

Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting
March 20, 2025
Jimmy Davis Park Complex

Attendees: Annie Bishop, Gwendolyn Brundage, Sidney Jackson, Richard Garrett, and Janie Reid

Staff: Tweedy Victor Parham
Scott Haley

Absent: Patricia Hurt

Chairperson Janie B. Reid called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and invited Commissioner Garrett to join the table and participate in the meeting. He did so.

Reid also introduced Sidney Jackson to the committee, stating that he had been recently appointed by the commissioners following the resignation of David Levester, III.

Annie Bishop moved to adopt the minutes as presented, and Sidney Jackson seconded it. Since there was no discussion, the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Staff Updates:

Staff members Haley and Parham both provided updates on park operations. Mr. Parham reported that there are a few more visitors than in the past, and all is going well. Mr. Haley presented the group with their proposed hours of operation for Spring Break (Saturday, April 5-Saturday, April 12, w2025). The hours are the same for both Pool Recreation Center and Jimmy Davis Park.

There were several questions from the group inquiring about staff availability, security, games, and activities for youth. Mr. Haley stated that the proposed hours were for discussion, and if approved by the group, it would allow staff to gauge what would be needed during summer break. Members of the committee stressed the need to purchase board games for young people and a wall-mounted TV. Mr. Haley agreed to investigate the purchase of the items requested by the committee.

The committee also asked Mr. Haley to speak with the county manager about issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for summer activities at the park. He agreed to do so.

Plan Review:

The committee then reviewed the plan line by line to determine if any action had been taken or if any additions or deletions were needed. After discussion, it was noted that -several action items had been completed, and it was undecided whether the volleyball court would or should be reinstalled. Staff are still planning to work with the BETA Club of Putnam County High School to plant flowers and perhaps plant a raised-bed vegetable garden. There was a brief discussion about naming the baseball field "The Brown Bombers Field at Jimmy Davis Park" in honor of World War II Veterans from Putnam County who formed a baseball league and played on the

Approved June 10, 2025

field. The only survivor of those players is now one hundred years old and remains a resident of Eatonton. Reid, Garrett, and County Manager Van Haute are still gathering information on this.

There was also quite a bit of discussion on the rental rate of the building, particularly regarding how many people it would accommodate and what number would require security. Mr. Haley is to research the topic and present it to us at our next meeting for discussion and action.

New Business:

Ms. Reid reported that Oconee Behavioral Health Center and BHFIt (Better Health and Fitness Together) are now holding sessions and meetings with their clients on Tuesdays at Jimmy Davis Park. The initiative is supported by a grant from the Morehouse School of Medicine and aims to promote better health and wellness for the Putnam County community. It focuses on enhancing the overall health and fitness of individuals through various activities and resources, encouraging a comprehensive approach to wellness. The Oconee Behavioral Health Center is committed to improving the lives of individuals and families through comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services.

Reid stated that she worked with Oconee Behavioral Health Center to get the program here because she felt that it was a viable resource for the community. The group held an open house on Tuesday, March 18th, to highlight and explain the service they provide each Tuesday.

Commissioner Garrett reported that at the last meeting of the Putnam County Board of Commissioners, he made a motion to extend the Jimmy Davis Partnership Advisor Committee for one year. The motion passed unanimously. He also states that he felt the committee was meaningful and would like to add additional members. Reid asked how many he was considering adding. His response was two.

Other matters from the floor:

None

Next meeting date:

Commissioner Garrett inquired whether it would be possible to reschedule the meeting for later to accommodate Patricia Hurt, as she works out of town and is unable to attend at an earlier time. After the discussion, it was decided that the next meeting will be held on June 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at Jimmy Davis Park.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie B. Reid, Chairperson

Approved June 10, 2025