

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CADDO PARISH COMMISSION'S
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
HELD ON THE 5th DAY OF JUNE, 2023

The Caddo Parish Natural Resources Committee met in legal session on the above date, at 1:07 p.m., in the Government Plaza Chambers, with Mr. Atkins, Chairman, presiding, and the following members in attendance: Commissioners Atkins, Burrell, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus, and Young (6). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jones (2).

The invocation was given by Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Young led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair proposed a ten minute limit for citizens comments. The Committee agreed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Caddo Parish Parks' Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Jacob Haynes updated the Committee on the Caddo Parish Parks' Master Plan, which is waiting on comments from Shreveport Parks and Recreation's (SPAR) before a final document is completed. A public forum of over 600 respondents addressed what the Caddo Parish Parks currently has, the goals of the Caddo Parish Parks and an action plan to achieve its goals. Mr. Haynes discussed planning for population growth or reduction, reviewing predecessor master plans, and analyzing data from similar parks in the nation. Mr. Haynes advised that Caddo Parks is substantially underfunded compared to other relatable park agencies. Mr. Hopkins explained how Caddo Parks is underfunded. Mr. Haynes discussed the National Parks and Recreation Association's trend analysis, purposing unused available school land under a grant funded project, conversion of property into a park trail space, and recommendations to build an efficient park system. Mr. Haynes discussed Caddo Parks recommendations on nature conservation and partnerships, new parks and properties, and funding and program service offers. Mr. Hopkins discussed recreation on levies. Mr. Haynes discussed the potential of a fee based program to help boost funding. Mr. Epperson discussed parks and land in District 12, and suggested leasing land from the school board for \$1 per year to develop a facility for family reunions and large events. Mr. Epperson discussed collaborating with hotels and the tourist bureau to coordinate travel into Shreveport. Mr. Young discussed starving children as a community need, and suggested planting farms in Caddo Parks as part of the Parks' Master Plan.

It was **moved by Mr. Young**, seconded by Mr. Burrell, *that the Caddo Parks Master Plan include a programmatic approach to incorporating fruit trees and other food producing plants into the landscaping of SPAR parks and Caddo Parish parks.*

Mr. Atkins requested for a study.

Substitute motion by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. , *that Caddo parks master plan would look at the feasibility study of fruit trees to sustain them and a feasibility study on the expansion of and a community center at Pinchback Park.*

The Committee discussed the feasibility of planting a fruit tree, which Mr. Haynes addressed.

Call for the Question by Mr. Epperson, seconded by Mr. Atkins. Motion carried by acclamation.

Substitute motion as shown by the following roll call votes: AYES: Commissioners Burrell, Epperson, Hopkins, Lazarus and Young (5). NAYS: Commissioner Atkins (1). ABSENT: Commissioners Gage-Watts, and Jones (2). ABSTAIN: None (0).

Dr. Wilson advised that the Caddo Parks' Master Plan is a 15 year master plan. Mr. Haynes addressed Dr. Wilson's inquiry about the greenway opportunities of the Jimmie Davis Bridge. Mr. Hopkins requested that the Administration look into fees, which Mrs. Bryant acknowledged interest in a Parish-wide review of fees.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

/s/ Linda J. Montgomery
Linda J. Montgomery
Administrative Specialist I