

# BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center  
Thursday, February 08, 2024  
2:30 PM

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**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*  
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*  
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*  
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*  
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*  
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County*

**Board Members Absent:**

Bill Brown, *Military ex-officio*  
Robert Schoch, *Southern Beaufort County*  
Ron Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*

**Staff Members Present:**

Bob Rozek, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*  
Jeremy Way, *Marketing Coordinator, Parks and Recreation*  
Shane Stager, *Assistant Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*  
Darrell Ketola, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*  
Alexander Hunt, *Assistant Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*  
Brandon Whitener, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*  
Evan Christian, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*  
Jack Fripp, *Grounds Maintenance Superintendent, Parks and Recreation*  
Natasha Dortch, *Fiscal Technician, Parks and Recreation*  
Heather Clint, *Senior Administration, Parks and Recreation*  
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*  
Hank Amundson, *Special Assistant to the County Administrator and current Parks and Recreation Director*  
Dale Butts, *Assistant County Administrator, Parks and Recreation*

Scott Schnee, *Parks and Recreation*  
Brock Vaughn, *Parks and Recreation*  
Gavin Jones, *Parks and Recreation*  
Marisa Freeman, *Parks and Recreation*

**Guests Present:**

Daniel Blackmon, *President, Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association*  
Cheryl Manson, *Beaufort Rowing Club*  
Craig Robinson, *Citizen/Rowing Club*  
Wayne Lilley, *Public Tennis*  
James Perrie, *Citizen*  
George Bush, *MC Riley Alumni Association*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by **Bruce Yeager**.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introductions were completed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There is a motion to approve the agenda, and the motion passes. Agenda is approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Jim Perrie** for public comment. He states that he has discovered a hidden gem of a passive park. He reached out to Passive Parks Director Stefanie Nagid about this property and was unsatisfied with her answers to his questions. He states that there are “no trespassing” signs posted at this property, but he went past the signs and walked through the property. He goes on to describe the property and says the public should be allowed access to it. He also states that there is another adjacent property that has been clear cut and would like answers to what is being done with both properties, and why the public is not allowed to access them. He offers a handout of this information to anyone who would like one. **Bruce Yeager** states that the board will take the information under advisement and that Passive Parks are not under this board’s purview. He goes on to recommend that **Jim Perrie** attend a County Council meeting and voice his concerns during public comment.

**George Bush** for public comment. Mr. Bush is with the MC Riley Alumni Association. He requests from the board a waiver of rental fees for two events at the MC Riley facility. The first event is a radio telethon on May 25, 2024, 10:30AM until 2:30PM. The Association would like to use the outdoor basketball courts and the restrooms for this event. The second event is on September 2, 2024. This event will be a class reunion and picnic event. This event would require use of the entire facility and tents will be placed on the grounds. These event fees were waived in 2022 by the board. **Bruce Yeager** asks about the improvements to the monument area, which were discussed at the 2022 meeting. **George Bush** states that improvements are ongoing and phase 1 has been completed. He states that the Association raised over \$10,000 at the 2022 telethon. He states that these two events occur every two years. He states that they will remove their own trash. **Alan Arseneau** asks if there are any conflicts with sport programs. It is verified that there are no conflicts. There is a motion to waive the fee and the motion is seconded. **Bruce Yeager** reminds **George Bush** of the caveat that his group remove all their trash, and **George Bush** agrees. The motion passes.

**Daniel Blackmon**, President of the Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association, for public comment. He thanks the Parks and Recreation staff and states appreciation for the improvements that have been made to the Charles Lind Brown Center. He states that the center is in an area of diverse population, both in age and income, including working and retired people. He states that there is a group called “Friends of Charles Lind Brown Center” that his Association coordinates with, and many within the “Friends of the Charles Lind Brown Center” group remember playing basketball at the center after school. The Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association has conducted two meetings at the center in the large, renovated classroom that is attached to the newly renovated kitchen. He states that for future meetings, his group may like to serve food out of the kitchen, but not use the kitchen equipment. He asks the board to waive the rental fees for their meetings. **Bruce Yeager** verifies, via the minutes from the last board meeting, that there are eight meetings for the year. **Mr. Blackmon** confirms that there are eight meetings for the year, and one has already occurred. He states that the meetings will take place from 5:30PM until 7PM. Attendance is approximately 30 people. He states that they will clean up after the meetings and remove trash. **There is a motion to waive the fees for the Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Association for seven meetings, provided the dates do not conflict with any Parks and Recreation programming. There is a second. The motion passes.**

**Cheryl Manson** of Beaufort Rowing Club for public comment. She states that her group would like to bring crew rowing to Northern Beaufort County. She states that the County owns the Parris Island Boat Landing and is an ideal crew rowing location, and that the County is doing a title search on the property. A dock would need to be built there for crew rowing to happen. Beaufort Rowing Club has equipment to get crew rowing started, and the Club has reached out to many schools to gauge interest. Sixteen schools expressed interest in crew rowing. The Club is interested in having Beaufort County Parks and Recreation manage a crew rowing program when a dock is built. This visit to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting is a preliminary step in understanding the function of the department and the board. **Bruce Yeager** confirms that a dock needs to be built, and that this public comment is a preliminary step. He states that Parks and Recreation welcomes working with the rowing club, possibly within the context of a 70/30 contract, and to stay in contact with staff within the department as they work through some of the facility difficulties. **Cheryl Manson** states that the Town of Hilton Head has been helpful and gave their dock design to the Beaufort Rowing Club.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES**

**There is a motion to approve the November minutes and the motion passes. Minutes are approved. Bruce Yeager to Carlos Cave:** “ex-officio” means voting member, so please feel free to vote.

#### **PRESENTATION: PUBLIC TENNIS**

**Wayne Lilley**, with Public Tennis, for presentation. A handout is given to all Board members. He states that Public Tennis was instrumental in the building of the tennis courts at Chaplin Park 20 years ago, and in 2020, prior to the pandemic, were also involved in proposing the Buckwalter Tennis Center to County Council. He states that the plans for the Buckwalter Tennis Center appear to have stalled, and Public Tennis would like to help regain that momentum. He states that tennis is growing at an unprecedented pace and that tennis at public parks is responsible for a disproportionate amount of the growth. Tennis has plenty of mental, physical, community, and social benefits. He states that the best way to know how to build and run a successful tennis complex is to visit other venues that are successful. Public Tennis would like to help with the following: reengaging USTA resources, coordinating visits to successful centers in our region for learning purposes, and assist with building a successful business model and business plan for the center. **Bruce Yeager** states that the property is there, and the project is in the master plan. The County goes out three years with Capital Improvement Plans. **Hank Amundson** states that this project is part of a larger “Brace” project, and the timeframe depends on County funds. **Wayne Lilley** states that while waiting for funding, Public Tennis can assist with building a business model and be ready to go when funding comes through. **Bruce Yeager** states that the County is still planning, and the tennis center is still part of that plan. He states that the County would not build a facility to fail, and that the correct person would be brought in to run the center, or plans will be aligned with a successful center. **Wayne Lilley** states that an Eagle Scout would like to place one or two “tennis pantries” at a facility to house used racquets for public use. **Bruce Yeager** answers that the Parks and Recreation staff can handle that inquiry.

#### **ACTING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- **Operational Update:**
  - **Director**
  - **Deputy Director**
  - **Athletics:**
    - 1 Athletic Supervisor Open

- Recreation Aides-Part Time: 2 Positions Open
- **Aquatics:**
  - Lifeguards:
    - 7 Full Time Open
    - 3 Part Time Open
- **Administration:**
  - Admin Clerk-Part Time: 1 Position Open
- **Grounds Maintenance:**
  - Grounds Maintenance Tech:1 Position Open
- **Programs:**
  - Program Supervisor: 1 Position Open
- **Current Registration Numbers:**
- **Registration Numbers Youth:**
  - **Winter Sports 2023-24**
    - Beaufort
      - Basketball: 279 (up 45)
    - Bluffton
      - Basketball: 946
  - **Sports Winter 2023-24**
    - Beaufort
      - Basketball: 272 (up 38)
    - Bluffton
      - Basketball: 926 (up 77)
  - **Spring Sports 2024**
    - Beaufort
      - Baseball: 313 (up 23) (registration closed)
      - Dixie Boys: 21 (down 20) (registration ends 04/05/2024)
      - Flag Football: 103 (up 7) (registration ends 02/16/2024)
      - Soccer: 472 (down 81) (registration ends 02/16/2024)
      - Softball: 86 (up 38) (registration ends 02/09/2024)
    - Bluffton
      - Baseball: 476 (down 13) (registration closed)
      - Dixie Boys: 23 (down 35) (registration ends 04/05/2024)
      - Flag Football: 325 (down 21) (registration ends 02/16/2024)
      - Soccer: 915 (down 161) (registration ends 02/16/2024)
      - Lacrosse: 88 (up 21) (registration closed)
      - Softball: 232 (up 29) (registration closed)
- **Registration Numbers Adult:**
  - **Sports Winter 2023-24**
    - Beaufort
      - Kickball: 7 teams/89 players
    - Bluffton
      - Kickball: 12 teams/168 players (up 86)
  - **Sports Spring 2024**
    - Bluffton
      - Volleyball: 60 (down 9) (registration ends 02/09/2024)
      - Senior Softball: 2 (down 150) (registration ends 02/29/2024)

- **Senior Program Update:**
  - Current Enrollment Numbers:
    - Bluffton Center: 25 (up 2)
    - Booker T Washington: 29 (up 4)
    - Burton Wells: 44 (up 3)
    - Dale Center: 25 (up 9)
    - Charles Lind Brown: 9 (no change)
    - Port Royal Center: 41 (up 1)
    - Scott Center: 32 (up 5)
    - St. Helena Center: 41 (up 2)
- **Upcoming Tournaments:**
  - **SCAP Basketball**
  - **District Tournament - Bluffton**
    - 10U and 12U Girls
    - March 24
  - **World Series**
    - July 26 - 31

## AQUATICS

- **Program Updates:**
  - **Indoor Pools**
    - **Battery Creek:**
      - Pool Hours:
        - Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8:00AM-1:00PM and 2:00PM-7:00PM
        - 1st Saturday/Month: Inflatables 11:00AM-4:30PM
      - Youth School Swim Lessons:
        - Monday-Thursday – 9:00AM – 1:00PM
      - Programs:
        - ISR: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:30PM-6:30PM
        - FINS – Tuesdays and Thursdays: 4:00PM – 6:00PM
      - Patron Check In:
        - November: 456
        - December: 198
        - January: 642
    - **Beaufort Pool:**
      - Pool Hours:
        - Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays: 8:00AM - 1:00PM and 2:00PM - 7:00PM
        - Saturdays:
          - 8:00AM-1:00PM (Lap Swim)
          - 1st Saturday/Month: Inflatables 11:00AM-4:30PM
      - Youth School Swim Lessons:
        - Starting in April: 9:00AM-1:00PM
      - Programs:
        - Water Aerobics: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:00AM – 11:15AM
        - ISR: Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays: 2:30PM-6:30PM
        - Fins: Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays: 4:00PM-6:00PM
      - Patron Check In:

- November: 509
- December: 747
- January: 548
- **Bluffton Pool:**
  - Pool Hours:
    - Monday - Friday: from 8:00AM – 1:00PM and 2:00PM - 7:00PM
    - Saturdays:
      - 8:00AM-1:00PM (Lap Swim)
      - 1st Saturday/Month: Inflatables 11:00AM-4:30PM
  - Youth School Swim Lessons:
    - Starting in April: 9:00AM – 4:00PM
  - Programs:
    - Water Aerobics: Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays: 8:30AM – 9:30AM
    - FINS: Monday - Friday: 3:00PM – 7:00PM
    - Lowcountry Autistic Foundation: Wednesdays/Thursdays: 5:30PM-7:00PM
  - Patron Check In:
    - November: 1722
    - December: 1273
    - January: 1950
- **Classes Offered:**
  - Group and Private Swim: Year Round
  - Stroke Improvement: Year Round
  - CPR Classes: By Appointment
  - Lifeguard Classes: By Appointment

**Bruce Yeager** tells the Board that the County has put three million dollars into the pools. **Hank Amundson** states that more work is going to be done soon, including new climate control systems, beginning this spring. This will cost approximately another two million dollars, per pool. **Bruce Yeager** asks if the pools will need to be closed during these projects. **Hank Amundson** answers in the affirmative. He also states that the contract with Beaufort County School District has been extended.

### ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

- Employee Update
  - Director: 1 Position Open
  - Deputy Director: 1 Position Open
  - Administration:
    - Admin Clerk – Part Time: 1 Position Open
  - Aquatics (Lifeguards)
    - Full Time: 5 Positions Open
    - Part Time: 2 Positions Open
  - Athletics:
    - Recreation Aides – Part Time: 2 Positions Open
  - Programs:
    - Program Supervisor – Senior Program: 1 Position Open
  - Grounds:
    - Maintenance Technician: 4 Positions Open
- **Dale Butts** is introduced as the new Assistant County Administrator for Beaufort County Parks and Recreation. He will be involved in the hiring of a new Director, with interviews starting within the week. **Hank Amundson** estimates that 2/3 to 3/4 of the Director applicants are from outside Beaufort County. He states that, in a perfect world, he hopes that a director will be hired by the end of this month.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting is Thursday, March 14, 2024, in Bluffton (Buckwalter Recreation Center).

### QUESTIONS

None.

**ADJOURN**

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