

Recreation Advisory Group of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 8, 2025
8:00 AM

Call to Order

Chairwoman Erin McDowell called the meeting of the Recreation Advisory Group to order at 8:00 a.m. Other members in attendance included Michael Polacek, Mike Pappas, Stacey Clarke, Tommy Johnson, Rohit Nanda, and Jordan Childress. Assistant City Manager Chris Hobby, Recreation and Special Events Director Harold Layton, and Recreation and Special Events Assistant Director Michelle Johnson were also in attendance as was Police Captain Jamie McDowell.

Pappas made a motion to move public comments after each presentation. Nanda seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements

Presentations

A. Battery Way Restroom Presentation

Layton wanted to discuss bathrooms at Battery Way again. Police Captain McDowell informed the group that there were approximately 40 calls that have come through Fayette County dispatch for this area over a two-year period, with 28 of those being for a possible crime or violation. The rest were for lost or found items. The police liken that area to the path's version of 54/74. Camera's placed along the cart path help to deter crime.

Nanda asked how often the area is patrolled and if there was a curfew? The park closes at dusk and it is checked once per shift, with rotations every 6 hours. Polacek asked if there was room for improvement and the Captain responded by saying that if electricity was added to bathroom buildings then there is the opportunity for more cameras. During the summer, the SRO's patrol the paths.

Johnson commented that the gate for Spyglass Island is not utilized and should we look at this? McDowell said if that helped to keep cars out after close then it would not hurt.

Upgrades to the park are being considered as well. Clarke asked about the possibility of moving the boat ramp to the other side of the lake, but was told that the ramp would remain. Larger boats should use the Ralph Jones ramp but canoes and kayaks should still use Battery Way.

Layton said that the playground will be upgraded to accommodate the ADA's specifications.

Pappas asked if the bridge could be made wider and Layton said that they would look into it.

Public Comment

Mike Rear is concerned about the number of trees between Battery Way and the Parkway, as well as the increase in traffic that occurs between the two.

Sean Fagama says that people are in the park at all hours of the day. He does not believe the hype that bathrooms are needed at Battery Way, as there are bathrooms located four minutes north and south of there. Also said that the neighbors were never surveyed as to whether or not they wanted bathrooms in this neighborhood park. Carl Carmichael also mentioned that no one reached out to the neighbors. Johnson refuted and said that conversations had been had.

Childress asked about the safety of the bathrooms. McDowell told her that the bathrooms are automatically locked overnight - something that is not done with the port-a-potty.

Ken Whitsel commented that the Transportation Advisory group should be involved as well due to the traffic concerns.

David Cattelan mentioned the out-of-county residents who park there, while Jason O'Brien is concerned about the lack of parking. Cattelan also brought up the drug deals and liquor bottles that are found there.

Keith Larson spoke about the number of bicyclists that use the path system.

Kathy Whitsel spoke about safety of the pedestrians that walk by that area.

Johnson asked if it would make more sense to focus first on Drake Field before decisions on Battery Way, but Layton reminded him that this group had asked for this.

Pappas reminded everyone that the City Council will make the final decision as to what they believe benefits the City as a whole.

B. Cricket Field Rough Costs and Rough Drawings

Layton told the group that Sports Turf, a company out of Whitesburg, GA, has quoted a price of \$750,000 - \$850,000 to build the cricket pitch, but they have never built one before. Tarket Sports, which is building the pickleball facility, has quoted \$4,000,000 for synthetic turf and \$2,850,000 for natural turf. This quote is "turn key". The biggest issue will be grading. Currently Cricket is being played at the PAC on a field which is 1/4 of the size that it needs to be. Cricket ranked high on the survey and South Atlanta currently has no Cricket facilities. Clarke asked about the potential for noise and was told that it is similar to softball and baseball. Johnson asked about it staying at the PAC and was told that lightpoles would be in

the way.

Public Comment

Keith Larson likes the idea that the Cricket Pitch can also be used by soccer.

Edward McCarren asked where the numbers came from and Layton answered saying that it was from the Rec Master Plan.

Dave Cutler likes the multipurpose aspect of it.

C. Drake Field Restroom Presentation

Layton showed renderings of the Drake Field restrooms, which are designed along the same lines as the pavillion. They will be ADA compliant with push button doors. Clarke likes individual ones, as they allow for more room for adults who need assistance, instead of stalls.

Public Comment

Keith Larson thinks that family-style bathrooms allow for more flexibility.

Dave Kettlehut agrees that this is where bathrooms are needed as well as by the Spillway. Also, he wanted to know if these would be locked and if you can get out if locked inside and was told yes on both counts.

Pappas asked if family restrooms had been looked at and would they be easier to monitor? Captain McDowell said that big bathrooms are easier, but the PD will adapt.

Public Comment

Agenda Changes

Minutes

A. November 10, 2025 Recreation Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Polacek made the motion to approve the minutes. Pappas seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

New Agenda Items

Public Hearings

Member/Staff Topics

As this meeting was Polacek's last one, Layton and the rest of the group thanked him for his service.

Layton wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Adjourn

With no more business to come before the group, Clarke made a motion to adjourn. Polacek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting ended at 10:14 a.m.

Stacey Collins, Deputy City Clerk

Erin McDowell, Chair Woman