



Kershaw County



**FINANCE COMMITTEE
KERSHAW COUNTY COUNCIL**

MEMORANDUM AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

The Finance Committee has reviewed a request for review and recommendation into potential recreation projects.

On May 23, 2023, Kershaw County Council passed a Motion to Improve Recreation Facilities. This motion allocated \$6 million in funds for use on suitable recreation projects, contingent on a \$6 million match from the Health Services District.

Pursuant to the Motion to Improve Recreation Facilities, the County Administrator collected proposals for improvements in North Kershaw, the Kershaw-County West Complex, and three alternative recreation projects in the Camden area: revitalization of Larry Doby Complex, revitalization of Woodward Park, or revitalization of both Larry Doby Complex and Woodward Park.

In turn, as required by the Motion to Improve Recreation Facilities, these proposals were reviewed by the Kershaw County Recreation Commission. On October 10, 2023, Parks and Recreation Director Shane Duncan presented an update to Council. Specifically, Director Duncan relayed that, along with the Recreation Commission's unanimous approval, he supported (1) moving forward with projects in Westville, Bethune, Boyd Young Park, Copeland Park, and the Kershaw-County West Complex costing approximately \$2 million; and (3) pursuing the option to improve Woodward Park and, if possible, purchasing the land adjacent to Woodward Park.

On October 19, 2023, pursuant to a referral from Vice Chairman Jimmy Jones, the Finance Committee met with Director Duncan and County Administration to discuss the various options. The Finance Committee accordingly makes the following recommendation.

Recommendation

After reviewing the projects, and in light of the meetings on the same, the Finance Committee recommends the following to County Council:

- Approve \$ 367,000 for field improvements in Westville and Bethune, as set forth in the estimate provided by Director Duncan on October 10, 2023.

- Approve \$180,000 for lighting upgrades at Boyd Young Park, as set forth in the estimate provided by Director Duncan on October 10, 2023.
- Approve \$180,000 for lighting upgrades at Copeland, as set forth in the estimate provided by Director Duncan on October 10, 2023.
- Approve \$1,273,000 for improvements at Kershaw-County West Complex, including the parking improvements set forth in the estimate provided by Director Duncan on October 10, 2023, and additions of food truck areas.
- Approve \$10,000,000 as set forth in the estimates provided by Director Duncan on October 10, 2023, for one of the two projects below. The Finance Committee defers to County Council as to which option is most prudent but notes that the Finance Committee does not recommend splitting funds between the two parks. The alternative projects are as follows:
 - Revitalization Woodward Park and, if funds are available, purchase of the land adjoining Woodward Park.
 - Revitalization of Larry Doby Complex.

Conclusion

The Finance Committee reminds County Council that, according to the Motion to Improve Recreation Facilities, moving forward on these projects is contingent on the Health Services District committing matching funds at their next regularly scheduled meeting. No funds from the County's \$6 million allocation to recreation will be expended until after this process is completed.