



MEETING SYNOPSIS | Parks and Recreation Subcommittee

August 15, 2019

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Elevate Advisory Council Parks and Recreation Subcommittee. The meeting attendance sheet is attached to this summary. The agenda and presentation slides can be found separately on the Elevate Tuscaloosa website.

Subcommittee members were provided an overview of the following proposed projects:

Sokol Park Partnership Opportunity:

- **All-Inclusive Playground**
- **Partnership Proposal**

Harris-Nicol Water Recreation and Trails:

- **Overview of Lakes**
- **Recreation and Trails Planning Process**

McDonald Hughes Community Center Improvements:

- **Overview of Facility**
- **Proposed Design Concept**

Snow Hinton Park:

- **Overview of Park**
- **Options for Design Approach**

McAbee Senior Center:

- **Overview of Facility**
- **Overview of Focus Request and Design Concept**

Sokol Park

Dr. Barry Mason and Caroline Lasseter (both with PARA Foundation) provided an overview of the All-Inclusive Playground project for Sokol Park. Katie King (Nick's Kids) discussed their support of and donation to the project.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee expressed support for the All-Inclusive Playground and advanced the recommendation for a one-time donation of \$500,000 towards the project.

Harris-Nicol Water Recreation and Trails

Jarrod Milligan (City of Tuscaloosa) provided an overview of Lake Harris and Lake Nicol, including photos showing the lakes, surrounding areas, and amenities. He

also discussed prohibited and allowed activities on and around the lakes. Jason Walker (TTL, Inc.) explained the overall planning process including: mapping and inventorying the area, obtaining input from various stakeholders, developing concepts, creating a master plan, developing a budget, implementing the plan, and ongoing maintenance. Subcommittee members voiced concerns over adjacent property owners and expressed a desire for better access to the lakes.

Discussion Outcome:

- The subcommittee agreed to advance the pre-planning phase of this project.
- Updates will be provided to subcommittee members as the planning process develops.

McDonald Hughes Community Center Improvements

Gary Minor (PARA) provided an overview of the McDonald Hughes Community Center which included the new tornado shelter and amenities inside the facility. He also reviewed drone footage and photos showing current conditions of the interior and exterior areas. Brendan Moore (City of Tuscaloosa) reported that some of the estimates for renovation are inaccurate and incomplete and will have to be revised. It was noted that the surrounding area would not be affected by renovations. Jordan Morris (Ward Scott Architecture) provided an overview of potential improvements that could be made for \$2.051 million. Subcommittee members voiced concerns over the lack of use of the facility, programs offered, admission fees, rental fees, and the overall vision for the center.

Discussion Outcome:

- City staff will provide a copy of the proposed budget to the subcommittee members.
- City staff will send a recommendation to the subcommittee for how to invest \$1.4 million to address the most immediate needs and request feedback.
- Subcommittee member David Gay (Beulah Baptist Church) volunteered to host a community engagement meeting at his church concerning the programs offered at McDonald Hughes.
- The subcommittee expressed a desire to create a master plan for this facility.

Snow Hinton Park

Gary Minor (PARA) provided an overview of Snow Hinton Park. He also reviewed drone footage and photos showing current conditions of the park. The park is considered a passive park with no organized activities. The walking path is considered very popular in the community. Representatives from Barge Design Solutions used an example from Gwinnett County, Georgia to explain how a master plan can be used to make phased improvements over time. They noted the master plan process will involve stakeholder engagement.

Discussion Outcome:

- Subcommittee members recommended moving forward with a master plan by Barge Design Solutions.

McAbee Senior Center

Gary Minor (PARA) provided an overview of the facility. He also reviewed drone footage and photos showing current conditions of the facility. Morgan Mann (FOCUS on Senior Citizens) identified his organization's needs such as a walking track and meeting rooms for small groups and classes. He suggested the center needs to evolve into more spaces for physical activities that feature current and popular programs as well as areas for technology classes. He stated that new branding for FOCUS will be revealed later in the day. The new name will be "FOCUS 50+" to speak to the diverse age groups that use the center. FOCUS 50+ and PARA have been asked to gather community input for the future of the center.

Discussion Outcome:

- Subcommittee member Amy Echols suggested that Mr. Mann reach out to the director of OLLI (University of Alabama's lifelong learning program) to see if they would be interested in a partnership with FOCUS 50+.
- The subcommittee will hear back from PARA and FOCUS 50+ at the next meeting.

Next Steps

The subcommittee will advance the following recommendations to the Elevate Advisory Council at the August 28 Meeting:

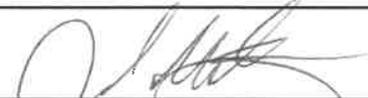
- One-time donation of \$500,000 to the All-Inclusive Playground project.
- Pre-planning for Harris-Nicol Water Recreation and Trails.
- Within a \$1.4 million budget, determine which items at McDonald Hughes Community Center need immediate attention.
- Master plan for Snow Hinton Park.
- Master plan for McDonald Hughes Community Center.

The next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled at a later date.



Name		Subcommittee	Signature
Lesley	Bruinton	Parks and Recreation	
Blake	Corder	Parks and Recreation	
Terrance	Dedrick	Parks and Recreation	
Amy	Echols	Parks and Recreation	
Chris	England	Co-Chair	
David	Gay, Jr.	Parks and Recreation	
Shelley	Jones	Parks and Recreation	
Gary	Minor	Parks and Recreation	
Tim	Parker, III	Parks and Recreation	
Tripp	Powell	Parks and Recreation	
Steven	Rumsey	Parks and Recreation	



Name	Signature
VITRIS GRACE	
GARY MINOR	Henry Murren
STEVE PROVOST	Steve Provost
Bridny Booken	Mike Booken
Jason Madsen The Tuscaloosa News	
Eddie Fugh City Tusc	
Scott Holmes	
Blake Corder	
MIKE ELLIS	Mike Ellis
Jarrod Milligan City Tusc	
Jordan Noeren WARD SCOTT	



Name		Signature
KENTH SCOTT	WARD SCOTT	
Chris England	State Rep	
Bradlee Colburn		
Bradlee Colburn		
Caroline Cassette		