

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, September 5, 2024
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Ron Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent:

Jonne Hayes Sr., *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, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Brandon Whitener, *Assistant Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Brock Vaughn, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Natasha Dortch, *Fiscal Tech, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Marisa Freeman *Program Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Eric Brown, *Parks and Recreation Director*
Dale Butts, *Deputy County Administrator*
Evan Christian, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*

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 asked for approval of the agenda. A motion was made to be approved. **Motion passed.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Bruce Yeager asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July minutes. A motion was made and seconded. **Motion passed.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROPOSED 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Phil Kiser made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2025. The motion was seconded. **Motion was passed.**

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

REQUESTS: WAIVER OF RENTAL FEES:

Brian Fennel, Commissioner of the Lowcountry Pickleball Leagues, addressed the board. His group would like to run charitable pickleball tournaments. They would like to use the pickleball courts at Burton Wells. He would like to negotiate the fees for the rental of the courts for the two days of the tournament. The tournament will be Saturday and Sunday, November 16th and 17th. **Bruce Yeager** asked if the entity is a 501C3 and **Brian Fennel** responded affirmatively. **Bruce Yeager** also asked for the name of the charity that will be given proceeds from the event. **Brian Fennel** stated that at this time they have not selected one and his group is open to suggestions. In the past, donations of \$7,500 were made to the Boys and Girls club and \$10,000 to Bluffton Self Help. **Bruce Yeager** asked how many courts they are looking to use and the total hours that are needed. **Brian Fennel** stated that they would use all the courts. Saturday they would need 9 hours, Sunday would be 8 hours. **Bruce Yeager** asked if 100% of the proceeds went to the charities. **Brian Fennel** stated that administrative costs were deducted prior to donation, and he would gladly supply a list of all the costs to the board. According to Parks and Recreation staff, a certificate of insurance has been provided and event dates will not interfere with other programming. **Shane Stager** asked if proof of donation could be provided, and **Brian Fennel** stated that he can bring thank you letters from the charities to the next board meeting. The total cost to rent the courts for the event is about \$1,840.00. **Bruce Yeager** asked if there was a motion to approve the request. **Carlos Cave** made a motion to waive the fees for this tournament. The motion was second. **The motion was passed.** **Brian Fennel** will come to the January 2025 meeting to give a recap of the event.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

- **Registration numbers / World Series**
 - **Summer Sports 2024**
 - **Beaufort Youth**
 - Basketball: 145 (-3) registration closed
 - Lacrosse Camp: 31 registration closed
 - **Beaufort Adult**
 - Baseball 71 (-12) registration closed
 - Softball 164 (+12) registration closed

- Bluffton Youth
 - Basketball 486 (+29) registration closed
- Bluffton Adult
 - Kickball(coed): 82 (-18) registration closed
 - Volleyball (outdoor): 42 (+21) registration

Fall Sports 2024

- Beaufort Youth
 - Baseball: 228 (+32) registration closed
 - Softball: 87 (+27) registration closed
 - Flag Football: 110 (+10) registration closed
 - Soccer: 494 (+24) registration closed
 - Cheer: 37 (-7) registration closed
- Beaufort Adult
 - Kickball: 58 registration closed
- Bluffton Youth
 - Baseball 278 (-57) registration closed
 - Softball: 152 (-14) registration closed
 - Flag Football: 310 (+26) registration closed
 - Soccer: 939 (-34) registration closed
 - Cheer:65 (+17) registration closed
- Bluffton Adult
 - Adult Softball – Bronze: 125 (-134) team closed/Player Reg. until 10/14
 - Adult Softball – Coed: 33 (-66) team closed/Player Reg. until 10/15
 - Adult Softball – Gold: 27 (-65) team closed/Player Reg. until 10/16
 - Adult Softball – Silver: 79 (-120) team closed/Player Reg. until 10/17
 - Adult Softball – Senior: 43 (-82) registration closed – insufficient teams
 - Indoor Volleyball: 61 (-3) registration closed

○ **World Series Recap**

- Dixie Boys and Jr. Boys World Series
 - Tournament ran from July 26th -July 30th
 - 2,553 patrons visited Burton Wells through the week
 - Generated nearly \$1 Million dollars in economic impact
 - Over 1,000 overnight attendees contributed to an estimated room demand of 1,584

• **Summer Camp**

○ **Summer Camp Update**

- Solid growth in internal camp registration
 - 2023 - 225 camp registrations
 - 2024 - 400 camp registrations
- Additional Camps
 - Challenger Soccer (Beaufort /Bluffton)
 - Tennis (Beaufort) (16/53)
 - Lacrosse (Beaufort / Bluffton) (0/31)

- 2025 Plans
 - Spring Break Camp (2 locations)
 - Summer Camp (4-5 locations)
 - Additional Specialty Camps
 - Evaluate Pricing Structure
- **Senior Program Update**
 - Centers:
 - Bluffton Center
 - Booker T Washington
 - Burton Wells Center
 - Dale Center
 - Lind Brown Center
 - Port Royal Center
 - Scott Center
 - St. Helena Center
 - Average Daily Attendance per center: 15 –20
 - Meals served and delivered for July / August
 - HDM: 3,200
 - Group Dining: 3,080

Centers were closed for 3 days due to Hurricane Debby, 8/6 - 8/8.

330 shelf stable meals were delivered to HDM clients, 63 shelf stable meals went to group dining.

AQUATICS

- **Battery Creek:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday – Friday: 8am – 1pm / 2pm – 7pm
 - Saturday: 8am – 1pm (Lap Swim)
 - First Saturday of the month: Inflatables 11am-4:30pm
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Monday – Thursday: 9am – 1pm (began on 09/03/2024)
 - Programs:
 - FINS: Monday – Friday: 4pm – 6pm
 - Scuba: Contact Instructor: Ken McCracken
 - High School Swim team
 - May River: 6pm– 8pm
 - Bluffton High School: 6pm– 8pm
 - Patron Check In:
 - July: 253
 - August: 240
- **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday – Friday: 8am – 1pm / 2pm – 7pm
 - Saturday:
 - 8am – 1pm Lap Swim
 - First Saturday of the month: Inflatables 11am-4:30pm
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Monday – Thursday: 9am – 1pm (began on 09/09/2024)

- High School Swim Team:
 - Beaufort: 4pm-6pm
 - High School Swim team
 - May River: 6am – 8pm
 - Bluffton High School: 6pm – 8pm
- Patron Check In:
 - July: 890
 - Aug;1054
- **Bluffton Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Pool will close on June 3, 2024 – February 2025
- **Alvin Settles Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Closed
 - Patron Check in:
 - July: 3425
 - Aug.: 777
 - Dog Days
 - September 7,14,21,28
 - 8am – 10:30am (under 50lbs)
 - 10:30 – 1pm (over 50lbs)
 - Classes offered
 - Group and Private swim: Year Round
 - Stroke Improvement: Year Round
 - CPR: By Appointment
 - Lifeguard Classes: By Appointment

DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Deputy Director Introduction

Eric Brown introduced **Shane Stager** as the new Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation.

Eric Brown stated that the shared use agreement between Parks and Recreation and the Beaufort County School District is nearing finalization.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Yeager stated that the next meeting is November 7, 2024, at 2:30 in Bluffton.

ADJOURN

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