

Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission

SPECIAL CALL MEETING PHONE CONFERENCE

August 5, 2026
Saluda Shoals Park
Administration Building
Time: 5:00pm

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

Non-Members Attending: Mark Smyers, Eve Mittendorf, Jay Downs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Harmon called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

II. REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

In accordance with the 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 posted at the park sites.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bid Award – Riverwalk Phase II Construction Contract

Chairman Harmon stated staff is recommending awarding a contract to AOS Specialty Contractors to construct Phase II of the Saluda Shoals Riverwalk in the amount of \$4,464,738 pending bid packet approval from the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Mark Smyers stated the base bid from AOS was for \$4,196,912 plus ad alts totaling \$4,464,738; the ad alts include asphalt paving (vs gravel) from Gardendale Valley Lane down to the boat ramp including the parking lot. Mark Smyers reported that the EDA is currently reviewing the bid process to ensure Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission is in full compliance with required procedures. Dr. Akil Ross asked if AOS was the lowest bid including the ad alts. Mr. Smyers stated yes that AOS was the apparent low base bid with the ad alts. Vice Chairman Cromer inquired on staff's awareness of AOS Specialty Contractors and the company's track record of performance. Mark Smyers shared that staff have worked with AOS in the past and AOS has built most of the Riverwalk in Columbia, West Columbia and behind the Zoo. Vice Chairman Cromer inquired about the 37% match monies. Mr. Smyers stated the 37% match monies are sourced from the South Carolina Parks, Recreation, and Tourism grant.

Mr. Smyers shared with the Commissioners that the original bid was split into two bids; one was for the site work and the second was for the renovation of the Davis House building. Mark Smyers communicated that during the EDA bid packet review it was communicated to staff that a bathroom and Davis House renovation was not included in the original scope of work for the grant. Mark Smyers shared that the property designated in the application was in the floodway and as a result it was not permitted to build a bathroom on that property. Mr. Smyers also communicated that at the time of the grant application the Davis House

and property was not owned by ICRC; staff appealed to the EDA to include the renovation and bathroom in the grant, the EDA denied the appeal and stated that the bathroom and building renovation would not be included.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO AWARD THE PHASE II CONTRACT FOR THE SALUDA SHOALS RIVERWALK TO AOS SPECIALITY FOR THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$4,464,738 (COVERING THE BASE BID THROUGH AD ALTERNATES); PENDING BID PACKET APPROVAL FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

B. Budget Amendment and RFP Award – Crooked Creek Park Conceptual Design Project

Chairman Harmon communicated staff are requesting approval of the RFP award to McMillan-Pazdan-Smith for \$38,750 and authorize staff to apply the \$8,750 budget variance to the STB 25/26 Mungo/SSP/SOP conceptual plan budget. Vice Chairman Cromer inquired how many firms submitted bids. Jay Downs stated sixteen were at the pre-bid meeting; five firms submitted proposals and were interviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. GERRICK HAMPTON TO ACCEPT STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION TO AWARD THE CROOKED CREEK PARK CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROJECT TO MCMILLAN-PAZDEN-SMITH. SECONDED BY DR. AKIL ROSS. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

C. Budget Amendment – Saluda Shoals Foundation Full-Time Coordinator Position

Chairman Harmon communicated that the Saluda Shoals Foundation has requested to move their current part-time position to an ICRC full-time position and provide funding to ICRC in the amount of \$73,154 to cover the position's salary and benefits; staff is requesting approval. Mark Smyers shared that the amount covers the first year of salary, benefits, and employer taxes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. AKIL ROSS TO APPROVE ADDING THE SALUDA SHOALS FOUNDATION COORDINATOR AS AN ADDITIONAL ICRC FTE AND ACCEPT THE \$73,154 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FOUNDATION. SECONDED DR. GERRICK HAMPTON. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eve Mittendorf
Recording Secretary
IRMO CHAPIN RECREATION COMMISSION