

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers - Beaufort
Thursday, May 2, 2024
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent

Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
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*
Scott Schnee, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Alexander Hunt, *Assistant Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Brandon Whitener, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Brock Vaughn, *Athletics Supervisor, 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*
Eric Brown, *Parks and Recreation Director*
Gavin Jones, *Facilities, Parks and Recreation*

Guests Present: Anthony Jones
Joe Mac

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

Phil Kiser motions to approve the amended agenda and **Jonne Hayes** seconds. The motion passes and the agenda approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Jones, resident of St Helena Island, questions why the meetings are held during the day. He states that people who are at work are unable to attend the meetings. Mr. Jones states that he would like a facility on St. Helena Island that is comparable to facilities located south of the Broad. He states that the youth are in need, and he would like help from the Board.

Bruce Yeager states that the Board can discuss meeting times at a future date. He states that he has been on the Board for a long time, and the meeting time has been historically during the day. **Jonne Hayes** mentions that it should be put on an upcoming agenda, since the people needing help cannot make it during the day should have access to the meeting as well.

Bruce Yeager states that other meeting times can be explored. **Eric Brown** states that in the future there will be staff going to community meetings and giving them an update on what is happening at the Board meetings.

Joe Mac, resident of Beaufort, states people want different things. He understands that it is a difficult job the board is doing. Mr. Mac questions the frequency of the Board meetings. **Bruce Yeager** explains that the Board is ruled by legislation and that is the reason for the bi-monthly meeting. He also states that the Advisory Board is not in charge of capital expenditure. **Joe Mack** states that the Board is hung-up on ordinances and that the Beaufort area is being cheated.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Bruce Yeager asks **Eric Brown** if we had come to an agreement with **Mike Chambers** and the pickleball group. **Eric Brown** states that an agreement was reached. **Jonne Hayes** motions to accept the minutes as presented. **Alan Arseneau** seconds the motion. Motion passes.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

- **Registration numbers / World Series**
 - **Spring Sports 2024**
 - **Beaufort Youth**
 - Baseball: 330 (+40) registration closed
 - Flag Football: 143 (+47) registration closed
 - Soccer: 604 (+51) registration closed
 - Softball (youth and diamond) 86 (+38) registration closed
 - Dixie Boys: 67 (+26) registration closed

- Bluffton Youth
 - Baseball: 486 (-3) registration closed
 - Flag Football: 387 (+41) registration closed
 - Soccer: 1117 (+41) registration closed
 - Lacrosse: 89 (+22) registration closed
 - Softball (Youth / Diamond): 249 (+46)
 - Dixie Boys: 39 (-19) registration closed
 - Bluffton Adult
 - Senior Softball: 50/4 (-102/-3) registration closed
 - Adult Softball: 661/35 (+76/+1) registration closed.
 - **Summer Sports 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
 - Kickball (Coed): registration is from 6/1/24 – 6/30/24. new program
 - Beaufort Youth
 - Basketball: 57 (-81) registration 4/1 – 5/17
 - 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: 213 (147) registration 4/1-5/17.
 - **Tournaments**
 - **Rookie District Baseball Tournament**
 - June 7 in Bluffton
 - **Ozone District Baseball Tournament**
 - June 17 in Beaufort
 - **Dixie Boys / Jr. Boys World Series**
 - July 26-31 in Beaufort
 - **Summer Camp Update**
 - 3 New Camps for 2024 (Registration opened 3/13)
 - All Around Athletes
 - Crafty Kids
 - Athletics and Arts
 - 2024 Locations
 - Bluffton Center (South)
 - Burton Wells (North)
 - Broomfield / Scott (Islands)
 - Hours
 - Core Camp hours: 9am – 4pm
 - Extended Care: 8am – 9am; 4pm-5pm

Discussion: **Jonne Hayes** asked if, due to the increase in soccer north of the Broad, there is discussion of using school facilities. **Eric Brown** states that Parks and Recreation is engaged in meetings with the school district to sign a shared use agreement for fields. **Mark Rennix** asks why the Coursen-Tate field is not used. **Alex Hunt** explains that the facility is not game ready. There is no outside fence. There are also staffing concerns, as we need staff at each facility. **Jonne Hayes** asks if the department is open to utilizing parent volunteers. **Alex Hunt** states that background checks need to be done, but the department is open to it. **Bruce Yeager** states that **Eric Brown** is working on evaluating fields and resources and is better left for Eric and Parks and Recreation staff.

- **Senior Program Update**

- The program is celebrating Senior Appreciation Month and has hosted a Spring Fling. Four of the eight centers are currently on a waitlist.

AQUATICS

- **Indoor Pools**

- **Battery Creek:**

- Pool Hours:
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00AM-1:00PM / 2:00PM-7:00PM
 - Saturday – 8am – 1pm (Lap Swim)
 - First Saturday of the month: Inflatables 11am – 4:30pm
- Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Done during the school year.
- Programs:
 - FINS – Tuesday and Thursday: 4:00PM – 6:00PM
 - Scuba: Contact Instructor: Ken McCracken
- Patron Check In:
 - March: 516
 - April: 467

- **Beaufort Pool:**

- Pool Hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00AM - 1:00PM / 2:00PM - 7:00PM
 - First Saturday of the month: inflatables: 11am – 4:30pm.
- Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Currently Monday – Thursday 9am-1pm.
- Programs
 - FINS – Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 4:00PM – 6:00PM
 - Water Aerobics: Monday and Wednesday 10:00AM – 11:15AM
- Patron Check In:
 - March 762
 - April 744

- **Bluffton Pool:**

- Pool Hours:
 - Monday - Friday: from 8:00AM – 1:00PM and 2:00PM - 7:00PM
 - Saturday:8am -1pm (Lap Swim).
 - First Saturday of the Month: Inflatables 10:30AM–4:30PM
- Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Ended for the year
- 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
- Patron Check In:
 - March: 1917
 - April: 1488
- Closure of the pool is on the 1st of June.
 - All programs are aware of the closing.

- **Alvin Settles Pool:**
 - Opens Saturday, May 25, 2024, 11am – 7pm
 - Pool Hours:
 - Tuesday-Friday: 11am – 7pm (open swim)
 - Saturdays: 10am – 11am (BOGA)
 - Sundays: 1pm – 7pm (open swim)
 - Mondays: CLOSED
 - Open on Summer Holidays

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- **Department Updates:**
 - **Seniors:** Council approved an additional 36 passenger bus. This will make 5 new vehicles coming to the program. No date yet but they are on order.
 - **Community Meetings:** **Eric Brown** states that he will be hosting community meetings. St Helena was the first one. They were given information as to our next steps as far as recreation, programing and staffing. Mr. Brown is educating the public on the different funding mechanisms utilized to build and manage facilities. Scott, Dale, Booker T, Agnes Major will be getting new playground.
 - **Parks and Recreation Staff Retreat:** Scheduled for May 23rd. Food, Fellowship and Fun. We will be discussing R.I.S.E as well as planning new and fun things for the next fiscal year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Yeager stated that the next meeting is July 11th, 2024. We still have an opening; **Heather Clint** provided the board with their resumes. We are still looking to get someone on board from the military side as well.

ADJOURN

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