

Meeting Minutes
Jimmy Davis Park Partnership Advisory Board
September 11, 2024 @ 5:00 PM
Jimmy Davis Park Complex

Attendees: Gwendolyn Brundage, Annie Bishop, Patricia Hurt, and Janie Reid

Staff: Victor Parham (was present but busy overseeing the building and field practice at this time).

Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on April 3, 2024, May 8, 2024, and June 12, 2024, were proposed for adoption by Patricia Hurt, seconded by Gwendolyn Brundage, and unanimously approved.

Agenda:

Patricia Hurt proposed the agenda, as presented, for adoption, seconded by Gwendolyn Brundage, and unanimously approved.

Staff reports and updates:

Mr. Haley was absent, but Mr. Parham reported that the resurfacing and painting of the basketball court had been completed. He also provided updates on the upcoming repairs for the walking track and the planned sod planting.

Discussion and action on the development of the five-year plan for the operation of Jimmy Davis Park:

Following a comprehensive discussion of suggestions to be included in the proposed five-year plan to be recommended to the Board of Commissioners, all submitted suggestions were unanimously agreed upon for inclusion for consideration (see attached).

Other matters from advisory board members:

None

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024, at 5:00 PM at Jimmy Davis Park.

*It was noted that the Advisory Board will present a report to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at its regular meeting at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully,

Janie B. Reid

GROUNDS	GOAL	STATUS
Install surveillance camera.	To curtail vandalism	Completed
Install fence around the complex.	To promote safety	Completed
Redo parking lot to include striping.	To provide adequate and safe parking	Completed
Refurbish the basketball court and install new rims and nets.	Time to refurbish; they were worn out	Completed
Install a volleyball court.	One was there previously, and some community residents have requested that it be placed back.	Requested
Upgrade playground equipment by adding inclusive equipment.	We want to develop a community of inclusion for all.	In progress
Add work-out stations around the walking track and a sitting area in the centerfield walking track area.	This will allow park visitors to engage in an aerobic workout and strength, endurance, and flexibility training while walking the track.	In Progress
Restore the baseball field, name it “The Brown Bombers Field at Jimmy Davis Park,” and place a historical marker on the site.	This is to recognize World War II service members (residents of Putnam County) who returned home and decided to put together a baseball team. The team was called The Brown Bombers and played baseball in all the surrounding counties. One team member is still alive today @ one hundred years old.	February 2025 (Black History Month) <i>or</i> June 2025 (Juneteenth Celebration)
Remove newly installed gates to allow patrons to enter the walking area and use the pavilion at their discretion if it is done decently and in order. It is not limited to only during the posted opening and closing hours.	The park is supposed to be enjoyed by all and available for use during non-traditional hours. Cameras have already been installed to curb vandalism.	Requested to be done immediately
Keep the lawn and field manicured regularly and remove any debris or trash. We want the park always to be presentable. Plant trees, shrubs, and seasonal flowers so the park will be inviting and project a sense of pride within the community.	To project a sense of community pride.	As often as needed

BUILDING INTERIOR	GOAL	STATUS
<p>Purchase tables, chairs, a flat-screen television, board games, and at least two computers that students will utilize to aid them with their school assignments.</p>	<p>The building is empty, with no furniture, leading some to believe the facility is not open. The few who have visited do not stay long because there is nowhere to sit and nothing to do inside the building.</p>	<p>Requested to be done immediately</p>
<p>Leasing of Building: The current rental fee for the facility and grounds is exceptionally high, which deters people from using the facility for family reunions, birthday parties, church programs, receptions, etc. We understand that the baseball field will not be rented to anyone requesting to use it for a stage or vendor space.</p>	<p>Current: \$500 + \$100 Staff = \$600 for 4 hours (1 rental per day) *\$250 Refundable Deposit is required * Total Due to rent - \$850</p> <p>Proposed: \$400.00 + 150.00 staff for 6 hours (1 rental per day) and a \$150.00 refundable deposit. Total Due to rent: \$700.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking—The rental agreement will include the new lower parking lot and the parking lot in front of the building. • No entry allowed on the middle road. • No parking inside fence by the basketball court, pavilion, walking trail, playground, or athletic field. • No vehicles allowed on the athletic field or walking trail. • No parking under the pavilion. • The building and grounds must be vacated by midnight on each rental day. 	<p>Request that the form on the BOC’s website be amended to reflect these changes and that the building be available for rent at the proposed amount immediately.</p>
<p>BUILDING EXTERIOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure wash the front entryway, back porch, and any other cement or asphalt surface regularly. • Keep the lawn and field manicured regularly and immediately remove any debris or trash. • Plant trees, shrubbery, and seasonal vegetation so the park will be inviting and project a sense of pride within the community. 	<p>To maintain a sense of cleanliness and community pride.</p>	<p>As often as needed</p>

OPERATIONS & ACTIVITIES	GOAL	STATUS
Establish hours of operation to reflect seasons and ensure adequate staff are hired.	Adequate staff is required to ensure that the park is managed successfully, and hours of operation must be implemented that reflect certain times of the year. This is imperative so that the park will adequately serve the community.	The request is to be made as soon as possible.
The community can utilize the building for various events, such as parties, showers, meetings, etc. If the pavilion is rented to a group of two hundred or more, the renter will be responsible for renting two port-a-potties to accommodate the crowd (this is to be included in the lease agreement).	Residents often struggle with finding a building to host family events, and churches and businesses in the area frequently desire to meet outside of their establishment; therefore, they often request to use the facility.	This is addressed in the rental information in “building interior” above.
Regular activities in the building: Enrichment classes such as aerobics, knitting, tutoring for kids, etc. It is possible to get retired teachers and college students to volunteer for these activities. Advertise using social media and The Eatonton Messenger to solicit. Post pictures of activities at the park. Use the field to have baseball, softball, and soccer games at various times.	The community is constantly asking for this service. Properly implemented and monitored will contribute significantly to building a healthy, educated, and vibrant community.	The department is now utilizing fields for practice, but other activities are needed.