

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, January 5, 2023
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
William McCullough, *Vice-Chair, Northern Beaufort County*
Erac Priester, *Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Ronald Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *Beaufort County School District*
James Mack, *Northern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent:

Bill Brown, *Military ex-officio*

Staff Members Present:

Shannon Loper, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Heather Clint, *Senior Administrative Specialist, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*

Guests Present:

Scott Whitehead, *City of Beaufort Resident*
Logan Cunningham, *District 7 County Representative*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by **William McCullough**. *

***Bruce Yeager** was in attendance via Zoom. **William McCullough** chaired the meeting to ensure that there would be no possibility of interruption that could occur due to technical difficulties.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were completed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda is approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Ron Campbell motions to approve the September minutes and there is a second. The motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shannon Loper requests an amendment to the agenda regarding a rental fee for Buckwalter Recreation Center.

Phil Kiser motions to amend the agenda and it is seconded by **Bruce Yeager**. The motion passes.

- **Downtown Tennis Update:** There was a successful grand opening for the Downtown Beaufort Tennis Courts. There is lighting that is still going to be replaced, as some of the lighting was on backorder. There is a plan to add to the CIP this year to have the parking upgraded. Donna Winland is in the process of being hired by Beaufort County. She will be assisting with the tennis courts. There is a lot of excitement in the community about the courts.
- **Bluffton Pool:** The Bluffton Pool repairs are complete. The roof and beams look great, there is no rust, and everything is safe. Swimming has resumed and inflatables days have been added on Saturdays. There are now inflatables on Saturdays both North and South.
- **Seniors Program:**
 - Current Enrollment Numbers:
 - Bluffton: 57
 - Booker T: 47
 - Burton Wells: 55
 - Port Royal: 35
 - Scott Center: 19
 - St. Helena: 36
 - Meals are being provided at:
 - Bluffton
 - Burton Wells
 - St. Helena
 - Many photos are shown of various activities that the seniors are participating in with the program. Included are photos of field trips, a dance contest, baking activities, and parties.
 - Ms. Rivers, a participant in the Senior Program, celebrated her 104th birthday. WTOC came to do a story on her.
 - There was a combined Christmas Party that included all seniors from all centers gathering in one location. Lunch was generously provided by Sprenger Health Care. There was bingo, singing, and a photo booth. 95 seniors participated.

- **Christmas Tree Contest:**

- There was a County wide Christmas tree decorating contest. Parks and Recreation completed a tree with a Lowcountry theme. Parks and Recreation won first place.

William McCullough asks if there is anything regarding the senior program that the Board needs to be aware of. **Shannon Loper** explains that the program is going very well. Parks and Recreation has a grant from LOCOG to run the senior program. Funds are being used quickly due to rapid growth. There will be extra money requested in next year's budget. Administration has been very supportive and helpful to Parks and Recreation with running the program.

- **Registration Numbers Youth:**

- **Current Sports/Winter 2022**
 - Beaufort
 - Basketball: 234 / Down 1 (17 on Wait List)
 - Bluffton
 - Basketball: 849 / Up 186 (24 on Wait List)
- **Spring youth sports registration began January 1.** There are 100 registrations for soccer in the four days.

- **Registration Numbers Adult:**

- **Current Sports/Winter 2022**
 - Kickball: 82 Players
 - Dodgeball: 0
- **Spring youth sports registration began January 1.** There are 100 registrations for soccer in the four days.

Bruce Yeager asks about the ramifications of the rising participation in basketball regarding practice times and facilities. **Shannon Loper** states that we are at capacity now at Buckwalter. We will now be practicing seven days a week.

- **Tournaments:**

- **Flag Football Pro Bowl with Beaufort and Bluffton:**
 - 7-8 Year Olds – Bluffton
 - 9-10 Year Olds – Bluffton
 - 11 + Year Olds - Bluffton
- **District Girls Soccer:**
 - 8U – Bluffton
 - 10U – Bluffton
- **District Girls Soccer:**
 - 8U – Bluffton
 - 10U - Bluffton
- **District Boys Soccer:**
 - 8U – Bluffton
 - 10U – Bluffton
 - 12U – Bluffton
 - 15U – Beaufort County
- **State Championships Girls:**
 - 8U – Bluffton
 - 10U – Bluffton
 - 12U – Bluffton
 - 15U – Beaufort County

- **State Championships Boys:**
 - 10U – Bluffton
 - 12U – Bluffton Runner-Up
 - 15U – Beaufort County Runner-Up
- **New Hours:**
 - **Beaufort:**
 - Lind Brown: Saturday 8AM – 4PM
 - Burton Wells: Sunday 8AM – 4PM
 - **Bluffton:**
 - Buckwalter: Saturday and Sunday 8AM – 4PM
- **Set Fee:**
 - Administration has requested that a Home and Garden Show be hosted at Buckwalter Recreation Center. The dates of the show are March 31 through April 2. Buckwalter will need to be closed Tuesday through Sunday in order to accommodate the show and set up of the show.

William McCullough asks **Shannon Loper** what is being lost by renting the Center. **Shannon Loper** explains that monthly and yearly memberships will need to be adjusted for the lost week. **Eric Priester** asks what other impacts are involved regarding Parks and Recreation staff. **Shannon Loper** responds that Parks and Recreation staff will not be involved in the event. **Eric Priester** asks about staff handling the computer work of extending memberships and handling complaints from the public. He also asks about the impact to youth sports. **Shannon Loper** states that there will be additional work for staff. Due to parking issues related to the event, soccer practices will not be able to be held that week. **Bruce Yeager** states that when this event was held in the past, the event coordinators gave floor coverings to Parks and Recreation as payment, which had a value of approximately \$10,000 apiece. The fallout from having this event was palpable and there was damage to the floors in the Center. There was an agreement made at that time to not rent the gyms anymore for events. This event is probably something we don't want to do. If the event has already been agreed to, is it correct that gym rental is \$175 per hour? **Shannon Loper** is unsure. **William McCullough** asks if this has been agreed to already. **Shannon Loper** responded that the County Administrator has already approved the use of the facility. **William McCullough** motions that the Board needs some guidance to come up with a fee and would like the decision to be tabled. **William McCullough** agrees to table his motion to allow for discussion. **Phil Kiser** suggests that a ballpark figure be decided for the County Administrator. **Eric Priester** states that the function of the Board is to set fees and in the past, the Board would have decided whether or not to rent the facility. Someone has overstepped that and therefore, what is the purpose of the Board? **Ron Campbell** asks what we used to charge for renting gyms in the past. **Shannon Loper** states that the best guess is \$50 - \$75 per hour, per gym. The conference rooms are \$50 per hour for both rooms. **Bruce Yeager** states that in the past we accepted \$10,000 per year for this event, based on the fair market value of the gym floor coverings at the time of that rental. He states that \$12,000 for the event is reasonable. **Phil Kiser** motions that the fee should be \$500 per gym, per day. **Bruce Yeager** seconds the motion. There is discussion about including a fee for conference rooms. **William McCullough** motions that the \$500 per gym, per day also includes the conference rooms. **Eric Priester** seconds the motion. The motion passes.

AQUATICS

- **Program Updates:**
 - **Indoor Pools**
 - **Battery Creek:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-7:00PM
 - Saturday – Inflatables: 10:30AM-4:30 PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Took place October 31 – November 17

- Patron Check In:
 - July: 628
 - August: 680
 - September: 1018
 - October: 423
 - November: 537
 - December: 80

- **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-7:00PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Water Aerobics Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 1:30PM-2:30PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Took place December 5 – 15
 - Again in March
 - Patron Check In:
 - July: 540
 - August: 715
 - September: 553
 - October: 352
 - November: 406
 - December: 661

- **Bluffton Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday - Friday: 8:00AM-12:00PM / 1:00PM-7:00PM
 - Saturday: Inflatables from 10:30AM-4:30PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Water Aerobic Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 8:30AM-9:30AM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Starting January / 9AM-12PM
 - FINS:
 - Monday - Friday: 2:30PM-7:30PM
 - Lowcountry Autistic Foundation:
 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 5:30PM-7PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - October: 534
 - November: 1919
 - December: 1471

Outdoor Pool – Alvin Settles:

- Pool Hours: Closed for the Season
- Pool Renaming Dedication took place November 10th at 10AM.
- Patron Check in:
 - May: 394
 - June: 1688
 - July: 1323
 - August: 526
 - September: 102

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- **Admin:**
 - Facilities Maintenance
- **Aquatics:**
 - Lifeguards:
 - 6 Full Time Open
 - 2 Part Time Open
- **Maintenance:**
 - 8 Open
- **Seniors:**
 - Program Supervisor
 - 1 full Time to Fill
- **Rec Aides:**
 - 6 Positions to Fill

Shannon Loper states that we are a little bit behind on mowing and pruning. She is looking into automated mowers for the fields that can be programmed to run on a schedule. This would give maintenance employees time to attend to other tasks. The mowers do not require any gas or oil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting is Thursday, March 02, 2023, in Bluffton.

William McCullough asks if any Board member would like to have a final discussion or comment on anything from today's meeting.

Phil Kiser asks Shannon Loper about a land exchange with Camp St. Mary's. **Chuck Atkinson** states that he toured the properties with Rural and Critical Management this morning. Those groups will weigh all the information and meet in one week to discuss a recommendation. At that time, we will go to County Council and ask for a decision.

Carlos Cave asks about the contract between the School District and Parks and Recreation regarding the pools. **Chuck Atkinson** states that the contract will expire in December of 2024 or 2025. It is likely that the School District will want to continue the relationship. The goal is to keep and maintain the pools and extend the contract with the School District. This applies to three of our four pools, the exception being the Alvin Settles Pool.

James Mack states that his pet peeve is that there is still a need for a recreational facility on St. Helena. He would like to have discussions about a partnership with the gym in St. Helena and start some Rec programs. **William McCullough** asks if this discussion can be added to the agenda for the next meeting. **Chuck Atkinson** explains that we do have facilities on St. Helena, and that we are working on funding for additional facilities. If the School District wants to work with Parks and Recreation, that is a function of the School District, and not the Parks and Recreation Board. **Chuck Atkinson** states that he is happy to be a part of the conversation.

Bruce Yeager suggests that we wait for the report on the Master Plan in order to have enough information to have a discussion about more facilities North of the Broad. He also comments that the Home and Garden Show should be aware that the rental fee that was agreed upon is for rental only. It does not include any labor, waste removal, or anything additional.

QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURN

There is a motion to adjourn. The motion is seconded. The meeting is adjourned.