

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center
Thursday, March 14, 2024
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County (via phone)*

Board Members Absent

Bill Brown, *Military ex-officio*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Robert Schoch, *Southern Beaufort County*
Ron Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern 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*
Scott Schnee, *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*
Marisa Freeman, *Senior Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Dale Butts, *Assistant County Administrator*
Eric Brown, *Parks and Recreation Director*

Guests Present:

Mike Chambers

Jim Lewis

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

Bruce Yeager asks for an amendment to the agenda, addressing vacancies on the board. **Bruce Yeager** asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment. **Mark Rennix motions to approve the amended agenda and Phil Kiser seconds. The motion passes and the agenda is approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Chambers for public comment. He states that he has been involved with Public Tennis and SOAR, about three years ago. He states that he would like to start a pickleball program with Beaufort County special needs and disabilities. For this program, he would like to use the South Side pickleball courts in April and May. He states that he has not paid a fee to use the courts in the past and was told that he needed to pay a \$50.00 rental fee. **Bruce Yeager** states that he has been on the Board for quite some time and has never met Mr. Chambers before. He states that there are facility rental fees for all facilities, and the responsibility of the Board is to set those fees. If there is a waiver request, the Board must be addressed with a proposal. **Mike Chambers** states that the program is ready to go. He states that partnership with SOAR includes liability insurance for the program. Beaufort County DSN will provide transportation. The program will run for 5 weeks consecutively, on Tuesdays, from 10:30AM until 11:30 AM, beginning on April 23rd, 2024. This is a total of ten hours of rental time on two pickleball courts. **Bruce Yeager** asks if Burton Wells could be utilized, as there are more courts at Burton Wells. **Mike Chambers** states that he would like to start at South Side and use Burton Wells if the program grows. **Bruce Yeager** states that he is in support of the program. He also states that, in his opinion, if no fees are being charged for the program, that should make it available for a waiver of some sort. **Jonn Hayes** asked who would be responsible for the liability of the program. **Bruce Yeager** stated that SOAR would be since they are the group putting the program on. All are subject to SOAR having the proper paperwork. **Eric Brown** stated that from a legal standpoint he wants to have staff make sure all participants' liability forms are completed. Also, if the program grows like they hope it does that it would then be moved to a site for just pickle ball. **Mr. Chambers** agrees with **Eric Brown** on that point. **Bruce Yeager** states that this fee waiver is for this specific time and others would be discussed when the time comes. **Mark Rennix makes the motion to waive the fees for this one-time program of five weeks at South Side pickleball courts if the liability with SOAR is worked out. The motion is seconded. The motion passes.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Bruce Yeager states that he made a comment at the February meeting that three million dollars was spent on the pools. He would like to clarify if that reference was to all pools, or only Bluffton Pool. **Heather Clint** states that the reference was for all pools. **Bruce Yeager** asks to add an "s" to the word "pool" there and adjust the "next meeting" date. **Mark Rennix makes a motion to approve the minutes with those changes. Phil Kiser seconds. Motion passes and minutes are approved.**

DEPARTMENT REPORT & DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION

- **Dale Butts** introduces **Eric Brown** as the new Director of Parks and Recreation. According to **Dale Butts**, **Eric Brown** began work on Monday of this week. Interim County Administrator **John Robinson** introduced **Eric Brown** to County Council Monday evening. **John Robinson** stated to the County Council: "When we were tasked with filling this crucial vacancy, I asked the hiring team to bring me a leader, and I believe that they have done that". Eric hails from South Florida, where he has over 35 years' experience in Parks and Recreation with the city of Hollywood and the city of Dania Beach. He is highly motivated, enjoys implementing creative ideas and new programs. He has been married for 30 years and is a father of two adult daughters. **Eric Brown** introduces himself to the Board stating that he is looking forward to all the good things that will take place in Beaufort County Parks and Recreation, and that he looks forward to working with the Board.

- **Athletics Update:**

- **Spring Sports 2024**

- Beaufort

- Baseball: 331 (up 3) A week behind Bluffton
- Flag Football: 143 (up 7)
- Soccer: 603 (up 47)
- Softball: 81 (up 33) Youth closed: Diamond registration closes: 3/31/24.
- Dixie Boys: 29 (down 11) registration closes 4/5/24.
- Meeting to see what is needed to get Lacrosse started in Beaufort.

- Bluffton Youth

- Baseball: 486 (down 3)
- Flag Football: 385 (up 39)
- Soccer: 1116 (up 40)
- Lacrosse: 89 (up 22)
- Softball (Youth / Diamond) 222 (up19) Youth closed; Diamond – Registration Closes:3/31
- Dixie Boys 29 (down 29) Registration closes: 4/5.

- Bluffton Adult

- Volleyball: 85 (up 16) Closed.
- Senior Softball: 50/4 (down 102/7) Registration closes: 3/31/24
- Adult Softball: 128/16 (down 457/18) Registration closes 5/5, Registration closes 3/31/24.

- Tournaments:

- SCAP Basketball:
 - 12U Beaufort Girls: District Champs
 - 8U Bluffton Girls: State Runner-up
 - 8U Bluffton Boys: District Champs/State Runners Up
- World Series: July 26 - 31

Sports Summer 2024

- Beaufort Adult

- Baseball: registration is from 5/1/24 – 5/31/24
- Softball (Coed): registration is from 5/1/24 – 5/31/24.
- Softball Men's: registration is from 5/1/24 – 5/31/24- new program will be different than Bluffton.
- Kickball (Coed): registration is from 6/1/24 – 6/30/24.

- Beaufort Youth

- Basketball: registration is from 4/1/24 – 5/12/24

- Bluffton Adult

- Kickball (Coed): Registration is from 6/1/24 – 6/30/24.
- Beach Volleyball (Coed): Registration is from 6/1/24-6/30/24.

- Bluffton Youth

- Basketball: registration is from 4/1/24 – 5/1/24.

- Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Monday – Thursday: 9:00AM – 12:00PM
- Programs:
 - Water Aerobic Classes: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30am – 9:30am
 - Deep Water Aerobics: Tuesday & Thursday: 2:15PM – 3:00PM
 - FINS: Monday – Friday 3:00pm – 7:00PM
 - Lowcountry Autistic Foundation: Wednesday and Thursday: 5:30p – 7pm
- Patron Check In:
 - December 1273
 - January: 1950
 - February: 2469
- **Classes Offered:**
 - Group and Private Swim
 - Stroke Improvement
 - CPR Classes
 - Lifeguard Training
 - Water Safety Training
- **Projects:**
 - **Pool Improvement:**
 - The Bluffton pool will be closing soon, with a date to be announced. It will be closed for 6 to 8 months.
 - The Beaufort pools will begin when Bluffton is complete.
 - All programs are aware of the closing.

Bruce Yeager asks if all the pools are open. **Anny Binette** stated that there is enough staff and would like to make that happen. **Bruce Yeager** asks if **Anny Binette** was involved with the contract between Beaufort County and the School District regarding the pools. **Anny Binette** states that she is, as far as the swimming lessons are concerned. **Dale Butts** states that there was another contract agreed upon. He will find out for how long.

BOARD VACANCIES

Bruce Yeager stated that there are two openings on the Board. One member, **Bill Brown**, retired and he was the representative for the military. We are investigating getting a representative from the base. **Rob Schoch** resigned due to scheduling issues. We are taking nominations for at-large members that can be North or South. Any nominees or referrals can be given to **Heather Clint**, and she will direct them on how to apply. **Phil Kiser** stated that it would be good to have one or two females on the board. **Bruce Yeager** again welcomed **Eric Brown**. He also thanked Phil Kiser for sitting in on the interviewing process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2024 - Beaufort

ADJOURN

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