



## GWINNETT COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 5 – 3:00pm  
Vines Mansion, 3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville 30052

**Present:** Brad Alexander, Steve Flynt, Robin Kamara,  
Loretta Mirandola, Kim Ulrich, Charlie Underwood

**Absent:** Gene Callaway, Robert Daniels, Glen Williams

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome/Opening Remarks**
3. **Approval of Agenda**  
{Action: Approved; Motion: Underwood; Second: Mirandola. Vote: (5-0) Alexander-Yes; Flynt-Yes; Mirandola-Yes; Ulrich-Yes Underwood-Yes}
4. **Approval of Minutes – October 10, 2019**  
{Action: Approved; Motion: Alexander; Second: Underwood. Vote: (5-0) Alexander-Yes; Flynt-Yes; Mirandola-Yes; Ulrich-Yes Underwood-Yes}
5. **History of Vines Park** Grant Guess presented a brief history of Vines Park with the donation of the property from the Adams family in 1990 when it was first named Vines Botanical Garden. The County added \$3.9 million for site improvements, additional parking, and convert an existing barn to a maintenance building. The Vines Botanical Garden Foundation was formed in 1994 to manage the property, but was later dissolved. In 2005, the County entered into an agreement with Georgia Fine Restaurants to manage the property. In 2010 the masterplan for the updated to include a passive community park on the undeveloped portions of the property. Then, in 2011 the bridge, gazebo, and overlook were constructed.
6. **2017 SPLOST Project List Recap** Grant Guess reviewed the status and priority order of the projects funded through the 2017 SPLOST.
7. **Northbrook/Old Hospital Site** Grant Guess reviewed the history of the undeveloped site. The 64 acre site was purchased in 1971 for use by the Hospital Authority. Because a different site was chosen for the Gwinnett Medical Center, the Hospital Authority gave the site back to the County in 1991. The County assigned the site to the Recreation Authority in an attempted to sell the site, but it was unsuccessful. In 1995 the Department of Transportation (DOT) requested a land swap with some of this site acreage being swapped to add acreage to Bethesda Park. In 1999, the

County deeded the land to the Recreation Authority. Grant mentioned that he was recently approached by DOT for potential easement access for a transportation ramp, which may result in another land swap with the Recreation Authority.

8. Staff Updates

- **Recreation Operations:** Chris Minor reported that there were 377,400 year-to-date pool admissions. He mentioned that the YAA meetings were ongoing. Recent events that he reported on were 450 attendees at Touch a Truck, 400 attendees at Trick or Treat Trail, 250 attendees at Superhero Day, 105 attendees at the Hayride & Pumpkin Hunt, 38 vendors at the Holiday Arts & Craft, as well as 60 vendors and 420 Seniors attendees at Fall Into Health
- **Natural & Cultural Resources:** Jason West reported that there were 500 attendees at the recent Harvest Homecoming and approximately 2000 at Lighting of the Tree. He mentioned that the EHC staff was very busy with K-12 field trips. He said that the attendance was good at the Edgar Allen Poe event and the Native American Festival. He reported that recent volunteer efforts by Parkview High School and Sweet Water Middle School improved area parks. Upcoming events are the Holiday Arts & Crafts Show at EHC, Historic Home Holiday Tour, and an Evening with Dickens at the Isaac Adair House.
- **Parks Operations:** Eric Horne reported that there was a service project at Shorty Howell Park for Great Days of Service. He mentioned that his team provided support for Lighting of the Tree, is complete with the LED light conversion at Harmony Grove Soccer Complex, is conducting a test of over seeding rye grass for the winter, and is conducting a Chainsaw Safety Training for parks, police, and fire. He also spoke about utilizing the inmate crew for wrapping the lights on the GHC tree.
- **Project Administration:** Glenn Boorman showed photos of the new signage and expansion at Alexander Park. He reported that the Rhodes Jordan Park synthetic turf conversion was complete and that the Dacula Park field conversion would begin in early 2020. He mentioned upcoming projects at Singleton Park, Elisha Winn House, and additional restroom building at the back George Pierce Park near the greenway trailhead. Aquatic work is the tower replacement at Bogan Park and the boiler replacement at Collins Hill Park.

9. Comments from the Audience

10. Adjournment

Next meeting: Thursday, February 13 – 3:00pm  
Lucky Shoals Park Community Recreation Center, 4651 Britt Road, Norcross