

## MINUTES

### Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture and Tourism (PRACT) Advisory

#### Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Clemson City Hall

**In attendance (Committee Members):** Bradley Rauh, Tatijana Mai-Wyss, Naomi Gerakios, Robert Kemp, Bill Carraway, Crystal Garrison, Jacob Wichelns, Bailey Dull, Sarah Williams

**In attendance (City of Clemson Employees):** Lacey Sylvester, Jay Bennett, Joan Rossini, Morgan Robinson, Lauren Gamrat, Summer

**Guests:** Fredrick Burton

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Call to Order

- a. Introduction of New Members- Naomi Gerakios, Tatijana Mai-Wyss, and Bradley Rauh

Approval of Minutes

- a. November Meeting did not have a quorum, so no minutes were taken

Action Item

- a. Election of Officers for 2026
  - a. Crystal G. nominated Bill Carraway for Chairman and Jacob W. seconded, approved unanimously
  - b. Bill C. nominated Crystal Garrison for Vice Chairman and Bailey D. seconded, approved unanimously
  - c. Bill C. nominated Tatijana Mai-Wyss for Secretary and Bailey D. seconded, approved unanimously

b. AED Discussion with Girl Scouts

- a. Leila Stevenson presented on their Girl Scout silver award they are working to achieve. They have to identify a problem in the community and work to solve it. Their project would entail raising money to add 24/7 access to AED's to all of the City of Clemson Parks. Their goal is to purchase 3 AED's.
  - i. Crystal asked how often batteries need to be replaced and how much
  - ii. Joan said the fire Marshall from the city checks on them and the status and batteries
  - iii. Bill said he feels better about safety and security with new protocols in place
  - iv. Clemson park is what Leela would think to do first
  - v. Bill said he thinks the pickle ball courts would be the best place first

b. Vote to approve AED Project

- i. Bill C. motioned and Sarah seconded, approved unanimously for Lelia and Evie to work on adding AED's to the city of Clemson parks over a period of time for their silver project

**c. Public Input - Comments From the Community**

- a. Fredrick Burton- gave input on the implementation of AED's in the community parks. He expressed the importance on having them clearly labeled and proper training

a. Black Heritage Trail Update - Morgan Robinson

- a. Collaboration project between City of Clemson, City of Seneca, and CU to uncover and preserve the history and heritage of African Americans in the Upstate
- b. There will be new interpretive signs state historic marker signs will be added
- c. Signs will be at Dawson and Rotary Park- Currently looking at 7 signs for Rotary Park and 10 signs for Dawson Park

- d. Looking into concrete stamp with logo Nate Hincke to add to sidewalks in the parks and other locations in the city such as Little John Community Center
  - e. Crystal asked if they are coordinating with the Green Crescent Trail
    - i. Morgan said she will speak Dr. Thomas and others about that
  - f. Crystal asked how CU is involved
    - i. Morgan said they will have information on the website that is going live soon and their own signs on campus
  - g. Bill asked what Seneca is doing
    - i. Their signs will be at Blue Ridge Field and a few interpretative signs
  - h. The Black Heritage Trail was founded through Mellon foundation with a \$3 million grant and currently in the last year of the grant
  - i. Time line is 3-6 months for Rotary park and Dawson park will take longer than that
  - j. Crystal asked about logo
    - i. Morgan said it ties with the local rivers and where they intersect /connect and the national panhellenic greek sorority/fraternity colors
- b. Adult Softball League Update - Jay Bennett
- a. We had an individual come forward to rent fields and run his own softball league for the city
  - b. Jay took the presentation to the city administrator and they approved it
  - c. The leagues will be divided into competitive, recreation, and co ed leagues
  - d. He thinks he can get between 20-25 teams
  - e. Looking to start March 9th
  - f. They will pay city to use fields and turn on lights and he will handle the rest
  - g. Bill said the presentation was great from
  - h. from him
  - i. Open to people who are not on a team which is a great option for individuals

- j. Crystal asked if there is a scheduling conflict with spring baseball and Jay said no

## **Department Reports**

### **a. Lacey and Summer - Programs, Events and Camp**

- a. Talked about what her role entails
- b. Senior programming has high attendance -Senior bingo has been a big hit- around 135-175 people on average
- c. Changes were made for bingo with Clemson /Central residents only at some bingo events and open to all at the last event
- d. Camps will be starting up soon with Spring break and Summer camps
- e. Bill said the candy cane event and said it was a great hit this past winter
- f. Touch a truck event partnering with the police department
- g. Eggs hunts are a huge event around 10,000 people and projecting 12 to 12,000to 15,000 people this year the day before Easter
- h. Picnic in the Park – will be in the evening this year at Nettles instead of around lunch time
- i.

### **b. Jay Bennett - Athletics**

- a. Finished youth city tournament this past Saturday
- b. Adult basketball has 3 more weeks
- c. Numbers are up from the past and over 150 girls this spring playing volleyball aged 6-17
- d. T- ball up to age Baseball 14 and under there is over 300 kids signed up
  - i. T-ball ball alone had 180 kids in the 4-6 year olds
- e. Soccer this fall for ages 6 and under had 140 kids
- f. Baseball - 8,10,12 ages added 3 teams this year
- g. Softball – added 8 under age team
- h. Opening day March 28th due to Clemson football game but changed to Sunday March 29th 2:00 pm for opening day

- i. 8 all-star basketball teams will be playing in district tournaments the 27th- 28th of February if they advance thru will go to Florence or Myrtle beach that week of March 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>
- j. Spring Soccer we have had for 5 years – Friday night and Saturday

**c. Joan Rossini - Arts Center**

- a. 2024-2025 report showed that they have grown by 54% - 722 more registrations with 45 more people
- b. Added 8 weeks of summer camp and after school programing
- c. 8 weeks of summer camp and 90 % registration full already. 28 kids in one class and waitlist so added another class.
- d. Adding 7 more traffic signal boxes- waiting on encroachment permits
- e. Partner with utilities to paint storm drains- campaign is out to find artist
  - i. Make people aware that items that go in storm drains go directly into lake
- f. Arts and Dementia Program continues
- g. New collaboration with Brooks center and art center
  - i. Students come over to work with residents at Clemson downs
- h. SC arts commission leadership institute is meeting with art center to see what they are doing with arts and health – we are the only ones doing this type of program.
  - i. Joining in on budget talks to get line item as part of their arts and wellness initiative

**d. Morgan Robinson - CAAAM**

- a. Community listening sessions were held in January at the Museum
  - i. To get feedback from community on programming they would like to see and different ways to engage with people in the community
- b. Brainstorming with Black Heritage Trail
- c. Black History Month Dinner at museum - February 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm
- d. Sincerely Daniel closing on 2/28/2026

- e. Working on digitizing the Sincerely Daniel Museum to make it more accessible for all to see long term

**e. Lauren Gamrat – Tourism**

- a. Purchases advertising in various magazines
- b. Attended Sports relationship conference hosted in Columbia this last time
- c. Collegiate fit expo next week in Clemson and staying in Clemson hotels and event at the University
- d. Received RFP from PGC basketball about fall day camp
- e. Submitted RFP to cohost with Visit Oconee the South Carolina sports alliance summer meeting group
- f. Working proposal through sports ETA that Lauren also belongs to
- g. “On the Ave” will be paused for this summer
- h. Concerts are done mainly by the university

**f. Tommy Korver – Maintenance**

- a. See additional document

**Reports and Updates of Existing Projects**

**a. Arts Center Update**

- a. Current topics of discussion for the art center designing phase
  - i. Electricity
  - ii. Supplies
  - iii. Added restrooms
  - iv. Met with architects in what they want for storage
  - v. Lots of windows storage garage doors
  - vi. Ways to have events and keep rooms locked

**b. 12 Mile Park Events**

- a. Normally around 40 rowing teams that come to town to practice
- b. Brandon Cruz May 30th paddle jam
- c. Open water swim event in early June

**c. Abernathy Park Update**

- a. Called the revitalization project

- b. Meeting on Thursday at 1:00 with architects from MKSK to talk about cost estimate of park
- c. Public comments from residents on what they want to do at public city meetings
- d. Less of a boardwalk, cut out some vegetation, and to have better view of the lake
- e. Sewer project – hasn't begun yet

**d. Clemson Park Update**

- a. Hoping to have the project done early summer or fall
- b. See Separate Sheet on update

**New Business**

- a. Clemson Student senate came and wanted to help volunteer. They can only help in fall events. The new present will have to figure out the details if they can volunteer
- b. Clemson connection:
  - a. Will need someone to take over position

**Chairman's Report**

- a. May 19th 2026, 6:00 PM Next meeting

**Adjourn**

Adjournment at 7:30 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2026 6 PM at City of Clemson Council Chambers