



## **VMHG Committee Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, 6/29/2023 Vereen Gardens

- I. Call to Order
  - Invocation by Christina Prince
  - Pledge of Allegiance by Christina Prince
  - Public Comment as needed
- II. Approval of Minutes for April 6, 2023
- III. Donation Report – HCPR Staff/ Ashley Cowen
- IV. Public/County Report – HCPR Staff/ Ashley Cowen
- V. Sub Committee Reports
  - Maintenance & Volunteer – Rich Lavigne
  - Historical – Pat Green
  - Beautification – Pat Green
  - Budget - Rich Lavigne, Richard Patterson, Gary Weaver
- IV. Old Business
  - Ideas about Mr. Pagila's concern and any updates (trash cans)
  - Updates on signage (grills, dogs, bikes on walk-ways, park boundaries, after-storm signs)
  - Security updates (HCPD) cameras
  - Renaming of Blue and Lower Trail
  - Water source
  - Preservation of Broad Road Ground Penetrating Radar for the park to locate the possible grave
  - Historical site signs (no digging)
- V. New Business
  - New reports of concerning behavior in the park (catcalling, trespassing, and fireworks)
- VI. Adjournment



## **VEREEN MEMORIAL HISTORICAL GARDENS COMMITTEE**

C.B. Berry Recreation Center, 2250 SC-179, Little River, SC 29566

### **Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2023**

**Present** – Christina Prince (President), Carol Patterson (Vice President, Maintenance and Volunteers), Dick Patterson (Maintenance and Volunteers), Pat Green (Secretary), Ben Prince, Gary Weaver, Richard Lavigne, Bennie Dowty. HCPR staff: Ashley Cowen, Robert Freeman, Brian Crouse.

Breakfast, courtesy of Christina and Ben Prince, was enjoyed by board members and several HC Park and Rec employees. Many thanks to them!

**Call to Order/Pledge** – Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Christina Prince. Invocation given by Dick Patterson. Pledge of allegiance led by Christina.

Welcome to new board member, Bennie Dowty.

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve minutes of Feb. 2, 2023, by Dick, second, Gary.

**Donation Report** – Presented by Ashley Cowen: Current balance is unchanged at \$15,244.00.

**HCPR Public/County Report** – Follow-up on existing projects. The bridge and trail behind the cemetery have been expanded and beautifully upgraded. Mosquito spraying is being scheduled. Hand spraying is necessary near beehive locations on adjacent property.

#### **Subcommittee Reports-**

**Maintenance and Volunteer Committee** – See detailed Volunteer Report distributed by Dick and Carol Patterson. Discussion on placing the damaged angel on a concrete slab to prevent/lessen mold growth, as she remains a popular attraction. The cleaning of the porta pots hasn't been consistent and the bathrooms at CB Berry have been out of order. Bicycle signs are too low, need to be raised. Picnic tables will be ordered by HC when the budget is evaluated, metal or wood depending on finances. Church groups have been meeting in the park, questions regarding any rules/regulations governing this.

Considered to be a first amendment issue. County has “open play” meaning anyone can come, use, do. Site rentals take precedence, they can’t sell anything in the park, can’t staple signs to trees or park property. No issues have been reported regarding harassment or disruptive behavior. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the gate closing will change from 6pm to 8pm.

**Historical** - Further discussion on locating possible burial sites on the grounds. Per Ashley, the county has access to lidar imaging, she will contact Chicora and another company, explain our needs, and obtain 3 quotes. The board can then decide how it wants to proceed.

**Beautification** – Volunteers interested in planting flowers have had to step back due to health reasons. The Yaupon Garden Club has been involved with Vereens from 1971 to the present. A copy of their history here was given to Christina.

**Budget** – A shed is expected as soon as the budget is passed on July 1. It is to be placed in a well-lit area by CB Berry to prevent vandalism. The volunteers have been buying their own equipment. Ashley states that there is no mechanism for reimbursement from the county, so it is best to have the county supply anything necessary from our county budget.

**Old Business** – Mr. Paglia has extended his chain link fence further down into the water. We have placed many signs on our side and are going to place more plants on the border in the most visible areas, further reinforcing the separation of properties. Security cameras are going to be installed, inside and out, at CB Berry this summer so that we will be able to see all visitors entering and leaving the park. Ben to touch base with HC Police and thank them for their increased presence.

The lower trail is now officially the Patterson Trail! New trail maps reflecting the Patterson and Hartwell Trail names have been ordered. More trail signs can be ordered to be placed throughout the park

There are water issues at the new bridge site. Storm Water Dept is coming to investigate and see if a natural spring exists near the cemetery. Discussion: if drilling a well near there would be feasible. Electricity is necessary to pump water to the surface, also the well would need to be very deep to get below salt water. Ashley to check existing water lines from Little River Water and Sewage that may in the vicinity.

Regarding the Broad Road: Ashley spoke with Lou Conlkin. She has some ideas on how to delineate and highlight the trail. Use signage to state where the road goes, etc.

**New Business** – Sign for cemetery asking for a respectful quiet or similar sentiment requested. Christina to do image search and send to Ashley. Catriona is now at CB Berry as a full-time staff member. It was learned that our bylaws are not officially recognized by the county.

Upcoming events:

May 13, 2023 Blue Crab 5K

July 1, 2023 New fiscal year starts

October 7, 2023 Vereen Family Reunion

**Next meeting**- June 29, 2023 at 9am

**Adjournment**—Motion to adjourn by Dick, second, Ben at 10:08 am.