



VMHG Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 2/2/2023 Vereen Gardens

- I. Call to Order
 - Invocation by Richard Patterson
 - Pledge of Allegiance by Christina Prince
 - Public Comment as needed
 - Guests Susan Platt of the HCHPC and Lou Conklin

- II. Approval of Minutes for December 1, 2022

- III. Donation Report – HCPR Staff/ Ashley Cowen

- IV. Public/County Report – HCPR Staff/ Ashley Cowen

- V. Sub Committee Reports
 - Maintenance & Volunteer – Richard Patterson
 - Historical – Pat Green
 - Beautification – Pat Green
 - Budget - Rich Lavigne, Richard Patterson, Gary Weaver

- IV. Executive Session - discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements receipt of legal advice, settlement of legal claims or discussions of the public agency's position in adversary situations.

- V. New Business
 - Vereen Memorial Gardens Stormwater Improvement Project
 - Preservation of Broad Road

- VI. Old Business
 - Updates on signage (grills, dogs, bikes on walk-ways, park boundaries, after storm signs)
 - Security updates (HCPD) cameras
 - Citizen Patrol (ideas from Brunswick County)
 - Renaming of Blue and Lower Trail
 - Water source

- VI. Adjournment



Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens Committee
Decision Memorandum
Horry County, South Carolina

Date: February 2, 2023
From: Parks and Recreation
Division: Infrastructure and Regulation
Prepared By: Ashley Cowen, Interim Director
Regarding: Vereen Memorial Gardens Stormwater Improvement Project

ISSUE:

Should the Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens Committee support the proposed Stormwater Improvement Project?

PROPOSED ACTION:

Remove the existing 24" pipe under the trail to allow for open flow. Replace trail with a bridge.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks and Recreation Department and Stormwater Department have coordinated to improve stormwater flow through the park with the proposed removal of a previously installed 24 inch pipe under the John Hartwell Trail. The trail will be reconstructed using a bridge to traverse the more natural conditions following the pipe removal.

ANALYSIS:

Pipe removal will elevate backflow and increase channel capacity by returning the water flow to conditions that are more natural. This proposal is consistent with the overarching goal of Responsible Stewardship in the Parks and Open Space Plan, adopted as Ordinance 37-2021, amendment to the Comprehensive Plan IMAGINE 2040. The proposal meets the Plan's objective "Ensuring recreation facilities reflect ecologically sensitive design principals" by "working with the Stormwater Department to develop a plan to perform stream restoration by improving capacity and flow of streams and channels on County properties, if any, and by removing artificial barriers and returning them to natural conditions".



VEREEN MEMORIAL HISTORICAL GARDENS COMMITTEE

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

Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022

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. Absent – Stephanie Walker.

Staff Present- Ashley Cowen

Call to Order/Pledge – Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Christina Prince. Invocation given by Dick Patterson. Pledge of allegiance led by Christina Prince.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve minutes of Oct. 6 ,2022 by Ben, second, Carol.

Donation Report – Presented by Ashley Cowen: Current balance is \$15,244.00. The cost of the volunteers appreciation/Hartwell trail dedication brunch of Nov. 19, 2022 was \$1,760.00.

HCPR Public/County Report – Fema covering cleanup from Hurricane Ian costs.

Subcommittee Reports-

Maintenance and Volunteer Committee - Dick and Carol Patterson distributed their detailed volunteer report. There have been several king tides recently that have distributed debris over the ends of the boardwalks. The island still has a lot of damage from Hurricane Ian. There are 2 trees down before the first boardwalk that need Park and Rec to clear. Rich cleaned all the discolored signs in the park. Shelter still needs No Grilling sign. P&R delivered and spread special wood chips to the children's swing area and gravel to the dog drinking area. Bike signs are up and look good but need to be moved to the ends of the posts to make them more visible. Dick detailed the time that our volunteers gave to the park weekly, Gary-6 hrs, Rich-12 hrs, Dick and Carol-20-25 hrs, (in addition to their work on the board), others do trail work etc. Their work is invaluable and much appreciated. The Saturday after Thanksgiving the park was very busy. That evening there was a huge crowd watching the Intercoastal Christmas Regatta. Visitors have been bringing ornaments to decorate trees before the third boardwalk. The volunteer lunch and tribute to John Hartwell was first class. Thank you to Ashley and the HCPR staff that made it such a lovely event.

Historical – Nothing to report at present. Discussion on contacting Dorothy Weberling of the DAR and Susan Platt of the HCHPC to let them know that we have funds earmarked in our budget for historical

signage etc. and to see if they have any ideas or projects that would be appropriate for Vereens to participate in. The Children of the American Revolution, who are presently restoring their plaque in front of the CB Berry building, may also want to be involved.

Beautification - Jim, the avid birdwatcher at the park, says that there is a spring behind the back corner of the cemetery that could be a possible water source for the gardens. Ashley to see if the Storm Water Dept. could investigate.

Budget – Committee members, Dick, Rich and Gary distribute a detailed park budget for next fiscal year totaling \$10,506.00, and the 2023 – 2024 Appreciation Dinner budget totaling \$2,450.00 for a grand total of \$12,956.00. Dick states that our volunteers save P&R many times this amount. Ashley states that some of the items listed could be provided by the county. Discussion on obtaining a secure and accessible storage shed. Per Ashley, she will consolidate categories prior to submission to County Council to give more leeway in implementation of funds. First reading of budgets is January 15, 2023. Fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Funds not used during fiscal year go into a capital account. Rich asked for a copy of the budget submitted by Ashley to help in formulating the Vereens budget for the following year.

Old Business - Regarding the property of Mr. Rocco Paglia. Per Ashley, the County would like us to try using signs. Also, there are two downed trees that have been purposely left in place because they are blocking access to and view of his property. Dick would also like to see trash cans placed in the area, above the level of king tide, to show that an effort is being made. Ben says that as time has gone on, visitors are more accustomed to seeing the Paglia property and acrimony on both sides seems to have lessened. Christina says that the lower access to that property is an eyesore (plastic, orange fencing and 2X4s) and would like to see something more uniform there instead, perhaps trees or shrubs. P&R to order and install Park Boundary signs. Regarding security, Ben had contact with HCPD. Carol notices a slight increase police patrols, undercover officers wouldn't be evident. Drug sales at the shelter house continue, a white pick-up truck has been noticed doing business there. Ben to reach out to law enforcement again. Cameras as a deterrent discussed, Ashley states that those that could be obtained from the county but would need WiFi and electricity, Christina mentioned deer trail cameras and fake cameras as options.

New Business – Discussion on presenting programs of interest at the park. Perhaps asking Jim, Vereens bird expert or Ben Abercrombie, a local biologist if they would be interested. Give Ashley contact information of any leads. Christina would like to see park advertised on local TV, perhaps a live broadcast or PSA. Concern with lack of parking if attendance increases, a sign stating that overflow parking is available in the front. Dick brings up an area of concern near Buckeye Pond. There is a dangerous steep area with steps that are rotting away. Suggests building a by-pass with a bridge in this area to prevent falls. Discussion on honoring Dick and Carol Patterson and Bob Crane by the renaming of trails. Dick suggests that because Bob works the upper part of the blue trail, it should be named for him. The trail starting from the right of the upper shelter house, including the boardwalks and to the parking lot to be named the Patterson Trail. Motion to do so made by Gary, second, Pat. A map was marked and given to Ashley to be presented to the Parks and Open Space Board in January 2023, then to the Infrastructure and Regulation Comm. in February 2023 and if passed thus far, to the full County Council for final approval. Updated trail maps to be printed after anticipated approval. New signage to be installed after name changes.

Next meeting- February 2, 2023 at 6 pm.

Adjournment – 7:11 pm