



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
SOUTHSIDE PARK TASK FORCE
Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 4:00 PM
Electronic Meeting

- I. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Task Force Chair Brantley Wilson. Attending were Task Force Vice Chair Jessica Chemsak, R.J. Ball, Alice Howard, Neil Irvin, Kristin Marshall Mattson, Liz O'Brien, Bryan Thierry, and Tamara Volk-Pace. Also present: Council liaison Neil Lipsitz, and staff liaisons Linda Roper, Adam Wellins, and Kathleen Williams.
- II. Minutes of March 18 Task Force meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. Mr. Wilson opened the meeting to Public Comment. Elly and Arthur Levin and Emily Upperman spoke about the popularity of pickleball and how they hoped that the Task Force would take that into consideration as it prioritizes amenities at Southside Park. Ms. Howard brought the group up to date about the Beaufort County task force that is considering various places to devote to pickleball in northern Beaufort County, including underutilized tennis courts. Ms. Howard said a master plan for the county's Parks & Rec Department may also include recommending that the county find a place for tournament-sized courts dedicated to pickleball that could enhance tourism.
- IV. Mr. Wilson led the group in a discussion of the Southside Park survey results, and the summary report. There were 1,171 responses. Councilman Mitch Mitchell joined in the discussion briefly to note that he is working on a project to bring more community gardens to Beaufort. Community gardens was one of the options on the survey, but did not come up too high in the ranking of priorities.
- V. Mr. Wilson led the group through a discussion of developing a report to present to City Council based on the survey results. This would include a timeline, potential costs, and phases for the park's improvements. It would also include potential partnerships and how to engage volunteers. The group agreed that one of the most important first steps would be an RFP process to hire a professional who would develop a master plan based on the Task Force's recommendations. The group then focused on Phase 1 recommendations. The Task Force agreed to put in its report items that were very popular such as splash pad but may not be practical for Southside Park, and ask City Council to consider other possible locations.

- VI. The group agreed to postpone discussion of the timeline until its next meeting.
- VII. There was no other discussion.
- VIII. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.