanda Stepp, Clerk of Council's Office (recording).

Also Present: Kyle Sult, Chris Maloney, Bertrand Valero, Timothy Quinn, David Paolisso, Chris Gohlson, Scott Wilson, Nigel Carlton, Brian Savan, Gregg Lambton-Carr, Abby Mummert, Thomas Lee, and Dallas Gailey (*virtual*).

Chairwoman Parker called the meeting to order.

Chairwoman Parker opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember McBride, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025 Recreation Committee meeting.

Public Participation:

1. Kyle Sult said Charleston Rugby included 13 organizations from youth rugby to high school rugby to adult clubs, both men and women. Charleston had the largest concentration of active rugby players in the State of South Carolina and rugby had been played continuously in Charleston for more than 50 years. Out of the 31 large fields within the City's inventory of parks, none were specific to rugby. Coach Stanley Chisolm Park (CSCP) was the only park that allowed for rugby goalposts where the sleeves were installed and paid for by local men's rugby clubs. Their proposal was to allow rugby to invest in improving that park to benefit Charleston's sporting community in exchange for limited use. Dedicated rugby pitch was integral to growing the sport of rugby and ensuring local clubs could compete. The use proposal was consistent with the goals and recommendations of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2. Chris Maloney with Charleston Rugby requested that the Committee engage in understanding their proposal for use of CSCP. After the last meeting he was disappointed to learn that some Councilmembers did not know where CSCP was or that it was an undeveloped green space under lock and key and only available to the public by rental permit. CSCP had no amenities, restroom facilities, access to running water, or seating for participants. It was not a user-friendly facility. Yet, it was the only park that the City would allow them to play rugby on that met the requirements of the sport. When they rented the facility, they lined the field, supplied their

necessary equipment, and removed their own trash. They had provided their own port-o-let for the last five years at their own expense. They asked that the City invest in that facility to provide basic amenities that would improve user experience for everyone that chose to use the facility. In exchange, they only asked for a few guaranteed days of use each year. They had been asking for support from the City for over 40 years. If not now, when?

3. Bertrand Valero said he had been involved with rugby in the community for over ten years. It was a sport that encouraged the whole community from youth to adult women and men. There were a lot of people who wanted to grow the sport at all levels. The biggest obstacle was the facility. There wasn't a facility available with lights. Dolphin Cove was one of the only facilities they could use and the City was not investing any money in it. They were willing to do it to benefit the whole community in rugby. He thought they had a lot of potential for growth, and it would help the community.

4. Timothy Quinn said rugby held a unique place in their communities beyond just being another sport. He could cite statistics, highlight the growing popularity of rugby in the U.S., or celebrate the fact they would host the Rugby World Cup in 2031, but instead he wanted to share something more personal, his journey into rugby and the rugby community. Over two years ago, he was deployed with the Army to Africa. His section was understaffed, and the hours were long, so he found himself searching for a healthy outlet to relieve stress and stay active. As a self-conscious introvert who never really played an organized sport, he initially gravitated toward individual disciplines like martial arts, but fate had other plans. He was invited to join a game of touch rugby and that invitation sparked a passion in him that had not left. Rugby was unlike any other sport. It wasn't just about physical prowess or tactical skill, it was about connection, camaraderie, and belonging. On the pitch, players of every shape, size, race, gender, and background come together each bringing their strengths and supporting one another.

5. David Paolisso requested that the Recreation Committee engage with Charleston Rugby regarding a proposal to dedicate CSCP as a dedicated rugby pitch. Charleston Rugby represented 13 organizations from youth to adult clubs as well as women clubs and it had sustained the sport locally for more than 50 years. Despite Charleston having 31 large fields, none of them were designated for rugby. Their proposal was to invest in improvements to CSCP in exchange for limited scheduled use consistent with the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He moved to Charleston from Philadelphia. He had struggled to make friends and to network, so he decided to join rugby as he had been playing for ten years-plus in Pennsylvania. It was not comparable to how close-knit the rugby community was in Charleston. He found himself helping to coach high school practices. He hung out with the women's team. He couldn't put into words how much the people meant to him.

6. Chris Gohlson said he represented Charleston Youth Rugby. They had about 25 to 30 middle school and below youth age boys and girls, that were introduced to rugby through part of their program. He was a former Charleston Outlaw going way back and currently a rugby coach. He had also played with the Coast Guard rugby team. He asked that the Recreation Committee support the Charleston Rugby proposal that Chris Maloney had shepherded in exchange for improvements for the park and continued access to a dedicated large field that rugby could use to grow the support. The U.S. would host the men's Rugby World Cup in 2031 and the women's in 2033. Those were premier international events. Rugby was on the cusp of growth the way soccer was back in the early '90s. He asked that the Committee support the proposal to keep rugby with a dedicated home.

7. Scott Wilson said he was first introduced to rugby in the early part of the first Reagan Administration and he came back to it when he retired and was asked to volunteer. The Wando Rugby Football Club, formerly the Wando High School Club and now a 501(3)(c) established in 2010 for boys and in 2019 added a high school girls' team. He was lucky enough to help with the Wando Rugby Football Club presently had approximately 51 athletes on their combined rosters. The Wando Rugby Football Club alumni had played and were playing rugby at The Citadel, Clemson, Queens College, USC, Lander, Brown, West Point, and he could keep going. The Wando Rugby Football Club supported the Charleston Outlaws's proposal regarding CSCP.

8. Nigel Carlton asked the Committee to engage with Charleston Rugby as a whole, men's clubs, women's clubs, youth programs, and engage with the proposal that Chris Maloney had proposed to the Committee. There was a lot of passion in rugby in the community. There was a huge network of people. It was the only sport that he knew of where they could go internationally and just pick up and play with a group of strangers. They could do it around the U.S. and everywhere, which was unique to rugby. He thought it was a win-win for the City, and especially, for how long rugby had been played in the area. He told the Committee to please engage with them and they looked forward to working with the Committee.

9. Brian Savan said rugby was the fastest growing sport in America. It would be huge for Charleston to be at the forefront of this, especially in this huge community that everyone was there to support. He told the Committee to please give them as much support as possible.

10. Gregg Lambton-Carr said he was on the Board of South Carolina Rugby, which controlled all the high school rugby in South Carolina. Currently, they had six high schools in Charleston and 15 in South Carolina. On an average weekend when they had a tournament in Charleston, there was anywhere from 300 to 500 people that traveled to Charleston to support their high school rugby. Their biggest problem was that they didn't have any fields to accommodate those people. They spent more time playing in Greer where they did have fields available for them. They had one team. Their growth potential over the next two years was to add another five Charleston schools. He told the Committee to please allow them to have some fields.

11. Abby Mummert, President of the College of Charleston Women's Rugby Team and a player on the Charleston Hurricanes, the women's counterpart of the men. She believed that CSCP as an official rugby pitch would provide a great connector between youth, high school, collegiate, and adult club play that would allow a succinct culture they could join. It would allow bridging between the great culture they had and would let it flourish in Charleston. She believed it would be in all their clubs' and the City's best interest to get ahead of the curve before they hosted the World Cups.

12. Thomas Lee said he was there on behalf of the College of Charleston men's rugby team. Rugby was a very tight-knit community, and the proposal would allow them the space that would allow easy transition between levels. A lot of the problems they had currently were due to separation. Everybody was playing on a different field just looking for some place to play. This would give them a single place, so he was in support of the proposal.

Mayor Cogswell asked Ms. Yarbrough if she could give clarification about the handout that she gave regarding the fields as to what was highlighted and why. He asked if it was days or events when they looked at how many times they were reserved. Ms. Yarbrough said it was. Mayor Cogswell said as he saw CSCP, combined between the rugby organizations, it was a total of ten.

Ms. Yarbrough said that would be what was in RecTrac for 2025. She didn't know if the dates moving forward in the fall were not on there yet. If Charleston Rugby had applied for something from this point on, it was not listed on there as it hadn't happened yet. Mayor Cogswell said so that was how many had been reserved to date. Ms. Yarbrough said to date. She had prepared a list of 2025 field permitted rentals outside of what the City's programs run, so those were all outside groups and outside fields. The ones that were highlighted were lighted fields. It allowed them to show groups how many times they reserved fields and used the City's fields in addition to what the City had programmed. If they looked under Charleston Rugby, there were five for CSCP. Mayor Cogswell asked if rugby was a fall sport or was it a year-round sport. Ms. Yarbrough said the way those folks played it was year-round. Mayor Cogswell asked if it was fall traditionally or was it fall and spring. Ms. Yarbrough said it was fall and spring. Mr. Lambton-Carr said there was a winter league. Ms. Yarbrough said this would be part of a bigger conversation, but the handout did give them that information.

4. Old Business:

a. Update on Parks and Recreation Master Plan General Obligation Bonds:

Mr. Kronsberg said he didn't have any information on the bonding process. Mayor Cogswell said they were looking at issuing a bond for the first phase of construction on projects related to the Recreation Bond itself by the end of the year, so it would be coming to Council. They were going through the pricing on the bond issuance currently and they had gotten pretty good terms. It would probably be on Ways and Means in the next month or so.

Mayor Cogswell said they were also working on finalizing the design with W.L. Stephens and Johns Island. They were finalizing the schematic to go to the public. They were working internally on the programming, which that would not be set in stone. Then, they would go to the public, get their input, make final tweaks, and start to go to construction drawings, but they had come along in a pretty strong way. For example, on Johns Island, they had one elevation design that had a relatively high roof for the pool area. Their engineers had come back and said it would be extremely costly to condition, so they asked to bring down the roof by about 4 ft. or 5 ft., maybe 7 ft. That would have a big impact on operating cost, so they were in the weeds on that kind of effort.

Mayor Cogswell said the proposed facilities on Bees Ferry, the pool addition, the Bear Swamp Field, the Stephen Washington Park renovations, all were moving into design drawings. Mr. Kronsberg said they had the concepts put together. Mayor Cogswell said it was very much in the process. In the first round of funding, they were looking at issuing two bonds, one this year and then probably one at the end of next year to pay for everything.

Mr. Kronsberg said they had started the small stakeholder group outreach. They had met with the Miracle League the prior week. Their field was at Forest Park next to the W.L. Stephens Pool, so they were working through agreements with them. Their agreement had expired, but they were negotiating that lease for the Miracle League field. For October, they planned on hitting the larger communities, working through the districts, the larger stakeholder groups, and the general public to schedule meetings.

Chairwoman Parker asked if any other projects to date had been designated. It sounded like probably next year as far as what was identified in the referendum based on that list. Mr. Kronsberg said other than what was identified, the Johns Island Recreation Center, which was

about a 50,000 sq.ft. facility, and W.L. Stephens were the first two major projects that they were starting to undertake.

Councilmember Waring said he thought several years ago the City had gotten the fields in the Pierpont area through the utilization of green space monies. He asked Councilmember Shealy if those fields were being used. Councilmember Shealy said those were the Woodland fields in the Church Creek area. From what he understood that field was still vacant and he didn't know if the City had any plans. Councilmember Waring said it may have been before COVID or during COVID when the City had used green space monies to acquire more space that could be utilized for recreational fields. If they were going to be going out for bond to make some improvements, it would be great. In listening to the rugby people, he thought it would be great to use for rugby, soccer, or whatever recreational activity as they already had it in the inventory. He thought he would bring it up while they were talking about Capital Projects and going out for bonding. Councilmember Shealy thought the space may be big enough to have one field with limited parking. He said the City had bought it with Greenbelt funds a long time ago before he was on Council, and he didn't believe anything had been done with it. Mr. Kronsberg confirmed it was on Woodland Road and was a Greenbelt purchase from the first half-cent. About half of it was wetland, and half was highland. He said Councilmember Shealy was right in that they might be able to fit one full-size soccer field with limited parking, but that project had never been identified to move forward yet. Councilmember Waring said he thought the City had bought it for Recreation. Mr. Kronsberg said it was a Greenbelt purchase. They had lots of land bank Greenbelt properties. In working with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, some of those projects like Bear Swamp was a Greenbelt purchase and in the works. He wasn't sure if the Dill Tract was a Greenbelt purchase or not. All of those were before his time and the first half-cent, but some of them were identified to incorporate Recreation components. Councilmember Waring said they could have further discussion. He just didn't want the parcel to be forgotten.

Chairwoman Parker said it was a great point and thanked Councilmember Waring for bringing it up. It raised a great question. They knew they had identified in the referendum a couple years ago some projects from their districts, but they had acreage that should be accessible because they were bought with taxpayer dollars. She said maybe at the next meeting they could get an overview of that property since the City owned it. She knew they had 80 acres on James Island that weren't accessible, and she knew West Ashley had a lot of pockets like that. She knew that was off the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, but she saw where Councilmember Waring was going. She thought it was a great question as she thought the City had a lot more out there. Brabham was another. They voted and approved them at Council and until they became a Capital Project, they just wound up in the City's portfolio. She said maybe at the next meeting they could touch on what properties were out there that weren't being utilized. When they had a presentation on the Master Plan, for example, they had over \$220 million worth of projects in just the Master Plan and the plan identified the properties the City had already purchased. She didn't know if the Woodland field project was in there, but she was sure they could check on it.

5. New Business:

a. Recreation updates:

Ms. Yarbrough said she had given everyone a new activity brochure for fall and winter. They had a new marketing person, so they were excited to start doing some updated advertising and marketing. They were at the beginning of their fall season. They had over 7,000 children playing

youth sports across the City. They also had adults playing soccer, flag football, and ultimate frisbee, so they were using all those fields. When she put the list together, she came up with 39 fields instead of 31. They may use a couple more fields than what were considered to be fields. Of those 39 multi-purpose fields, 20 of them were lighted. That would become a challenge in the next month as they moved into shorter days as Daylight Saving Time changed, so they would only have lights for the fields of City managed programs. They had 86 adult tennis teams at their two tennis centers currently, which was the highest number in 15 years. Their SMART Swim Team was at 275. They were going to lose the W.L. Stephens swimming pool in June of 2026. They were already planning for that. She had talked to St. Andrews Parks and Playgrounds about renting their water. They were already renting it for several months out of the year, so they were making plans on that. She thought that number was a manageable swim team number without taxing their resources or adding any other coaches, so they felt pretty good about that. They had started all their after-school programs. The WINGS Program was in the City gym, which was full at 65. All their fall holiday events were scheduled. All those things were going on around the City, but currently it seemed like the main focus of everything was sports.

Chairwoman Parker said 7,000 kids was incredible. She had gotten some questions about the swim team. She asked Ms. Yarbrough if they were aware of that in June of 2026. Ms. Yarbrough said they were. She met with their board regularly and they had met two weeks ago. The board was aware of the timeline with W.L. Stephens and how that would have to be lost. They had made some accommodations at MLK, which was a 50-meter pool that would allow for more kids. They had bought some lane dividers they could use that were 25-meter ones and so they could swim the winter season, which was a shorter course using those. They had a real good schedule put together and they would be running St. Andrews Family Fitness again this year. Chairwoman Parker asked if that was for the fall season. Ms. Yarbrough said they were at W.L. Stephens currently and would be there through November. Chairwoman Parker asked about the issues that the swim team was having. Ms. Yarbrough said they weren't all crazy about the new practice schedule where the big kids, the little kids, where everybody was swimming, but she thought they had all their ducks in line. They had also done a transportation help. If any parent had a problem with their 12-year-old not getting where their 8-year-old was going, they had some parents that were helping with transportation. Chairwoman Parker said it was exciting to see all the kids out there playing. Fort Johnson Road by Bayview Soccer Complex was a hopping place on Saturdays. She appreciated all that Ms. Yarbrough, and her staff did. She knew it took a lot to keep all the kids moving, volunteers, coaches, and all that.

b. Parks updates (Capital Projects, Maintenance):

See attached Exhibit A.

Mr. Kronsberg gave the traditional maintenance summary for the last month interspersed with facilities maintenance and then touch points on the Capital Projects that the Mayor had already talked about.

Mayor Cogswell had spoken to Councilmember Gregg about Governor's Park. He asked Mr. Kronsberg if he could reach out to Councilmember Gregg, as he had some thoughts on that, before it went out to bid, especially in light of the anticipated costs having gone up. He just wanted to make sure Councilmember Gregg was engaged. Mr. Kronsberg said he would.

Chairwoman Parker said that was incredible and she appreciated it as it seemed like there was much more going on than what it seemed. Staff did an incredible job. Mr. Kronsberg said when

they first started this, they had lots of challenges, but they had been able to staff up the athletics crew and it had gotten much better.

- c. **Sponsorship information:**
- d. **Field reservation/website information:**
- e. **Private teams and field usage presentation and recommendations:**

Chairwoman Parker said they had been talking for a long time about their sponsorship opportunities and how they impacted their fields, players, staff, and coaches. She was hoping for an update if they had a new plan or whatever the existing plan was. Ms. Yarbrough said the City had taken the Business and Entrepreneurial Manager, Justin Braddock, who was working in Recreation, that came about during the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and he had been moved over to the Communications Department working with Ms. McMillan and her team. As the City looked at how to expand how they approached businesses in collaboration for monies for City facilities, City parks, much bigger than anything that happened in Recreation. They had a couple meetings with Mr. Braddock since he had come over to that new role. The Recreation Department was still doing team sponsorships where they saw \$250. They still had their two big presenting sponsors, Harris Teeter and Roper St. Francis, who had asked to stay with them in that role, but the rest of the new big dollar items as they come out with those new buildings and facilities, Mr. Braddock had taken that on in a different role. Chairwoman Parker said that was wonderful and it was an approach they had needed. She was happy to see it. They had a lot of community partners. They had a lot of parks, probably more than they knew what to do with, literally. She thought it was needed and that they could figure something out. 80% of their voters said they wanted parks and recreation and that was what was important to the City. As they heard from the public, and what she saw in her district as well as some of the other local areas, they had community parks and parks that they used for recreational fields, not just the main recreation complexes. They wanted those big partners, but even if they had smaller partners in some of the local parks. She got that they had one big pot of money that sometimes this all goes into the General Fund if they got sponsorships or wherever it went, but when they had community partners living or had businesses in that local community and they wanted to be a partner on some of the local fields, how could they initiate that and get those dollars pumped into specific parks. She said North Charleston was a good model as they had a good partnership program. She asked if those were conversations they were having because she saw beautiful parks out there and she thought they weren't even touching the surface on the partnership they could be having to just beautify those parks a little bit. She thought a little bit went a long way in some of the parks. Ms. Dieck said Chairwoman Parker was right. And what they had been trying to do was put together some packages. For example, there were certain things that would be great at Bayview that they could sell that package to get those parents involved. It was another thing entirely if they were at Colonial Lake, for example, and how to get businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities. She said packaging things in a way that different folks could take advantage of as people really did want to lean into their athletic fields and support them. They just hadn't had a mechanism for them to do that to date, but Mr. Braddock was doing a great job. They would be able to roll out what those packages looked like, and the folks would be able to help them with that.

Chairwoman Parker said that was wonderful. When she said community impact, not only would they maybe sponsor a field, but they might help with some of that upkeep. She thought when a community felt like they were investing in something, they were empowered to do so. If their sign was on the wall or hanging on the dugout, there was a lot of personal care and appreciation. They had also had the conversation a while back, and it might need to be a broader Council discussion, if they were going to have advertisers, how much of their field space, how much were they giving up for what they were getting. She was certain no one wanted to see ten ad spaces on Colonial

Lake, but she thought there was a creative way that they could do that that would work for all those community parks. Mayor Cogswell said it was exciting when they had groups like the rugby folks who were willing to put money into a facility. He thought the balance was what did that come with. If it was wanting a guarantee of a certain number of spaces, that was generally a reasonable request, but they had to balance it with all the other uses. He understood where the folks were coming from.

Ms. Dieck said with regard to field reservations, just to address everyone that came to speak, this had been a huge challenge for the City. Obviously, they didn't have enough fields to accommodate everybody. They loved the fact that folks came out as they were working so hard to try to figure out how to make things happen. They prioritized the children first, then high school, and then adults after that. They were trying to create a process where they could apply. To CSCP, there were other teams, the lacrosse team, for example, that had made a request to have that as their home field. The rugby folks had made a request and other entities, as well. Coming up with timeframes that they could submit for the permit for it to be their home field, would require information about who were on their teams, whether they lived in the City or outside the City, what their needs were, so that they could evaluate that. They were going to put together a committee. Once all the applications came into the City, there was an equitable way to look at it and figure out who should be allowed to use those fields. It had been tough trying to figure it out. Ms. Yarbrough and her team did an excellent job of trying to use fields when they could, but it became really challenging. She loved watching rugby and the scrums, and they did an amazing job, but it was hard on the fields. It was tough on the grass. Balancing how they continued to be able to utilize those fields when they were trying to do City programming as well was a challenge, and it was a hard thing for Mr. Kronsberg and his crew to manage. It could be done, and they were being intentional about trying to do it, and do it with integrity, so they were looking at ways they could accommodate to see if they could. There was some land they could identify maybe for a short term, but the folks didn't want to make a tremendous investment unless they had a long-term opportunity to utilize the fields. So, they were trying to balance that as well with what that looked like.

Ms. Dieck said CSCP had its own challenges. It was on a cap, so it was hard to get electricity out there because they couldn't pierce it as the dirt was 2ft. deep. There were more complications than they would think associated with trying to figure out how to make it happen, but just know that they were being thoughtful about it and trying to figure out a way to make it happen. They provided a draft of an application that they were working on that they would be able to give to teams that were interested in utilizing the fields. It had what they would need to submit, and they were going to put together—she didn't know whether it was the Recreation Committee or how they set that up—to make decisions so that the folks could plan, and the fields could be utilized. Ms. Yarbrough said the City, historically, had been set up where Mr. Kronsberg's fields that he managed and did, were set up to run City programs out of Recreation. At 7,000 children they were challenged. When the children signed up, not only did they have to have a game schedule, and they needed to give them a couple practices too. They were trying to make sure they had some of those neighborhood fields used, but they had managed in 2025 to still have 711 field permits issued, which was a good number considering that most of that was not going to take place at a West Ashley park, at a James Island Recreation Center, or the City's fields at Bayview because those were used five days a week and all day Saturdays and Sundays.

Mayor Cogswell thought the application would be very helpful, but he thought it would be good just for the groups that were interested in using those fields to get a full comprehensive picture of how often those fields were used and showing that in conjunction with the City's uses so they could understand how often those fields were used and how they were trying to balance all of it.

They did hear the folks and they were absolutely trying, but as Ms. Dieck pointed out, there were complications. There were complications for CSCP as it was on a landfill and there were only so many things they were allowed to do, based on State law and environmental regulations. He didn't want the folks to get frustrated. They did appreciate the folks coming out. They did hear them and respected the rugby league. They wanted to help, and they were aggressively working on it, but it did need additional organization. As Ms. Dieck and Ms. Yarbrough pointed out, they were trying to be intentional, thoughtful, and respectful of all the various groups that legitimately wanted to use those facilities because the City did have a limited amount of them. It sounded like the City had fields all over the place, but he thought they could all attest that what they had was heavily used. Councilmember Shealy said this was probably the third group that had requested almost the same exact thing. They had club soccer teams request CSCP specifically as a permanent situation just like the rugby group and he knew football groups had also requested it. He wanted to make sure when they opened this, that they opened it to everybody. He thanked Ms. Dieck for her work on this.

Chairwoman Parker said it had been a tall ask and they had been working on it for a while. There wasn't a cut and dry solution, but she felt like they were moving in the right direction. When they started the online system, it was to help alleviate a lot of this and to help staff with all of it. If they were going to book the fields, that was fine because if people wanted to be on their fields, she wanted people on the fields. Recreation was utilizing the fields, but the fields in their reservation system, which was great, she asked how much of staff was handling those 700. She asked if that was a request that had been made. Ms. Yarbrough said those were online requests that were coming in. Robin Cooper and her staff had to massage through it, but she didn't have someone dedicated to doing that. They were handling that. They had blocked out their calendar when they did registration not knowing how many children they were going to have. They didn't do the first thousand, they did registration for a month. If they ended up with 5,000 kids, they had 5,000 and they had to figure out how to do that. Once they had done their scheduling, they opened fields. Some of the neighborhood fields opened faster. CSCP was open most of the time because she didn't schedule anything regular there. Their downtown participation had been taken care of with Harmon in Gadsdenboro. It was in some of the other areas where they had more travel and private soccer clubs, lacrosse groups, and baseball teams. If James Island formed one more private baseball team, she thought it would explode. They were trying to take those and put them on neighborhood park fields, but there were no lights on those neighborhood fields. In another month, Stephen Washington, Thomas Johnson, Ferguson Village, all of that was going to be difficult to use unless they could get out there in the afternoon. Most of the parents and families worked, so that was where the challenge was. All those fields that were not highlighted didn't have lights. Chairwoman Parker said in follow up, those were not being used in Recreation because normally they were empty. Ms. Yarbrough said they did send extra practices because sometimes teams wanted another practice, but to get a game in and two practices a week so that the child learned the sport they signed up to play, took the bulk of what they had. Those were other fields that they made available and Mr. Kronsberg's crews mow, line, and get ready for them. Chairwoman Parker said she appreciated it and she had wanted it opened. Ms. Yarbrough said it was. Chairwoman Parker said she had been in Recreation Program for a decade, and they never played on those fields, so she was glad they were doing that now.

Chairwoman Parker asked what type of feedback they had received on utilizing the online program and more of the community parks. People had reached out to her in other areas. They wanted their teams to practice in their community park and organize it like that. She had even had other Councilmembers ask her about that. Ms. Yarbrough said it kept cars off roads and it made 100% sense. Chairwoman Parker said it makes everyone happy, but she asked Ms. Yarbrough what kind of response they had received. Ms. Yarbrough said the people signing up were being

given the fields. They might not get their first choice or their time slot. Fridays, Saturday afternoons, Sundays were great for them, and so most of the travel teams had gone to looking for those times. Chairwoman Parker asked if had they received any negative feedback. Ms. Yarbrough said she guessed they would never take care of all needs. She had gotten a request that came in less than ten days for an 8-year-old girls' softball on Johns Island that was not under the Barrier Island Little League wanting her to make a field available. The City's permit process said 21 days, so she had to figure out if she could get them in. There were those kinds of things, but they were trying to educate the public and making sure everything was out there. Chairwoman Parker said the Charleston County School District fields were empty, as well. They couldn't control the Charleston County School District's fields, but she thought emphasis needed to be directed towards the School District. She wasn't putting them out on blast, but there were a lot of empty fields out there that would be great for the small youth teams, as well. She thanked Ms. Yarbrough and Mr. Kronsberg as they had done great with limited employees, a ton of needs, and wants.

Councilmember McBride asked if they could make the punch list for James Island Park an agenda item for next month. Chairwoman Parker said that sounded good.

6. Adjourn:

With there being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Submitted by Wanda Stepp
Clerk of Council's Office

Section of Facilities and Capital Projects
Recreation Committee Updates
September 18, 2025

Athletics Maintenance

- Completed 374 Drags of Baseball/Softball fields
 - Completed setup for 6 Baseball games (Fall season just started)
 - Completed setup for 36 other games (including youth and adult soccer)
 - Repainted 358 fields for practices and games
 - Completed 16 new field layouts for Fall sports (currently at 101 individual fields painted weekly)
 - Completed field work for 17 permits
 - Completed grooming of Stoney Field and performed a debris removal from the field turf
 - Completed tree work behind soccer nets at WAP
 - Completed drainage installation at Bees Landing Multipurpose field so you can enter through the pedestrian gate
 - Performed vine spraying and removal from fences at Willie Gaines, Parkshore, Plymouth, Honey Hill, and Westchester
 - Completed adding sand/soil mix to low spots in outfield of Orange Grove
 - Expanded parking areas at Ackerman Park
 - Completed mulching at Plymouth Park
 - Continued with mulching along West Ashley Park roadsides
 - Continuing to spray broadleaf weeds and sedges from sports fields
 - Mowing of all Athletic fields at 1" height every 3-4 days
 - Continuing to monitor, manage, and repair irrigation systems for all athletic fields
 - Completed ant bait application
- 2026 Overseeding
 - Bids received for seed
 - Schedule is to begin overseeding in October for 70 acres of coverage
 - Charlotte St Park, Gadsdenboro Park, Gaillard Oval Lawn, Harmon Field, Horselot, Liberty Square, St. Julian Devine, Waterfront Park, Governors Park, Etiwan Park, Ackerman, BLRC, WAP & Bayview
 - WAP and Bayview will be delayed a little due to Rec League Allstar tournament
- Athletic Field Crew (8)
 - 2 Crew Leader
 - 1 QAT
 - 3 Lead Groundskeepers
 - 2 Groundskeepers
 - 2 open positions, hopeful to hire applicant interviewed yesterday

Annual Tennis and Basketball Re-surfacing

- Alan Fleming Tennis Center Courts
- Jack Adams Courts 1-3
- Bees Landing courts 3&4
- Mary Utsey
- Mitchell Basketball
- Deming Basketball
- Waring Senior Center Pickleball
- Thomas Johnson Pickleball color will be repainted so Pickleball line color will be white and tennis blue.
- Maybank Tennis Courts 7/8 at end of year.

Daniel Island / Cainhoy

- Nowell Creek Bike/Ped Crossing:
 - Construction contract approved and NTP issued. Submittal process is underway and work will begin on site later this month.
 - Construction duration to be 14-month due to soil settlement time period building in the marsh.
- Governors Park Drainage Improvements:
 - **Project scheduled for bid on 10/9/2025. Bid package will be available 9/18/2025 with pre-bid scheduled for 9/25/2025**
 - **The improvements, if within budget, shall occur in the summer of 2026 to lessen impacts on programming at the fields**
- Maintenance:
 - Etiwan Park painted interior and exterior of the Restroom Building.

James Island

- Ft Pemberton Park:
 - Design consultants completed the changes to the plans required by the settlement agreement, and the Contractor is pricing the changes now. We expect to present the change order for approval in early October.
 - Picnic shelter construction is underway.
- Harborview Park – Evaluation for Pickleball
 - Engineer is working on schematic designs.
- Plymouth Park Playground Renovation
 - Engineer beginning designs and developing access plan for crane set around transmission lines and trees.
- Facilities Maintenance:
 - Municipal Golf Cart Shed rewiring because of lightening strike.

- James Island Recreation Center removed a section of sidewalk to repair broken 2" waterline.

Johns Island

- Johns Island Recreation Center and Pool:
 - Working with Communications Team to schedule community meeting.
 - Starting to reach out to stakeholder groups to review programming and plans.
 - Newkirk Environmental to begin wetland delineation work for existing wetlands on site
- Johns Island Park CCSD Ballfield Renovations:
 - CCSD and Cumming working to have punch list items addressed.
- Maintenance:
 - Angel Oak pressure washed all the buildings.

Peninsula

- St Julian Devine Smokestack Rehab
 - ICC mobilized 8/2025
 - Exterior masonry repointing underway up to 29'
 - Road Closure and Crane mobilization complete for Steel cribbing install, this will support interior staging for the portion of the project
- Brittlebank Park Playground:
 - Structural engineer now under contract working with Civil for Army Corp Landfill Cap Permit amendment in addition to working through Stormwater Design with Stormwater Department.
- Facilities Maintenance:
 - AC Preventive Maintenance at Mall Park, Hassell Parker, Tiedemann, and Freddie Whaley.
 - Harmon Field replaced lighting contactor for the ballfield lights.
 - Herbert Hassell Pool installed a new domestic water pump.
 - Corrine Jones replaced fencing & installed new sidewalk.
 - Stoney Field – contractor repaired minor field light issue
 - Freddie Whaley painted the inside.
 - White Point Garden painted all the benches.

West Ashley

- WL Stephens at Forest Park Playground:
 - Working with Communications Team to schedule community meeting.
 - Starting to reach out to stakeholder groups to review programming and plans.
 - Met with Miracle League to review plans and start to develop new lease agreement with them.
- Parkshore Park – Pickleball Courts

- Engineer has provided schematic drawings; we are evaluating and layout and providing comments.
- West Ashley Bikeway:
 - Permitting has been completed.
 - Planning to release advertise for bid next week.
 - Bid due late October.
 - Assuming bid is accepted work to begin Q1 2026.
- Facilities Maintenance:
 - Bees Landing Recreation
 - repaired several parking lot lights.
 - replaced front court drinking fountain.