

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission

WORK SESSION MINUTES

October 22, 2025

Michael J. and Mary Meech Mungo Park

6:30pm

Members Attending: Bill Harmon, Michael Cromer, Dr. Gerrick Hampton, Dr. Akil Ross, Laura Huggins

Non-Members Attending: Mark Smyers, Eve Mittendorf

Mark Smyers presented an overview of the agenda. Mr. Smyers communicated that the agenda includes recognition of two young citizens, Avery and Sydney Stoner; they assisted a patron that had fallen on a trail at Crooked Creek Park; the patron wrote a letter recognizing and sharing appreciation for their assistance and the staff and Commission want to present a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Smyers shared that Christina Bickley, Saluda Shoals Foundation Director, will present an update on the Environmental Center phases, which includes phase I of the environmental center deck, an additional restroom, additional doors in the front lobby and exhibit hall area, phase II - office space and storage and phase III – welcome center and canteen. Mark Smyers communicated that Jay Downs will present an update on the Environmental Education Center phase I renovation; the Environmental Education Center Phase I bids came in higher than expected; staff would like to work with the lowest bidder to value engineer; as a result, staff request Item A. under New Business be tabled.

Mark Smyers communicated that staff are seeking approval of the Saluda Shoals Park re-striping bid to Tru Blue Services, not to exceed the budget amount of \$21,000; in order to stay within budget this required a change in the scope by eliminating the re-striping of the connector road. Mr. Smyers shared that two policies are included for approval; one is an update to the purchasing policy and the other is approval for an athletic parent/spectator code of conduct policy. Mark Smyers presented a conceptual drawing of the RV park/campground; staff are pursuing an LWCF grant; if awarded, the grant would provide the opportunity to pursue a revenue generating facility as listed in the strategic plan; discussion occurred regarding scope, match, and funding. Mark Smyers shared that the Mungo Foundation is considering a generous donation of paving the Mungo Park trails, which allows more money to go toward paving the Crooked Creek Park trails.

Discussion occurred regarding the Riverwalk trailhead, paving the parking lot and remaining contingency for future phases. Mr. Smyers communicated that a special call meeting will be needed to seek approval for awarding the bid for phase I of the EEC, for the gate systems at Saluda Shoals Park, and the ad alt needed for paving the parking lot at the trailhead. Mr. Smyers distributed two policies for Commission review: a file retention schedule and digital records policy, and a cash reserve policy.

There being no further discussion, the Commission moved into General Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission
GENERAL SESSION

October 22, 2025

Michael J. and Mary Meech Mungo Park
7:00pm

Members Attending: Bill Harmon, Michael Cromer, Dr. Gerrick Hampton, Dr. Akil Ross, Laura Huggins

Non-Members Attending: Mark Smyers, Eve Mittendorf, Jay Downs, Alfred Comfort, Adrian Wright, Jason White, Christina Bickley, Lori Shaffer

Bill Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Bill Harmon delivered the invocation. Guests were welcomed.

I. REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The news media was notified of the meeting; it was posted on the website, and a notice and agenda were posted at the park sites one week prior to the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY AKIL ROSS TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY MICHAEL CROMER. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

III. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

A. Certificate of Appreciation – Avery and Sydney Stoner

Chairman Harmon presented a certificate of appreciation to Avery and Sydney Stoner. Chairman Harmon shared that while Avery and Sydney were training at Crooked Creek Park, they noticed an elderly gentleman had fallen while walking his dog; without hesitation, Avery and Sydney rushed to help and offered to walk him to his car. Chairman Harmon shared that the gentleman returned to the park days later with a letter expressing his deep gratitude for their help and kindness. Chairman Harmon shared that Avery and Sydney are fantastic representatives of the community and thanked them for the care and compassion for others.

B. Saluda Shoals Foundation – Christina Bickley

Christina Bickley shared that the Saluda Shoals Foundation and staff have been working with Chernoff Newman to help develop a capital campaign for the Environmental Education Center project; there are three phases: phase I includes the deck, restroom, additional doors to access the deck; phase II is office and storage space, and phase III is welcome center and canteen space. Ms. Bickley stated that phase III is the focus of the Foundation fund raising. Ms. Bickley stated that the original concept for phase III was an addition to the current building; staff recognized that the original space would eliminate the loading dock and discussion began to consider building a separate building connected by a walkway. Ms. Bickley shared that staff and the Foundation are excited to dream about a destination for patrons and public to meet; the building can be accessed and seen from the entrance of the park and from the Riverwalk trail. Mark

Smyers shared the importance of alignment in this project between staff, the Foundation, and the Commission.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

A. Environmental Education Center Phase I Renovation – Jay Downs

Jay Downs presented an update on the Environmental Education Center Phase I project; the deck at the back of the environmental education center, the classrooms and the exhibit hall will be renovated as well as adding a restroom. Mr. Downs stated that the bid results came in higher than the budget amount of \$1M. Jay Downs communicated that the apparent low bid was Grace Construction and staff feel there is an opportunity to value engineer the space to get within the budgeted amount; staff is requested to bring a recommendation back to the Commission after working with the apparent low bidder to value engineer the project.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Environmental Education Center Phase I Bid Award

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LAURA HUGGINS TO TABLE THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PHASE I BID AWARD. SECONDED BY DR. AKIL ROSS. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

B. Saluda Shoals Roadway Re-Striping Bid Award

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD THE RE-STRIPING BID TO TRU BLUE SERVICES; NOT EXCEED \$21K. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CROMER. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

C. Policy RD31 – Athletic Parent Code of Conduct

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY DR. GERRICK HAMPTON. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

D. Policy BF13.1 – Purchasing

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CROMER. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smyers thanked Avery and Sydney Stoner for their kind actions in assisting a fellow citizen. Mr. Smyers also thanked Christina Bickley, Foundation Director, for presenting the vision of a new Environmental Education Center at Saluda Shoals Park. Mark Smyers thanked Jay Downs, Superintendent of Planning and Development, for presenting an update on current development of phase I of the Environmental Education Center. Mark Smyers communicated that staff are making great strides in the pursuit of the new Athletic Bridge League, in partnership with Lexington Richland School District 5. Mr. Smyers also thanked the Commission for coming to tour a portion of phase 1 of the Riverwalk.

VII. COMMISSION RESPONSE

Commissioner Huggins commended and shared appreciation to staff on making the Riverwalk trail a reality; the outdoor events that are offered to the community and the drive and action to implement art along the trail. Commissioner Ross thanked staff for the dedication in for sharing the vision of the Environmental Center phases. Commissioner Ross commended the Foundation and staff for working with Chernoff Newman; the vision is exciting and utilizing the natural resources to feature is great. Commissioner Ross stated for the record that Jason White's presentation on the League program to the school board was fantastic; the league presents a different vision and has already created a lot of buzz in the community. Vice Chairman Cromer congratulated the Stoner sisters and commended them on their courage and kindness in helping another community member. Vice Chairman Cromer commended Christina Bickley on the Environmental Education Center (EEC) presentation and shared that the board is excited to see how the EEC project ties into the Riverwalk trail and the vision of park visitors enjoying a new and exciting destination. Commissioner Hampton thanked staff for the tour of the Riverwalk trail; it makes a difference to be able to see the development. Commissioner Hampton echoed appreciation of the Stoner sisters. Chairman Harmon echoed comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Harmon commended staff for their vision and strategy in meeting community needs; trail users, Leo's landing playground, the soccer fields and now the possibility of a hub to meet along the river; it will be magical.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY DR. GERRICK HAMPTON. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION