

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2025
Regular Meeting
6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the February 12, 2025 advisory board meeting to order at 5:54 p.m., Chairman, Jason Nelms asked Steve Pressley to open the meeting with an invocation. Present: Chairman, Jason Nelms, Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte, Steve Pressley, Terry Meier, CRP's Director, Jay Worley, and CRP's Staff. Absent: None

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The December 4, 2024 advisory board meeting minutes was approved. Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius motioned, and 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte seconded the motion to approve the previous advisory board meeting minutes. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There was no appearances or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman, Jason Nelms.

b. Board Members

Steve Pressley asked the advisory board to remember the Nelms Family in your thoughts and prayers, during their time of bereavement. Chairman, Jason Nelms told the advisory board and CRP's staff that he appreciated their condolences.

c. Director

Agency Updates – New Hire – Morgan Dozier

Director Worley informed the advisory board that the new hire the Athletic Coordinator, Morgan Dozier was not present tonight to be introduced to the advisory board. Morgan Dozier was assisting with the girls' volleyball assessment, and she will be available to meet the advisory board members at the Wednesday, April 9, 2025 meeting. Director Worley told the advisory board that there were 597 girls registered for Cherokee Youth Softball program, and there were 216 girls registered for Cherokee Youth Volleyball league. Cherokee Youth Basketball is currently playing the end of the season tournaments this week, which will be leading up to the final four tournament the week of March 1-2, 2025 following the winter break. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Long Swamp Recreation Area on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

5. New Business

a. Non-Resident Fees vs. Resident Fees for recreational activities and rentals

Director Worley presented the advisory board with a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the Non-Resident Fees vs. Resident Fees for Recreational Activities and Rentals. He stated that currently we do not have a Non-Resident Fees for programs or rentals, but after an in-depth conversation with the advisory board and doing some research with neighboring communities and collecting some comparing data. We have come up with a tiered proposal for a non-resident fee based on registration costs. Also, the rentals fee for non-resident would add \$10 per hour. The Non-Resident registration fees of \$50 or less the current fee is \$0.00, and the proposed fee is \$0.00. The Non-Resident registration fees of \$51 to \$150 the current fee is \$0.00, and the proposed fee is **\$15.00**. The Non-Resident registration fees of \$151 to \$300 the current fee is \$0.00, and the proposed fee is **\$30.00**. The Non-Resident registration fees of \$301 and above the current fee is \$0.00 and the proposed fee is **\$45.00**. The Non-Resident facility rentals the current fee is \$0.00, and the proposed fee is **\$10.00** per additional hour. The Non-Resident athletic team registration fees the current fee is \$0.00, and the proposed fee is \$0.00. There were no recommended changes. The Non-Resident boat ramp fees registration is the current fee is \$3.00 Residents and \$23.00 Non-Residents. The Non-Resident Fees for surrounding communities research indicated that it is mainly counties that charges Non-Resident Fees, and most of the city municipalities will not charge Non-Resident Fees. There were a few questions from the advisory board asking if the cities of Canton or Woodstock charges a Non-Resident Fees. The advisory board was told that other than special events, and their special events are usually free. The City of Woodstock does not charge Non-Residents Fees. The advisory board was informed that these Non-Resident Fees for recreational activities fees will not be implemented until FY2026. The advisory board stated that the Non-Resident Fees vs Resident Fees comparison summary for the surrounding communities had great research information. Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorious motioned, and 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte seconded the motion to approve the proposed Non-Resident fees for activity/programs and rentals. The motion carried 5-0.

b. Facility Rental Fee Change Proposal 2025

Director Worley discussed the Facility Rental Fee Change Proposal 2025 PowerPoint with the advisory board. He informed the advisory board that these changes will take effect on Sunday, March 2, 2025. The increase in cost is to address the rising operating costs and increased demands. The after-hours fee for part time staff charge would increase from \$40 per hour to \$50 per hour charged to the renter. The Fire Station Community Room rentals fee would increase from \$35 an hour to \$40 an hour and the WREC Rooms rental fees would increase from \$35 an hour to \$40 an hour as well. No other changes to be made, and no changes from the Aquatic Center at the time. The advisory board asked how often does the fire station community rooms get used and rented. The advisory board was told that the fire station community rooms were rented very frequently with multiple rentals on the same day. There was a discussion that the advisory board wanted to make sure that for the repeat customers that rent the community rooms. We are not making increase that is too much too fast to distress the customers, and the increase of the facility rental fee change is because of the wear and tear on amenities, tables and chairs. The advisory board verified the percentage increase, and everyone agreed with the increase. The advisory board pre-approved an additional \$5 per hour increase for FY2026 in the same facility rental space areas. This pre-approved additional \$5 per hour increase for FY2026 in the same facility rental space areas will be reviewed prior to the FY 2026 increase is done to see if it is still needed. The advisory board told the facility's division staff in looking at the future landscaping. The facility's division was thinking ahead, and they are thinking in the right direction. 2nd Vice Chairman motioned, and Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorious seconded the motioned to approve the Facility Rental Fee Change Proposal 2025. The motion carried 5-0.

c. ADA Transition Plan

The Parks Division Director, Stephen Shrout and the Administrative Division Director, Frankie Sander talked about ADA Transition Plan PowerPoint presentation with the advisory board. This is a part of our on-going Accreditation process where we are required to address accessibility improvements. The primary purpose of this ADA Transition Plan is for the advisory board to formally adopt a plan. The secondary purpose is to allow the staff to develop and scale a plan to fit our budget. The ADA Transition Plan will cover 2 items that was needed for the CAPRA accreditation process which are section 1.2.1- Documentation Approval and section 2.10 – ADA Transition Plan. Stephen Shrout discussed the difference in the ADA Standards from 1990 vs. the ADA Standards after 2010. There was some Standards from 1990 ADA that we got grandfather in after 2010. The 2010 ADA Standards set minimum requirements on both the scoping and technical standards for newly designed, constructed or altered State and local government facilities, public accommodations and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to be usable by individuals with disabilities.

The Summary of Accessibility Improvement Costs by Priority

Priority 1: Immediate Attention Required

Cost to fix: \$34,360

Focus: Critical barriers that can often be addressed quickly or pose major accessibility obstacles

Examples: Inoperable accessible entrances, missing signage, damaged grab bars, lack of access paths

Priority 2: Planned Improvements

Cost to fix: \$135,465

Focus: Barriers requiring more extensive planning or resources, to be addressed in phases

Examples: Installation of ramps, modification of playground equipment, renovation of restrooms

Priority 3: Long-Term Considerations

Cost to fix: \$22,380

Focus: Less significant obstacles that may be addressed during future renovations or improvements

Examples: Minor slope adjustments, slight non-compliance in fixtures or fittings

Total cost for all priorities: \$192,205. This summary outlines the costs associated with addressing accessibility barriers across three priority levels, ranging from immediate concerns to long-term considerations. The highest cost is associated with Priority 2 improvements, which typically involve more substantial modifications to facilities.

There was a discuss about the ADA Transition Plan, and the advisory board asked if there was funding available to complete the 3 priorities and is there a timeline to have the 3 priorities completed. The advisory board was told that there are some capital and operational funds available, and budgeting will be done to complete the 3 priorities. There is no timeline to have the 3 priorities completed as long as you are working. There was information talked about, when repair work starts at an existing building how the new ADA guidelines and different thresholds could affect how the repairs get fixed and completed. Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorious motioned, and Terry Meier seconded the motion to approve the proposed ADA Transition Plan. The motion carried 5-0.

d. Strategic Plan

Director Worley discussed the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan PowerPoint presentation with the advisory board. He stated the comprehensive 2019-2028 10-year plan was divided into phase 1: 2019-20204 and phase 2: 2025-2028. He talked about some of the recaps, milestones and highlights from 2019-2024. The strategic plan was first adopted in 2020 to identify key priority areas and develop action plans to

accomplish the goals and objectives set forth. The key priority areas are based on recommendations set forth in the 2019-2028 Cherokee County Recreation, Parks, Green Space and Trails Master Plan as well as input from community partners. The strategic plan will measure different metrics and track progress toward our goals. This edition of the strategic plan covers 2025-2028. The 2025-2028 Strategic Plan is the second half of the Comprehensive Parks Master Plan initially adopted in 2019. That plan consisted of 39 action items, 36 of which we were able to accomplish or still have in motion to be completed soon. The 2025-2028 Strategic Plan currently has 33 action items including the three action items that we did not meet. The advisory board along with the staff will review this plan each year and determine what, if any new action items can be added as we show progress. Steve Pressley motioned, and Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius seconded the motion to approve the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. The motion carried 5-0.

6. Old Business

2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte asked about the status of our non-profit organization. Director Worley informed the advisory board that information continues to go back and forth between the County Senior Counsel, Opie Bowen and Director Worley to try to get information finalized. The Cherokee Recreation and Parks non-profit will have a separate board to manage and oversee the daily operations. CRP's non-profit will benefit all county individuals.

7. Adjourn

There was a motion made by Terry Meier, to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Steve Pressley. The motion carried 5-0. Chairman Jason Nelms stated it is always a pleasure to work with this advisory board and the CRP's staff. He stated the CRP staff ought to be proud of what you do on a day in and a day out basis, and your work does not go unnoticed. The impact of what you do every day to change people's lives for generations to come. This advisory board has got your back.

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the April 9, 2025 advisory board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., Chairman, Jason Nelms asked Steve Pressley to open the meeting with an invocation. Present: Chairman, Jason Nelms, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte, Steve Pressley, Terry Meier, CRP's Director, Jay Worley, and CRP's Staff. Absent: Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The February 12, 2025 advisory board meeting minutes were approved. 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte motioned, and Terry Meier seconded the motion to approve the previous advisory board meeting minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There was no appearance or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman, Jason Nelms.

b. Board Members

There were no reports from the advisory board members.

c. Director

i. Agency Updates – New Hire – Morgan Dozier

Director Worley introduced the new Athletic Coordinator, Morgan Dozier to the advisory board members. He stated that Morgan Dozier started as a part time employee several years ago, and she is now a full-time employee that is handling adult athletics league programs. Falyn Tilley was hired in August 2024, and she has been promoted to Crew Leader of Cherokee Veterans Park. Jessica Sauls started to work in November 2021 at the Aquatic Center. Jessica Sauls was transferred to the Recreation Division as Recreation Coordinator, and she has been promoted to the Recreation Division Director. Skyler Cox began her employment in May 2022, and she has been promoted to Senior Recreation Coordinator. She will be taken on a new role and have some new responsibilities. The newly hired Recreation Coordinators will report to Sklyer Cox while summer camps are going on. Director Worley discussed the leadership academy with the advisory board. The leadership academy has 6 staff members from the different divisions. They have been participating in teambuilding activities, speech writing and presentation and open discussions. The leadership academy class has been given a group project that they must complete before they graduate in May 2025. Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Friday, May 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. LSCRA Park is beginning to look nice. The grass is green, the house on the property looks good, and the house and the pavilion will be pressure washed soon. Woodworth and the Yellow Creek Conservation Area are both still in the permitting process. There

was some stormwater issues that needed to be addressed, both parks will be opening around this time next year. Badger Creek Park and Sequoyah Park are in the process of getting synthetic turf fields. Cherokee Veterans Park will be receiving RFPs for conceptual architectural design for the baseball/softball complex. This project will take about a year and a half to complete. The E.W. and Edith Cochran Park will be starting phase 1 which will include a parking lot, a pavilion and access to the pond. Free Home Elementary School will be opening in August 2025 which will allow shared entrance into the school and into the park. On the north end of Cochran Park, this will be a quiet passive area with a disc golf course. Once everything is finalized at Blankenship Park at Gober beach there will be plans for a parking lot and bathroom. On August 1, 2025 we will have a new software registration company and website, the new software company is called Otto Solutions, Inc. Otto Solutions, Inc. co-founder Landon Schenck was fortunate to be able to take a prior software product (REC1) from conception to successful implementation and, eventually, to the point that it was acquired in 2017. REC1 was built from the ground up, and it is now used in local governments in virtually every state in the United States. Otto Solution, Inc. will offer more features and apple pay. Do Process LLC is a company that has been hired to create an interactive standard operation procedure and 360 virtual tours for the Cherokee County Aquatics Center. Do Process, creates video-based training that's engaging, actionable, and accessible, where an employee can watch a video to be trained on how to do a job duty.

5. New Business

a. Annual Ordinance Review

Director Worley informed the advisory board that it is time to annually review the Recreation and Park's ordinances. Director Worley stated that there are no issues with the ordinances at this time, and he recited each ordinance section starting with Sec. 42-41.-Sec. 42-58. The last time an ordinance was implemented was in 2022 Sec. 42-42 – Animal control in the parks. Unless authorized by the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency Director or authorized agent, no person shall feed, in any public park or on any other property owned or operated by Cherokee County, Georgia, any wildlife, excluding confined wildlife (for example, wildlife confined in zoos, parks or rehabilitation centers, or unconfined wildlife at environmental education centers, or feral cats as part of an approved Trap-Neuter-Release program). Sec. 42-41. -Alcohol possession and consumption and drug use was revised as defined in section 6-21. No person shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverage, as defined in the laws of this state, in any park or recreation facility, except for facilities as defined in [section 6-21](#) of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances, nor shall any person use or possess any drug or any other controlled substance, as defined in the laws of this state, except as lawfully permitted by the laws of this state, in any park or recreation facility. (C) No person shall consume any distilled spirits, wine, beer or other alcoholic beverage upon any county property within any county-owned facility; with the exception of alcoholic beverages purchased from a vendor licensed to sell and dispense alcoholic beverages at approved scheduled functions at the Cherokee Conty Conference Center, the L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Jr. Recreation Center's Victory Hall Event Space and The Union Hill Community Center and its premises. This provision must be in conjunction with the employee drug and alcohol policies and procedures set forth in the Cherokee County Personnel Manual and Employee Handbook, as such policies and procedures now exist or may be amended in the future. This provision shall not apply to events sponsored by the county. There was a conversation about how the City of Ball Ground, City of Canton and the City of Woodstock handle their festivals, special events, and once a month events that allow alcohol. Director Worley informed the advisory board about an Arts and Jazz Festival that we are seeking to offer this Fall. It would be a sophisticated crowd, and this event would like to allow alcohol provision. There have been ideas and information sent to Senior Counsel, Opie Bowen, County

Manager Geoff Morton and Community Services Agency Director, Bryan Reynolds, to see if the Arts and Jazz Festival can have alcohol provided, if Cherokee Recreation and Parks is the host and no one from outside. The purpose was to make sure that everyone collectively agrees if alcohol could be allowed by the way Sec. 6-21 reads – Certain places and hours where consumption is prohibited. If the Arts and Jazz Festival is a success, this event would be reviewed each year to be given a thumbs up or a thumbs down to see if the event would continue to be a good fit. This would be a good revenue stream and a great opportunity to share alcohol sales. The advisory board discussed having an outdoor wildlife event that would be very specific to fishing and hunting. This outdoor wildlife event would draw people from all over the state of Georgia. The advisory board stated the outdoor wildlife event would have to be held at a good time of the year and at a good location. The advisory board agrees that an outdoor wildlife event that offers fishing, hunting, arts, crafts activities and a cold beverage would have a lot of opportunities and new revenue for improvements, new staff and maintenance and operation. After an extensive discussion about a new Arts & Jazz festival, a request was made that there be permission to proceed with the Arts & Jazz festival this fall according to the attachment of the sale of alcohol that Cherokee Recreation and Park is in control of as defined in section 6-21 of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances. This provision shall not apply to events sponsored by the county. The conversation with the board continued to expand to include a new Outdoor Recreation type festival as well to be held in the spring/summer of 2026. This festival would target outdoor enthusiasts, vendors, and activities including, but not limited to hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, canoe/kayaking, boating, archery, and much more. This event would also include the alcohol provision as stated above. Both festival events would be hosted and sponsored by Cherokee Recreation & Parks. 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte made a motioned, and Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the request that there be permission to proceed with the Arts & Jazz festival and Outdoor Recreation festival this fall and next spring/ summer respectively according to the attachment of the sale of alcohol that Cherokee Recreation and Park is in control of as defined in section 6-21 of the Cherokee County Code of Ordinances. This provision shall not apply to events sponsored by the county. These and any other events hosted and sponsored by Cherokee Recreation & Parks that included alcoholic sales must be approved by the Advisory Board on an annual basis. The motion carried 4-0.

6. Old Business

The advisory board asked if there were any updates on the Hickory Flat Park Property. Director Worley informed the advisory board that there is no funding for this project through 2030.

7. Adjourn

There was a motion made by 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m., seconded by Steve Pressley. The motion carried 4-0. Chairman Jason Nelms thanked the CRP staff for that they do, and he discussed the importance of Human Capital. Human Capital is the economic value of a worker's experience and skills and it is further enhanced by education, training, intelligence, skills, health, and other qualities employers value, such as loyalty and punctuality. He stated that the people are the number one asset of a company. He told the staff that he is grateful to have them here and how excited he was about where Cherokee Recreation and Parks is going. It is always a pleasure to work with this advisory board and the CRP's staff. He stated that what the CRP staff does daily is very important and critical never take the bad days and stack them up. The impact of what you do everyday changes people's lives for generations to come. This advisory board has got your back.

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the August 13, 2025 advisory board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman, Jason Nelms asked Steve Pressley to open the meeting with an invocation. Present: Chairman, Jason Nelms, Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte, Steve Pressley, Terry Meier, CRP's Director, Jay Worley, and CRP's Staff. Absent: None

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 advisory board meeting minutes were approved, because the June 11, 2025 advisory board meeting was canceled. Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius motioned, Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the previous minutes. The motioned carried 5-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There was no appearance or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

Chairman Nelms wished Director Worley a Happy Birthday from the advisory board members.

b. Board Members

Steve Pressley and the advisory board members congratulated Reid Worley, the son of Director Jay Worley, who recently graduated from Cherokee High School. Reid was going to attend Kennesaw State University this fall, before he got drafted in the MLB by the San Francisco Giants.

c. Director

- i. Agency Updates** – Director Worley started the agency updates by stating that a huge round of applause is to be given to all the staff for making it through another very busy summer. Director Worley introduced to the advisory board the Aquatics Center's 2 new hires. Andrew Sumser and Vivian Crooks. Andrew Sumser and Vivian Crooks both told the advisory board members information about their previous work experiences and background. Andrew Sumser informed the advisory board that he was employed by the Shepard Center and is a graduate of Slippery Rock University with a BS in recreational therapy while minoring in aquatics and adapted physical activity. Recently, he furthered his education by completing his MS in Recreation: Parks and Recreation Administration from Northwest Missouri State University. Andrew has professional experience working with individuals with a wide range of disabilities in educational, residential, and recreational settings. Andrew Sumser stated that he is looking forward to getting out of the hospital private sector and working for recreation and parks. He is looking forward to working with Senior Recreation Coordinator, Skyler Cox crossing training over into some therapeutic recreation programs.

Vivian Crooks told the advisory board members that she previously worked for the City of Cartersville as the Aquatics Manager and she worked at Seaworld in Florida in the Zoologist department. Vivian has a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology with a minor in Biology and Statistics from the University of Central Florida. She has lifeguard instructor training, and she is a water safety instructor. She stated that her name will be changing to Drago, because she will be getting married soon. Vivian stated that she likes being well rounded, and she is always looking for opportunities to grow. The advisory board was very impressed with both their prior work experience and their aquatics background. The advisory board welcomed them and stated that they are happy to have them onboard.

Director Worley also stated we are preparing for the 2026 CAPRA reaccreditation, and our Administration Division Director, Frankie Sanders, is sending out a lot of emails to staff requesting information that is needed for the reaccreditation. She is making sure that we are staying on track with the reaccreditation process. We have switched over to a new registration software platform and website. The name of the new company is Otto App. The reason for the switch is Rec1 has grown to a national level, and we would like to get back to a smaller registration style. Frankie Sanders and the registration software team have been working with the OttoApp representative to get everything ready for participants to registration once our Rec1 contract expires at the end of September 2025.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 is Youth Sports Day and the naming of Field 1 at Barnett Park at the Board of Commissioners meeting. There will be a consideration of the resolution and proclamation, naming Field 1 at Barnett Park as 'Dan Carmichael Field' in honor and recognition of the integral role he has played in the development and promotion of youth sports in Cherokee County.

The Aquatic Center's lifeguard team placed 3rd at the state lifeguard games competition.

There is now an official maintenance area at Blankets Creek for the Natural Resources Division, which will allow the south side crew to have a cleaned-out shop to work out of.

The fiscal year 2025 budget is winding down with a month and a half left to go. We are back on the positive side of our revenue, and we should be within ½ of a percent of meeting our budget. The second CRP leadership class has been selected, and the leadership class will begin meeting in September. The leadership academy will attend a variety of different classes, and they will participate in open discussions about different work setting topics.

Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher and Athletic Coordinator Brayden Eidson went to Dearborn, Michigan on June 12, 2025 to receive the 2025 NACPRO Parks & Recreation Program Class II Award for the Cherokee Youth Girls Flag Football program.

5. New Business

a. Dan Carmichael Resolution

Director Worley told the advisory board that Dan Carmichael was an integral part of the beginning of the Cherokee Reds Travel baseball program around 20-25 years ago. He is now a part of the Georgia Academy Baseball Club. This past summer long-time volunteer coach and community sports advocate Dan Carmichael was inducted into the Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame. Dan was also a past president for the Cherokee County Grid Iron Club. In response to the recent Hall of Fame induction as well as his lifetime contribution to Cherokee County and Barnett Park, it would be appropriate to have a proposal for a Resolution to officially name the front field at Barnett Park after him- Dan Carmichael Field at Barnett Park. If the advisory board approves, they intend to add it to the Board of Commissioners' agenda on Tuesday, August 18, 2025 to formally adopt the new name and recognize Mr. Carmichael at the Business Meeting. This is a surprise that his wife, Robyn Carmichael is assisting us. The naming of this field to honor Dan Carmichael will cement his legacy as an early pioneer in bringing travel baseball to Cherokee County over two decades ago. The advisory board had many good comments and things to say about Dan Carmichael, and Chairman Nelms asked that a copy of Dan Carmichael's resolution be included in the minutes. 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte motioned, Vice

Chairman Mark Preetorious seconded the motion to approve the Dan Carmichael's Resolution. The motioned carried 5-0.

Dan Carmichael Resolution and Proclamation 08.19.2025

WHEREAS, Cherokee County has long been blessed with dedicated citizens whose passion for youth sports and community service has left a lasting impact on generations of families; and

WHEREAS, Dan Carmichael exemplifies such dedication through decades of unwavering commitment to youth athletics, leadership, mentorship, and volunteerism within Cherokee County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carmichael played an integral role in the development and promotion of youth sports in our community, having served as a coach in both the Woodstock and Sprayberry junior football programs, and as President of the Woodstock High School Touchdown Club; and

WHEREAS, he was the founder and President of the Cherokee Reds travel baseball program, where he helped create pathways for young athletes to compete, develop character, and grow through the game of baseball; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carmichael has been honored as a member of the Cherokee County Gridiron Club Hall of Fame and was recognized with the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency's Volunteer of the Year Award, reflecting his extraordinary commitment to youth recreation and community betterment; and

WHEREAS, his influence is further evidenced by his recent induction into the Cherokee County Sports Hall of Fame, where he was honored for a lifetime of service that has shaped the local athletic landscape, inspired future leaders, and uplifted the community; and

WHEREAS, in his Hall of Fame acceptance speech, Mr. Carmichael humbly stated, "I'm proud to say I live in Cherokee County. As I stand here before you tonight, I am humbled, honored and extremely grateful," sentiments that echo his selfless dedication and reflect the values this county holds dear.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, in partnership with Cherokee Recreation and Parks, does hereby honor the life, legacy, and contributions of **Dan Carmichael** by **officially naming Field 1 at Barnett Park** as

"Dan Carmichael Field"

SO RESOLVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of August 2025

By: _____

HARRY B. JOHNSTON, Chairman

Attest: _____

CHRISTY BLACK, County Clerk

6. Discussion on background checks with a Volunteer Coach

Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher spoke to the advisory board members on behalf of Mr. Bruce Davenport who wants to be a volunteer coach for the Cherokee Youth Football Association, but his background check was flagged this year for a violent felony that happened in 1995. He told the advisory board our YAA policy allows for cases older than 25 years to be reviewed by the Advisory Board and provide formal recommendation to myself or/or designee to coach if they indicate rehabilitation and lack of risk to the county and program. Mr. Bruce Davenport explained to the advisory board that this was an incident that happened in 1995 (30 years ago), when he was arrested in Detroit, Michigan for stealing a car. He stated that he was charged with carjacking, but there was no weapon involved, and he was sent to prison. Mr. Davenport has been a volunteer coach through other recreational programs, and a CYB gym supervisor last year as an employee for Cherokee Recreation & Parks. He has been a mentor at the Cobb County Dentation Center, won the boys region championship for Arnold Mill Elementary School and an elder at his Church. He told the advisory board members that he takes full ownership for the wrong he has done, and as life goes further along Mr. Davenport has tried to remove himself from that part of his teenage years. He is not the same person that he was in 1995 but sometimes that part of his past continues to follow him. Mr. Davenport has tried to get this illegal charge expunged, but occasionally his criminal matter will show up. The advisory board members informed Mr. Davenport that there was another situation like this dealing with a coach whose background check got flagged. This type of scenario happened at least one other time with the Advisory Board, and it was approved. The previous volunteer coach and CYB gym supervisor that was flagged did a great job, was good with players, parents and referees and won a CYB championship. The advisory board discussed with Mr. Davenport that they are big fans of a good coach. A good coach can have a big impact on a player's life in one season. "A coach will impact more people in one year than most people do in a lifetime. This saying highlights the significant influence a coach can have on young athletes, often shaping their character and values in a relatively short period. It emphasizes the responsibility of how coaches can make a positive impact on their players, extending beyond the game itself. After the flagged background check discussion with Mr. Davenport was complete, and there were no more questions. Steve Pressley motioned, and Vice Chairman Mark Preetorious seconded the motion to approve Mr. Bruce Davenport as a coach for CYB and gym supervisor with no reservations. The motion carried 5-0. The advisory board told Mr. Davenport it is a privilege to coach and go further with pride and prosperity.

7. Old Business

Director Worley informed the advisory board that this Holiday Lights of Hope discussion could be considered new business, but he wanted to update the advisory board with enlightening information that is going on with the renewing of the contracts with the Holiday Lights of Hopes organization, as it relates to the usage of Cherokee Veteran and Hobgood Parks. The advisory board discussed the Hickory Flat Park property. There have been a few citizens in the Hickory Flat community that have been asking about an anticipated timeline for the development of this property. Director Worley told the advisory board members that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. The only agenda items so far are the advisory board Elections and 2026 Calendar. Saturday, October 25, 2025 is the Art & Jazz Festival and the Live Like Laken 5k run/walk road race.

8. Adjourn

Motion made by Steve Pressley, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Terry Meier. The motion carried 5-0. Chairman Nelms stated that it does not go unnoticed of the incredible impact of what you do daily to change families lives for generation to come. He told the new staff that any rough day will be overcome with happy days, and this advisory board has your full support. Chairman Jason Nelms stated it is always a pleasure to work with this advisory board and the CRP's staff.

Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nelms called the October 8, 2025 advisory board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chairman, Jason Nelms asked Steve Pressley to open the meeting with an invocation. Present: Chairman, Jason Nelms, Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte, Steve Pressley, Terry Meier, CRP's Director, Jay Worley, and CRP's Staff. Absent: None

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 advisory board meeting minutes were approved. Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius motioned, Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the previous minutes. The motioned carried 5-0.

3. Appearances / Public Comment

There was no appearance or public comment.

4. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman, Jason Nelms.

b. Board Members

There were no reports from the advisory board members.

c. Director

i. Agency Updates

Director Worley reminded the advisory board members that Facilities Division Director, Mark Holder passed away on Monday, September 1, 2025. Director Worley told the advisory board that he was out of town for the Celebration of Life that was held for Mark Holder. All full and part-time staff were allowed the opportunity to attend his memorial service. Director Worley stated that he wanted to mention and remember Mark Holder's name not for the last time, but during this time of the advisory board meeting.

ii. Staff Introductions

Director Worley introduced the new staff to the advisory board member. He had each new staff to stand up, introduce themselves to the advisory board and tell them a little bit about themselves.

Janice Brundage, Recreation Coordinator – told the advisory board that she has lived in Cherokee County for 9 years. She stated that she lived in New Jersey and moved to New York for 20 years, before moving to Georgia, and she loves living in Cherokee County. Janice Brundage was hired part time as a front desk attendant, when the Buzz opened in February 2023. She was

hired as a full-time recreation coordinator, and Janice Brundage informed the advisory board that she was happy to be here. The advisory board welcomed Janice Brundage on board.

Trisha Caputo, Recreation Coordinator – introduced herself to the advisory board, and Trisha Caputo stated that she has lived in Cherokee County for 20 years. She and her husband have raised 3 children. Trisha Caputo was hired part time as a front desk attendant at WREC, then she was hired as a full-time recreation coordinator. She told the advisory board that she loves the recreation and parks team. The advisory board told Trisha Caputo that they are glad to have her on board.

Cameron Keehley, Facility Operations Coordinator – stated to the advisory board that it is nice to meet them, and he was hired as a front desk attendant at the Buzz in February 2023. He is a graduate of Sequoyah High School and Kennesaw State University. Cameron Keehley has a degree in Sports Management. He worked part-time for 2 and a half years at the Buzz's front desk, and he was hired full-time as the Facilities Operation Coordinator at the Buzz. The advisory board welcomed Cameron Keehley to the team.

Haley Snider, Facilities Operations Coordinator – Director Worley updated the advisory board that Haley Snider was getting recognized and congratulated for being promoted to the new Facility Division Manager. He stated that Haley Snider not only brings experience to the table as being our Facilities Coordinator for the past year, but she also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from her 14 years of working with the City of Lakeland, Florida where she served in multiple roles. It is good to have her in a leadership role.

The Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher -has been working on a \$14,500 grant request for repairs and resurfacing to the tennis courts at Hobgood Park. The Parks Division Director, Stephen Shrout is working on a grant for \$181,001 to get a piece of inclusive playground equipment to be installed at Veterans Park. The grant is requested through EPD, and the grant will be used for the bonded rubber mulch surfacing. The Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher and the Facility Manager, Haley Snider, are working on getting information to replace the old rubber basketball court at the WREC. This will be a nice upgrade and remodel to the gym floor. This project will start the week after the February 2026 winter break camp. The Administrative Division Director, Frankie Sanders and her team have been working on getting the new Otto App registration software up and running by October 1, 2025. The new website will be completed by mid-November 2025. The Live Like Laken 5K road race will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Hobgood Park. There are about 550 participants signed up so far. The Arts & Jazz Festival will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. There are 4 bands that are booked, a couple of solo musicians are scheduled to appear in between each set, 30 fine artists, 15 Mill and specialty vendors. The City of Canton is letting us use their stage for this event. The alcohol license has been approved, and we are waiting for binding the insurance and the rubber stamp. Saturday, October 25, 2025 will be a busy day with both events going on. Director Worley updated the advisory board about 2 projects that are now under contract. The Yellow Creek Recreation Conservation Area and Trails and Woodworth Park have been approved. On Monday, September 29, 2025 there was a preconstruction meeting with Vertical Earth who won the contract for both the Yellow Creek and Woodworth Park projects. Phase I of Woodworth Park will include: the parking lot, restrooms and the walking track. There will be groundbreaking for these 2 projects coming soon. Gober Beach Recreation Area has a \$1 million dollar concept plan. The next projects that will be coming up are- the Veterans Complex, Badger Creek and Sequoyah Fields and Cochran Park. 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte discussed with the advisory board about the TSPLOST in Cherokee County. She stated that a referendum on a 1% transportation special purpose local option sales tax (TSPLOST) to fund critical infrastructure projects. This initiative, if approved by voters in November 2025, is projected to generate approximately \$445 million over six years, significantly enhancing the county's ability to address transportation needs without raising property taxes. Director Worley informed the advisory board members that Cherokee Recreation and Parks are the GRPA District 5 Agency of the Year. Cherokee Recreation and Parks will receive this award on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 in Paulding County at the District 5 banquet. Cherokee

Recreation and Parks will take 26 staff to the annual state conference at Jekyll Island November 3-7, 2025.

iii. **CPRP Recognitions**

Lakia Langston, Athletic Coordinator – was presented with a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional pin for passing the CPRP exam.

Haley Snider, Facility Manager - was presented with a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional pin for passing the CPRP exam. Lakia Langston and Haley Snider's picture was taken with the advisory board members recognizing them for passing the CPRP examination.

5. **New Business**

a. **Annual Election of Officers 2026**

Director Worley discussed with advisory board members that it is time to elect new officers for the year 2026. He stated that he has not heard from any board member about any suggestion or consideration for the annual election of officers. Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius and the advisory board members discussed the annual election of officers, and they were all in agreement that they would like to keep the officers that are currently elected the same. The current officers are Jason Nelms as Chairman, Mark Preetorius as Vice Chairman and Amy Turcotte as 2nd Vice Chairman. Chairman Jason Nelms told the board that he considers it a honor to remain elected as Chairman of the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. He also stated that it is great to be a part of this advisory board. Chairman Nelms talked about how far Recreation and Parks has come so far in the past several years, since the days of when he practiced and played youth sports. Chairman Jason Nelms stated it is always a pleasure to work with this advisory board and the CRP's staff. He stated that Director, Jay Worley has made an outstanding leadership team. Chairman Nelms stated that this advisory board appreciates what each of the CRP's staff does on a day-to-day basis. You will never know the important impact and impression that you have on others, because of the great people like you men and women. There was a discussion about advisory board member Steve Pressley, and his remaining term on the board. The advisory board told Steve Pressley that it is a privilege to serve on this board with him, and that Steve Pressley is an incredible person, a fine man and an asset to this advisory board. The advisory board told him that there are a lot of people lobbying and pushing to keep Steve on the advisory board. Steve Pressley thanked the advisory board for their kind words, and he told them that he appreciates them. Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius motioned, 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte seconded the motion to approve the annual election of 2026 Officers. The motioned carried 5-0.

b. **Annual Adoption of Meeting Calendar 2026**

Director Jay Worley discussed the 2026 Advisory Board Meeting Calendar with the board. They were informed each of the proposed meeting dates is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. June meetings normally do not have any agenda items, and this meeting could be cancelled. Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius motioned, 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte seconded the motion to approve the annual 2026 Advisory Board Meeting Calendar. The motioned carried 5-0.

2026 Cherokee Recreation & Parks Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

10/8/25

Each of the proposed meeting dates is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

(Annual Review/ Revisions to Strategic)

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

(Annual Ordinance Review)

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

(Annual Election of Officers)

(Annual Adoption of Meeting Calendar)

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Regular Meeting: 6:00 PM

(Annual Review of Fees)

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. Adjourn

Before the adjournment of the meeting, Chairman Jason Nelms asked the 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte to explain again what the TSPLOST is with the advisory board. She explained that a voter-approved sales tax is for transportation projects only. The TSPLOST would relieve some of the tax burden on property owners and spreads the cost of transportation improvements to those who use the road network – visitors and residents alike. A T-SPLOST over six years is estimated to net \$445 million and allow Cherokee County and its cities to expedite much-needed transportation projects. Who pays for the TSPLOST is anyone who makes purchases in Cherokee County, including visitors. It is estimated that one-third of sales tax is paid by out-of-county residents. There was a motion made by Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius, to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m., seconded by Terry Meier. The motion carried 5-0

**Cherokee Recreation & Parks
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

8. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius called the December 10, 2025 advisory board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman Preetorius stated that Chairman Jason Nelms and Advisory Board Member Terry Meier are absent for this meeting, but there are 3 members present. There were 3 advisory board members present, and this is enough advisory board members for a meeting quorum. Present: Vice Chairman, Mark Preetorius, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte, Steve Pressley, and the CRP's Staff. Absent: Chairman Jason Nelms, Terry Meier and CRP's Director, Jay Worley

9. Approval of Previous Minutes

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 advisory board meeting minutes were approved. 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte motioned, Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the previous minutes. The motioned carried 3-0.

10. Appearances / Public Comment

There was no appearance or public comment.

11. Reports/Board Business

a. Chairman

There was no report from Chairman Jason Nelms.

b. Board Members

There were no reports from the advisory board members.

c. Director

Agency Updates – Administrative Division Director, Frankie Sanders gave the advisory board the agency updates in lieu of Director Jay Worley's absence. The ADD, Frankie Sanders recognized the Facilities Division Director Tom McGerty for passing the Certified Parks and Recreation Professional exam. She informed the advisory board that all the Division Directors are now Certified Parks and Recreation Professionals. Tom McGerty has been promoted to the Facilities Division Director's position, and he introduced Lauren Martin, the new Aquatics Operations Manager. Lauren Martin has been working at the Cherokee County Aquatic Center for 2 years. Her job duties include covering the front desk, finance and customer service. Lauren Martin will also be overseeing programming for the CCAC. Dave Hodge – the new Aquatics Facilities Manager was introduced to the advisory board members, and he has been working at the Cherokee County Aquatics Center for 4 years. Dave Hodge has done a great job, and he will be responsible for the pumps, chemicals, the lifeguards and the outside maintenance of the Aquatic Center. Dave Hodge and Lauren Martin have been in their current position for 2 months, and they are continuing to flourish in their new roles. Tom McGerty gave the advisory board members an update on the class of 2025-2026 Leadership Academy. He stated that 6 staff members meet once a month for 9 months to discuss formulate new ideas and learn about Cherokee County as it continues to grow. The leadership academy class should help the participating staff as they move up in the ranks with the

educational information that they are learning. The 2025-2026 Leadership Class are Bill Firnbach, Jessica Hallman, Nick Holt, Lakia Langston, Tom McGerty and Erik Peterson. The Parks Division Director, Stephen Shrout updated the advisory board about the maintenance crew school. There are 5 staff members that are attending the maintenance crew school. They are Ben Byram, Paul Mata, Luis Quinones, Trey Robinson and Falyn Tilley, and they are coming up with maintenance standards, new ideas and information that will better their leadership skills. PDD, Stephen Shrout discussed phase I of Woodworth Park with the advisory board. There are bi-weekly meetings that continue to take place with the construction company Vertical Earth. There has been 16 days of good weather for the construction company to work. Trees are being cut down, and there has been an issue with one of the neighbors near the property. We are just trying to make sure that there is no tree cutting encroachment on the neighboring property. Woodworth Park phase I is a working ongoing progress. Phase I at Woodworth Park is going well. The Natural Resource Director Adam Fussell told the advisory board that the Yellow Creek Conservation Area is 530 acres with 8 of the acres becoming a dirt construction spot. There are every other bi-weekly meetings with the Vertical Earth construction company. The superintendent of this project seems to be sharp and keeping things on task. So far there have not been any big issues coming up. Vertical Earth hopes to have their 7-day letter for mass grading to start.

The Administrative Division Director, Frankie Sanders, gave the advisory board members an outline of some of the year 2025 highlights.

- Cherokee Recreation and Parks were recognized at the GRPA District 5 Agency of the Year.
- The Natural Resources Division was created, and Adam Fussell is the Natural Resources Division Director.
- There have been over 30 large and small capital projects completed in 2025.
- Ninety percent of the staff have professional certifications.
- In 2025, Cherokee Recreation and Parks introduced our own leadership academy.
- Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area opened in 2025. This groundbreaking project stands as a testament to the visionary leadership that our county and agency has when it comes to cultural preservation, environmental stewardship and community enrichment. There is the first archery range, first primitive camp sites, canoe/kayak launch on the river. Long Swamp Creek Recreation Area was recognized by History Cherokee as a Historic Site Award winner in 2025.
- Cherokee Recreation and Parks were the first county to introduce girls' flag football to the state of Georgia. Our team was partially responsible for both the Cherokee County School District introducing the sport as part of the Atlanta Falcons Grant in its inception.
- The Flag Football program received the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials Award. This was a Class II Award for agencies with a population service area from 150,001-275,000. The NACPRO banquet was held in Detroit Michigan, and Athletic Division Director Shawn Schumacher and Athletic Coordinator Brayden Eidson were present to accept the Flag Football NACPRO Award.
- The Flag Football Program won the State Award for the Athletic/Aquatics Network Outstanding Program Award.
- The Athletic Manager, Leigh Prickett, won the GRPA State Promising Professional Award. This award is given to a professional with 5 years and under. The purpose of this award recognizes an individual who has made an exemplary impact in their current role and shows tremendous potential for future contributions in the field of parks and recreation. Leigh Prickett manages our Cherokee Youth Basketball program with well over 4,000 participants and a recorded 580 teams in kindergarten -12th grade.

- The Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher, received the GRPA 20-years membership pin. Shawn Schumacher started working in Liberty County in 2007, before moving to Cherokee County in 2007.
- The Community Service Agency Director, Bryan Reynolds, received his GRPA 30 years of service membership pin. Bryan Reynolds started working for Albany, Georgia in 1995, then he moved to Cherokee County in 1997.
- The Natural Resources Division Director, Adam Fussell, was elected District 5 Commissioner.
- Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher was elected Chair Elect for the State Athletics and Aquatic Network Committee.
- Agencies documents are being collected, because the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) will be up for reaccreditation in 2026. A 100 percent documents completion is the goal.
- There are several wildlife management hunts coming up at Blankets Creek.
- Parks Manager, Tony Stargel has retired after 23 years of employment.
- The new website for Cherokee Recreation and Parks is now up and running. The website still has its previous name, playcherokee.org
- CYB games started on the weekend of December 5, 2025 and there are a recorded 580 teams. Praise is given to the staff for a great CYB season so far.
- There were 3 girls flag football teams that went to play in the state tournament in Jackson. The 12U team placed 3rd, the 14U team placed 2nd and the 10U team won the championship.
- The VIP (volunteers in parks) banquet will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

12. New Business

a. Annual Review of Fees

Facilities Division Director Thomas McGerty discussed with the advisory board the proposal for rental fees and admission fee changes for the Aquatic Center, Facility rental, Basketball Gym and Victory Hall fee changes. Tom McGerty stated that the proposed fee changes will go, and it includes a \$5 increase to aquatics rental fees for the indoor pool, oasis pavilion, and cabanas. It includes a \$1 and \$2 increase to daily admissions at the CCAC Oasis for non-residents and residents alike. The group rate will increase \$1 as well from \$5 to \$6 per person. Most facility rental fees are increasing by \$5, \$10, or \$20 depending on the facility and/or amount of time being reserved. The larger increments are for weekend rates. Most facility rental fees are increasing by \$5, \$10, or \$20 depending on the facility and/or amount of time being reserved. The larger increments are for weekend rates. Basketball Court rental fees are increasing \$15 for local groups (categories 2 & 3) and \$25 for local businesses, for profit organizations, etc. (category 4). This is simply a market adjustment based on supply and demand. The basketball gymnasiums are the Buzz and the WREC, and there will be 2 additional new gyms added. They are Ball Ground and Free Home gyms. In the past everything rented in Victory Hall was all ala carte and separate pricing, and this is a beautiful facility that we want to see used more. The new changes would have every section of Victory Hall included in the one price. The cost would include the room, the kitchen and the veranda. There are 1-4 category pricing – category 1 Cherokee County, category 2 Local Recreation Providers, category 3 Local Civic, Faith Based and School Groups and category 4 Businesses, Other Contracted Organizations, Individuals or Groups. Along with the \$5 increase, there will be some upgrades to the Cabanas, and the rental cost is for a 2 and half hour rental for the Cabanas. The Aquatics admission fee changes will take effective the opening of 2026. The stage, pavilion and Union Hill Community Center rentals will be raised by \$5. The Union Hill Community Center has received some improvements. The categories' changes will be consistent with the Athletic Divisions category prices, and this will include paying any working CRP staff \$25 an hour. These are competitive

prices with both the cities and counties departments. The Recreation Division Director Jessica Sauls

discussed with the advisory board the Recreation and the Natural Resources Divisions fee change proposal. Jessica Sauls stated that there will be a \$5 increase for the Recreation Division's Winter Break Camps, Spring into Action Camps, the Adventures Express Camps for 9 weeks and the Fall Back into Action Camps. The Natural Resources Division is seeking to increase camp prices by \$5. These camps would include Fishing Camp, Outdoor Camps in the Spring and in the Fall. The increase in cost will help to offset the cost of the field trips, the camp t-shirts, the field trip wristbands, the arts and crafts. There are some families in our camps that have multiple children that attend for the entire 9 weeks in the summer. They will also attend the special break camps, so we want to keep them in mind when increasing the price. The Fishing Camp is a very popular camp and high demand. The Adventures Express summer camps and the Fishing Camps both usually have waiting lists. The cost of all the camps will increase from \$225 to \$230 per week. After a discussion the advisory board felt like \$5 is reasonable, 2nd Vice Chairman, Amy Turcotte motioned. Steve Pressley seconded the motion to approve the annual proposed program and rental fees for FY2027. The motion carried 3-0.

b. YAA Manual Revisions

Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher discussed with the advisory board about the Youth Athletic Associations manual revisions. These changes are made to give strength to the manual. We also have a few updates needed in our Youth Athletic Association Manual. The changes that are being revised are highlighted in yellow and located on page: 2- Tax Filing, page 4- the 3rd Party Audit Template, Tax Filing and Financial Audit Affidavit, page 5- the Cherokee Recreation and Contact Information, page 6- Bylaws and page 7- Financial Reports, Tax Filing. The YAA Manual is being updated to address some of the rising concerns about the financial stewardship of our volunteer youth groups that rent our fields. The red words and the yellow areas highlight where the YAA Manual changes are indicated.

4. Bylaws

A copy of the YAA Bylaws must be submitted to Cherokee Recreation & Parks each year at the YAA Bi-Annual Meeting(s) and within five (5) days after any amendments or changes prior to the issuance of any Facility Use Permit. The YAA should review and approve their bylaws a minimum of every two (2) years. Each YAA is required to submit an annual calendar of their scheduled board meetings at the annual President's Meeting in December. Additionally, any other called, emergency, or scheduled meetings must be reported. A copy (written or voice recorded) of the meeting minutes from each of those meetings must be submitted to Cherokee Recreation & Parks within 5 business days of that meeting.

5. Financial Reports

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated requires all corporate minutes and books of account be held open for inspection by any member of the YAA at any reasonable time. The YAA shall assume the financial responsibility for the recreation program it operates. The County and Cherokee Recreation & Parks assume no responsibility for maintaining financial stability of the YAA. Furthermore, the County and Cherokee Recreation & Parks expressly assume no responsibility for the outstanding debts of the YAA. Cherokee Recreation & Parks requires that each YAA be bonded and that annual audits are performed on all accounts. Failure to submit proof of an annual audit by a qualified independent auditor will result in the loss of priority status for field allocation and usage. This review of the association's financial statements is to ensure accuracy and compliance with applicable accounting standards and maintains transparency in our partnerships. If the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Director or Designee requests for an additional qualified independent audit to be done for any specific

concerns or requests, that audit will be performed at the county's cost. The results of that audit must be shared in full for transparency concerns.

6. Tax Filing

Tax Filing and Financial Audit Affidavit- To maintain priority usage level, all Youth Associations must file their required tax returns annually based on their income. Each association shall provide verification of their tax filing to Cherokee Recreation & Parks by June 1st of each year. Failure to submit proof of tax filing will result in the loss of priority status for field allocation and usage. This requirement ensures compliance with federal regulations for tax-exempt organizations and maintains transparency in our partnerships.

3rd Party Audits- Cherokee Recreation & Parks ~~recommends~~ requires that each YAA be bonded and that annual ~~internal~~ audits are performed on all accounts. Failure to submit proof of an annual audit by a qualified independent auditor will result in the loss of priority status for field allocation and usage. This review of the association's financial statements is to ensure accuracy and compliance with applicable accounting standards and maintains transparency in our partnerships. If the Cherokee Recreation and Parks Director or Designee requests for an additional qualified independent audit to be done for any specific concerns or requests, that audit will be performed at the county's cost. The results of that audit must be shared in full for transparency concerns.

The Affidavit request is to verify that the financial records of the Association are audited annually and that all the necessary tax filings are completed and submitted on an annual basis, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The 3rd Party Template is available should any of the Youth Athletic Association want to use it as a helpful guide.

There was some discussion from the advisory board wanting to make sure that we are prepared in the event if any other YAA's issues should come up. Shawn Schumacher stated these changes can go into effect at any time. The YAA Manual is normally revised in December each year. The YAA Manual is a working document, and it can be reviewed and revised at any time to give the manual more strength and better verbiage. Steve Pressley motioned to approve the Youth Athletic Association Manual revisions, and 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

c. Facility Usage Fees

The Athletic Division Director, Shawn Schumacher discussed the Resolution by The Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County, Georgia Regarding – The Athletic Field & Facility Use Policy of Cherokee County. The purpose of this Resolution is to simply update our Athletic Field Use Policy to be called an Athletic Field and Facility Use Policy which includes ALL our rental fees moving forward, so that they are easier to reference and locate when needed. This document will now include not only athletic fields and court rentals, but also include aquatic lane rentals, pavilion rentals, splashpad rentals, facility rentals, boat ramps, canoe/ kayak launches, camp sites, archery range and more. There was no action taken.

13. Old Business

There was no old business.

14. Adjourn

Frankie Sanders thanked the advisory board for supporting Cherokee Recreation and Parks, and she wished them a Merry Christmas. Vice Chairman Mark Preetorius and the advisory board wished the CRP staff a Merry Christmas and thanked them for all their hard work. The advisory board told the CRP staff that we only sit here to vote on agenda items, but you all are the ones that do all the hard work. Cherokee Recreation and Parks have some of the best parks in the state, all the awards that the staff and agency receive are not by accident. The right staff and leadership are being put in the correct positions. Cherokee Recreation and Parks staff was thanked by the advisory. There was a motion made by 2nd Vice Chairman Amy Turcotte, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m., seconded by Steve Pressley. The motion carried 3-0.