

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center, Bluffton
Thursday, January 8, 2026
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, Chairman, *Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Christian Kata, *Northern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent:

Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Elizabeth "Buffy" Computaro, *Northern Beaufort County*
Ariel Perry, *Military ex-officio*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*

Staff Members Present:

Heather Clint, *Administrative Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Shane Stager, *Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation*
Darrell Ketola, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Evan Christian, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Faranica Reynolds, *Assistant Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Eric Brown, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Jeremy Way, *Marketing Coordinator, Parks and Recreation*
Natasha Dortch, *Fiscal Technician, Parks and Recreation*
Scott Schnee, *Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Brock Vaughn, *Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Audra Antonacci-Ogden, *Assistant County Administrator*
Rodrick Sawyer, *Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Miles Sibert, *Recreation Coordinator, Parks and Recreation*
Marisa Freeman, *Senior Program 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 made. **Bruce Yeager** commented that **Alan Arseneau**, who sits on the board, is not in attendance today due to a heart attack. **Bruce Yeager** stated that he spoke with **Alan**, and he was recovering and hopes to return for the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bruce Yeager asked the board members to review the agenda. **Bruce Yeager** stated that even though there were not enough members for a quorum, there was enough to approve the agenda. **Bruce Yeager** asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Yeager asked if there was someone for public comment. There was none. **Bruce Yeager** did comment that having public comments is good for those that come to the meetings and want to be heard. When there is no one to be heard it shows that people are not upset with the way business is being conducted.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 6, 2025, MINUTES

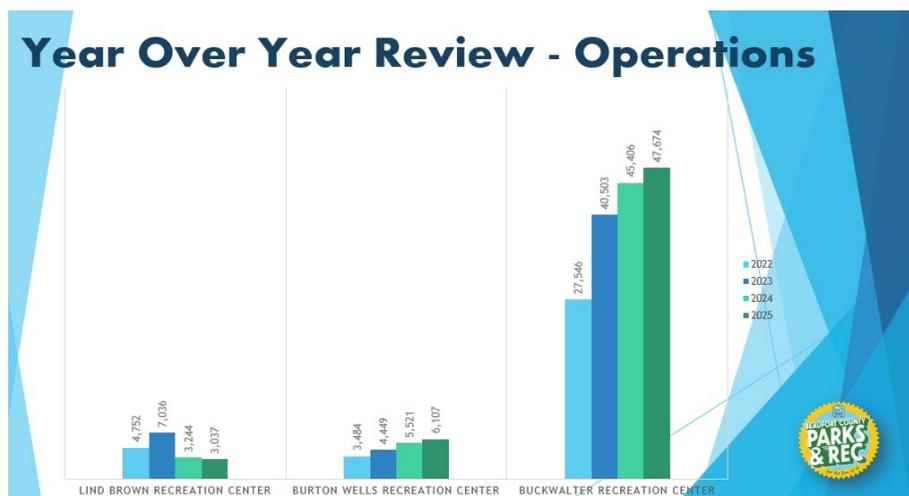
Bruce Yeager asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. **A motion was made. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.**

DEPARTMENT REPORT

- **Admin/Operations**

Shane Stager started with a slide showing a collage of pictures from events that we had during the previous year. The following slide shows a look back from a yearly standpoint, from 2022 to 2025.

Heather Clint reviewed recreation participation numbers from 2022–2025. She noted that the higher participation numbers at Charles Lind Brown in 2023 were due to Alvin Settles Pool check-ins being included in that total at the time. That reporting method has since changed. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether those numbers had been connected the previous year as well. **Heather Clint** replied that they were, but only for part of that year.



Heather Clint also shared population data from Census.gov, noting that between 2020 and 2024 Bluffton experienced approximately 30% population growth, while Beaufort County overall grew by about 8%.

Heather Clint then discussed facility footfall and check-in numbers. She reminded the board that footfall counts are reduced by approximately 30% due to individuals exiting through the entrance doors. She noted that basketball season began midway through November and continued through December, which contributed to higher facility traffic despite holiday closures. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether there would be increased daytime traffic due to children coming in during that period. **Heather Clint** confirmed that this was the case and added that December also saw a higher number of visitor check-ins, as many guests purchased day passes.

- **Recreation Centers**

Footfall Totals:

- | Recreation Center | November 2025 | December 2025 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Buckwalter | 10,224 | 15,195 |
| Burton Wells | 3,703 | 6,420 |
| Charles Lind Brown | N/A | N/A |

Patron Check-Ins:

- | Recreation Center | November 2025 | December 2025 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Buckwalter | 3,145 | 3,371 |
| Burton Wells | 507 | 600 |
| Charles Lind Brown | 133 | N/A |

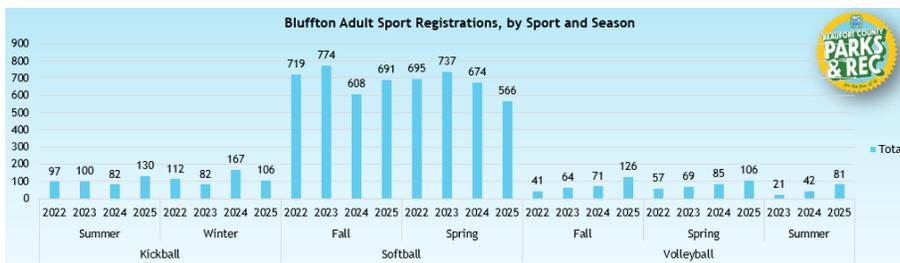
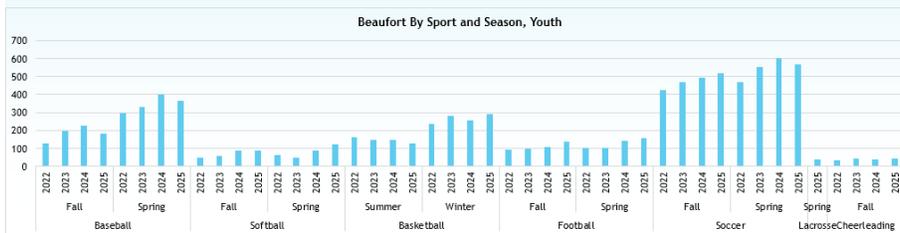
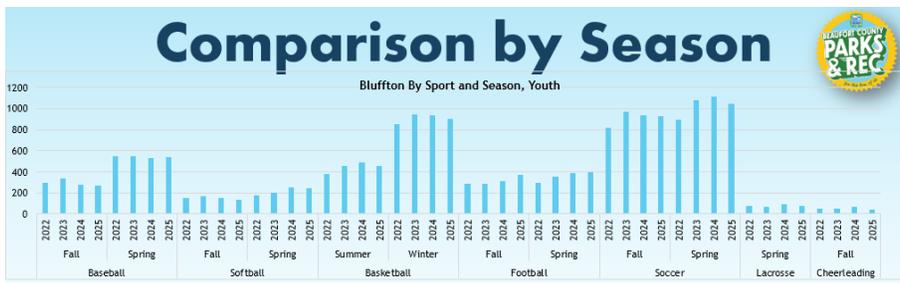
- **Athletics**

Evan Christian presented the *Year-over-Year Review – Youth Sports* slide, which includes participation data for Bluffton and Beaufort youth sports from 2022–2025. The next slide, *Comparison by Location*, showed Bluffton youth sports on the upper half. Participation has remained relatively consistent across most sports, with the exception of flag football and lacrosse, which have shown increases. **Rodrick Sawyer** reviewed the lower half of the slide, which reflects Beaufort youth sports participation. Baseball participation declined slightly in 2022 and 2023 but increased again in 2024 and 2025, largely due to the influence of travel ball programs in the area. Basketball and flag football participation have continued to grow, while soccer, lacrosse, and cheer participation have remained consistent.

Bruce Yeager commented that it is interesting to see participation remain relatively stable despite population growth in the area. He noted that some stability is expected in youth sports due to natural turnover as participants age out of programs. He added that the programs appear to remain viable in terms of league participation and team numbers. Bruce also mentioned that softball participation had declined several years ago. **Rodrick Sawyer** noted that the decline was related to travel ball in the area, but that participation has since begun to rebound. **Jonne Hayes** noted that registration for spring sports had opened and asked what outreach efforts were being used with local schools. Rodrick Sawyer stated that the department is utilizing social media, community signage, and frequent reminders posted online to promote registration.

Evan Christian then reviewed the *Adult Sports Registration by Sport and Season* slide. The upper half reflects Bluffton adult sports participation, which includes kickball, softball, and volleyball. Softball is the largest program, with four leagues playing on four different nights, and a fifth night recently added with the return of the senior league. Kickball and volleyball participation have continued to increase each season. This year's volleyball season was the largest to date, with 13 teams participating. The current kickball season includes eight teams and 106 participants. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether adult basketball is offered in Bluffton, and **Evan Christian** noted that it is currently offered only in Beaufort. **Rodrick Sawyer** reviewed the lower half of the slide, which reflects Beaufort adult sports participation. Adult baseball participation increased during the fall and summer seasons of 2025. Adult basketball participation fluctuated in 2025; only 17 participants registered for the winter season, which was not enough to form a league. Staff are hopeful that participation will increase in 2026 to allow the league to return. **Rodrick Sawyer** also noted that kickball participation increased during the summer of 2025, and winter leagues for 2026 will begin soon.

Year Over Year Review - Sports



Evan Christian provided an update on the current youth basketball season, which began approximately one week ago. The program includes 902 participants across 109 teams, with ages ranging from 4 to 16. The season will run through February 6, after

which All-Star play will begin. Adult kickball has also recently started, with two games played so far. The league currently includes eight teams playing on two courts, with four games scheduled each night. **Mark Rennix** asked if there were any plans to expand parking at the facility. Eric Brown responded that parking would be addressed later in the meeting.

Evan Christian reported that registration for spring sports opened on January 1. This year, the department was approached about starting a girls' flag football league for teenage participants. The program has begun with modest enrollment, but there is interest and staff are hopeful participation will grow. Adult spring sports registration has also opened for indoor volleyball at Buckwalter Recreation Center.

Evan Christian also highlighted recent and upcoming tournaments. Four teams recently won state championships in soccer: 8U girls (Bluffton), 10U girls (Beaufort), and both the 10U boys and 12U girls teams from Bluffton, who competed in Florence. Staff are also working with Top Gun Sports to potentially host additional travel softball tournaments in Bluffton and Beaufort. Proposed dates have been provided that align with county programming, and staff are awaiting confirmation. In addition, Beaufort County will host the 12U and 15U Girls Diamond State Softball Tournament on June 20, 2026, at Oscar Frazier Park. In response to a question about baseball tournaments, **Evan Christian** noted that the county will host a district tournament, although the age divisions have not yet been confirmed.

Jonne Hayes asked how travel ball impacts participation in Bluffton recreation leagues. **Evan Christian** explained that travel ball can affect fall participation due to scheduling conflicts, particularly with adult softball and Bluffton Youth Sports using the fields on weekends. However, many participants return in the spring to play both recreation and travel leagues. **Jonne Hayes** commented that hosting tournaments while maintaining recreation programs does not appear to negatively impact participation. **Evan Christian** confirmed that agreements with Top Gun require tournament scheduling to accommodate county programming needs.

Bruce Yeager commented on overall participation trends and asked how staff evaluate community engagement across sports. He noted that maintaining viable leagues with sufficient teams for competition is a positive indicator. **Bruce Yeager** also asked about communication methods, including whether information is primarily distributed through online platforms and social media, and whether past participants receive notifications about upcoming seasons. **Evan Christian** confirmed that communication is primarily digital and that past participants remain on the distribution lists. **Bruce Yeager** also asked whether most registrations occur online or in person. **Evan Christian** reported that approximately 99% of registrations are completed online. When asked how new programs, such as the girls' flag football league, are promoted, **Evan Christian** noted that outreach includes collaboration with **Bob Rozek** and communication through local schools and high school networks.

Phil Kiser suggested that one-day clinics with local coaches could help introduce youth to Parks and Recreation programs and encourage participation. **Bruce Yeager** asked how many individuals are served through the sports programs overall. **Evan Christian** noted that those totals were presented earlier in the meeting. **Bruce Yeager** concluded that, based on the information presented, the department appears to be meeting community needs by offering a variety of programs and opportunities.

- o **Bluffton: Current Leagues**

- **Winter Youth**

Sport	2024/2025	2025/2026	Margin	Registration Start/End Date
Basketball	932	902	-30	Closed

- **Winter Adult**

Sport	2024/2025	2025/2025	Margin	Registration Start/End Date
Kickball	105	113	+8	Closed

- o **Bluffton: Upcoming Leagues**

- **Spring Youth**

Sport	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Baseball	312	133	-179	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6
Softball	207	29	-178	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6
Flag Football	398	70	-328	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20
Female Flag Football	-	5	+5	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20
Lacrosse	72	15	-57	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6
Soccer	1045	145	-900	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20

- **Spring Adult**

Sport	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Volleyball	106	7	-99	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20

○ **New Sports and Tournaments: Updates**

- Fall Soccer SC State Champions:
 - 8U Girls (Bluffton)
 - 10UGirls (Beaufort)
 - 10U Boys (Beaufort)
 - 12U Girls (Bluffton)
- New Spring League: Bluffton FEMALE Youth Flag Football
- Planning for 2026 Travel Softball Tournament in Beaufort / Bluffton
- 12U and 15U Girls Softball Tournament – June

Rodrick Sawyer responded to **Phil Kiser’s** earlier suggestion regarding youth clinics. He shared that he and **Brandon Whitener** recently spoke with a basketball coach from Battery Creek High School who has expressed interest in offering clinics for recreation teams. Staff plan to begin by offering basketball clinics following the current season and will also reach out to additional coaches from local high schools and middle schools who may be interested in participating. The goal is to introduce clinics for each sport following the conclusion of its season, providing additional development opportunities for participants while also allowing local coaches to connect with and evaluate emerging talent. The department hopes to host its first clinic in March or April.

Rodrick Sawyer also reviewed participation in the current winter leagues. Adult kickball participation has decreased slightly this season, with three teams registered. The league is expected to begin in approximately three weeks and will likely feature three games on one weeknight. Youth winter basketball participation has increased, particularly among girls’ divisions. The program now includes five teams for girls ages 9–10 and three teams for girls ages 7–8. In previous seasons these age groups played 3-on-3; however, participation levels now allow for full 5-on-5 play.

Bruce Yeager asked whether staff have an estimate of how many participants come from the nearby military base. **Eric Brown** noted that it is difficult to determine that number based on current registration data.

Rodrick Sawyer concluded with an update on spring sports. Registration has opened for soccer, baseball, softball, flag football, and lacrosse, and staff expect participation numbers to increase over the coming month. Adult indoor soccer registration is currently lower than anticipated, so the registration deadline has been extended in hopes of reaching participation levels like those seen in 2025.

○ **Beaufort: Current League**

- **Winter Adult**

Sport	2024/2025	2025/2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Kickball	59	50	-9	Closed

- **Winter Youth**

Sport	2024/2025	2025/2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Basketball	258	291	+33	Closed

○ **Beaufort: Upcoming Leagues**

- **Spring Youth**

Sport	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Soccer	570	134	-436	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20
Baseball	312	73	-239	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6
Softball	111	33	-78	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6
Flag Football	158	23	-135	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/20
Lacrosse	38	2	-36	Open 1/1 – Late Reg. End 2/6

- **Spring Adult**

Sport	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start / End Date
Indoor Soccer	44	13	-29	Open 12/15/25 Ends 1/9/26

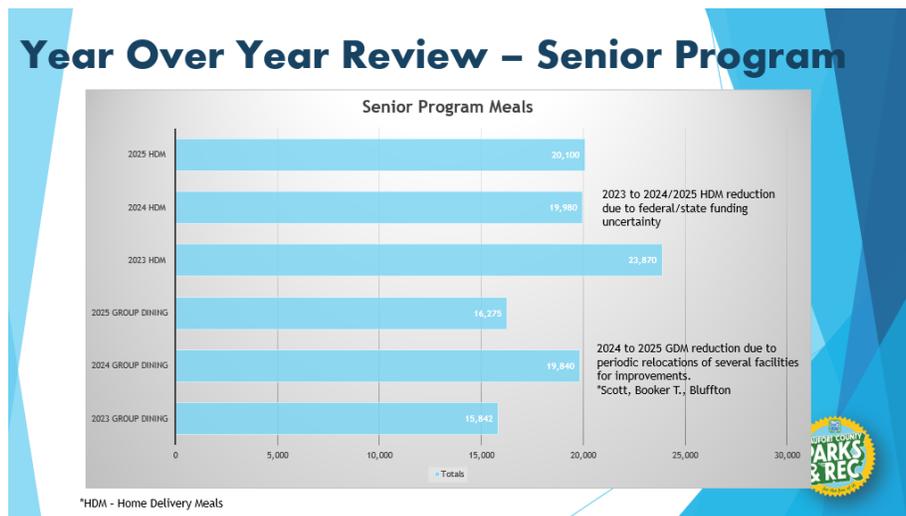
- **Senior Program**

Marisa Freeman provided a year-in-review update for the senior food program, beginning with 2023. She noted that participation numbers declined slightly in 2025 due to ongoing uncertainty in program funding and a temporary hold on referrals. Group dining participation also decreased during periods when some centers were closed for extended periods; however, numbers are now increasing as those centers have reopened.

Marisa Freeman highlighted several recent activities for seniors, including a trip to the Coastal Carolina Fair in Ladson, where participants enjoyed bingo and vendor merchandise. Additional activities included holiday celebrations, crafts, and trips for some groups to see the Festival of Lights in Charleston. Home-delivered meals totaled just over 3,000 for the two most recent months combined. Group dining numbers were slightly lower during that time due to holiday closures. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether the program is currently serving a large number of seniors. **Marisa Freeman** confirmed that participation remains strong and noted that the Charles Lind Brown Center began offering the food program in December, which is expected to further increase participation numbers. She also reported that several new vehicles have been received for the program, with additional vehicles still on order.

Bruce Yeager asked whether the new vehicles were vans. **Marisa Freeman** explained that they are commonly referred to as vans but are bus-style vehicles. **Bruce Yeager** also asked how many vehicles were used for the Ladson trip. **Marisa Freeman** stated that due to the program serving more than 150 seniors, both county vehicles and rented buses were used to accommodate all participants. She noted that for certain larger events, additional transportation resources are occasionally required.

Jonne Hayes asked about contingency planning if program funding were to be delayed. **Marisa Freeman** responded that funding is stable at this time and that adjustments to the fiscal year schedule have provided additional flexibility. The funding agency shifted the fiscal year timeline so that their budget begins July 1, and the program’s fiscal year now runs from October through September, allowing time to review funding allocations before the program cycle begins.



Meals delivered and served for November and December:
Home Delivered Meals: 3,110 – Group Dining Meals: 2,444

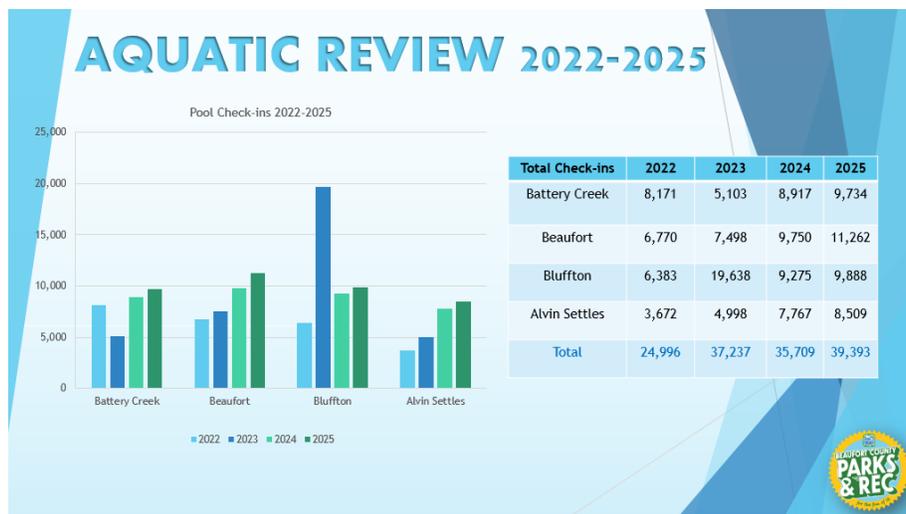
- **Aquatics**

Anny Binette presented the aquatics review. She noted that 2023 was the only year the Bluffton Pool was open from January through December, which explains why participation numbers were higher than in other years. In other years, the pool was closed periodically due to construction projects. Staff are hopeful that with fewer interruptions moving forward, participation will continue to increase. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether swim team participation contributed significantly to the numbers. **Anny Binette** confirmed that it did. **Bruce Yeager** also noted that during 2024 and 2025 the swim team was relocated to other pools while Bluffton Pool was unavailable, which Anny confirmed. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether users were satisfied with the Bluffton Pool facility, and **Anny Binette** stated that feedback has been positive.

Anny Binette reviewed aquatic class participation. Water aerobics participation has increased significantly in 2025, and the program now has five instructors. Infant swim lessons have also grown and will resume next month. Level 1 swim lessons remain the most popular. At **Bruce Yeager's** request, Anny explained the lesson levels, noting that by Level 5 participants are generally considered proficient swimmers. Level 6 is not offered, as swimmers at that stage are typically prepared to join a swim team, with many trying out for the FINS program. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether this program was affiliated with local schools; Anny clarified that it is not.

Anny Binette also reviewed current programs offered at the pools. Group and private swim lessons are offered year-round, typically between 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., with classes scheduled every 30 minutes. A lifeguarding course will also be held at Bluffton Pool, with the pre-course scheduled for February 7 and the full course running from February 21 through February 27. Additional programs currently operating at the pools include the FINS swim team, which practices at Bluffton Pool Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Infant swim lessons require advance registration through staff and will begin again next month. A scuba program will also begin next month. Water aerobics classes are offered at all three county pools.

Anny Binette noted that pools are closed to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on certain days to accommodate school swim lessons, with Bluffton Pool beginning this schedule on January 12. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether check-in numbers include school swim lesson participants. Anny confirmed that they do during those sessions. Bruce also asked about swim lessons being offered during November and December. Anny explained that those lessons were held at Battery Creek Pool, which accounts for the higher participation numbers at that location during that period. She added that schools typically call to schedule swim lessons for the upcoming school year, which can result in occasional gaps in programming. **Bruce Yeager** also asked whether the agreement with the FINS swim team regarding facility use fees had been finalized. **Anny Binette** confirmed that the agreement is in place and that FINS continues to pay to use the facility.





Group and Privates Swim (Children and Adults): Year-round 2:30pm - 6:30pm

Lifeguard Classes: Bluffton Pool - February 7 (pre-course) / February 21-27 (Class) Monday – Thursday: 9:30am – 12:30am

○ **Programs:**

- Fins: Swim Team
 - Bluffton: Monday – Friday 5:00pm – 8:00pm
- Infant Swim Resource: Call Christian
 - No Lessons Until January 2026
- Scuba: Call Ken McCracken
- Water Aerobics:
 - BC: Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30 pm – 6:30pm
 - BFT: Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00am – 9:30am
 - BLF: Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 9:30am
- School Swim Lessons: Pool closed Monday – Thursday: 9:30am – 2:00pm
 - BC: Starts February 2026
 - BFT: Starts January 26, 2026
 - BLF: Starts January 12, 2026

Check Ins	November	December
Battery Creek	722	516
Beaufort	562	495
Bluffton	1522	1841

• **Recreation**

Brock Vaughn provided the recreation update. In December, the department hosted a successful adult dodgeball tournament and Unity Drum Circle events in both Bluffton and Beaufort. The Winter Break Camp concluded on December 23 and included a visit to the Port Royal Sound Foundation for an educational experience, along with holiday-themed arts and crafts activities.

Brock Vaughn shared several updates on new and upcoming programs. The beginner pickleball class is currently full, as are the youth dodgeball clinic and the floor hockey program, which has one week remaining. Board Game Night was previously 90% full but has since reached capacity. Book Club is approximately 70% full, and Tot Spot has three remaining openings. He noted that staff are working to provide a broader range of recreational opportunities, and many of the participants registering for these programs are new to the department. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether these new participants were being reached through marketing efforts, and **Brock Vaughn** confirmed that they were. **Bruce Yeager** also asked why the Beaufort camp had only reached about 30% capacity compared to Bluffton. **Brock Vaughn** explained that the Beaufort camp is typically smaller and that advertising for that session began later because the camp was scheduled after the Bluffton session.

- Lowcountry Volleyball Clinic
 - **Classes – Upcoming:**
 - Beginner Pickleball – 100% full
 - Floor Hockey – 100% full
 - Board Game Night – 90% full
 - Book Club – 65% full
 - Tots Spot – 70% full
 - Workshop Wednesdays - postponed
 - **Events:**
 - Youth Dodgeball – 100% full
 - Adult Holiday Dodgeball Tournament – 4 Teams
- **Director’s Report**

Eric Brown began by discussing parking at Buckwalter. He stated that plans are underway to add parking near the four new fields that are currently being developed.

He then provided personnel updates. The administrative, aquatics, athletics, recreation, grounds, and senior services divisions have all added new staff. For FY27, the department is requesting three part-time staff members and three part-time Water Safety Instructors (WSI) for aquatics. Athletics is requesting one full-time Athletic Supervisor. Recreation is requesting two part-time Recreation Aides, and the senior program is requesting three part-time Recreation Aides. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether these positions were incremental additions. **Eric Brown** confirmed that they were. **Bruce Yeager** also asked when the budget would be submitted. **Eric Brown** replied that it would be submitted within the next week or two, noting that the department is currently in the budget planning stage for FY27.

Eric Brown then provided Capital Improvement Program (CIP) updates. He stated that the bid process for the BRACE project (Buckwalter Recreation Athletic Complex Expansion), which includes the four new fields and additional parking previously discussed, will close on the 16th. The department is looking forward to closing that process soon. He also reported that groundbreakings for two facilities had just taken place: Wesley Felix Park the previous day and Agnes Major Community Center the following day. Construction on both facilities is expected to begin soon, with an anticipated completion timeframe of approximately one year. **Mark Rennix** asked whether Wesley Felix referred to the baseball field and related facilities at that location. **Eric Brown** confirmed that it did and added that a new facility building will also be constructed there. **Eric Brown** reported that the Scott Community Center project will go back out for bid on February 9. A bid meeting will take place within the next two weeks to discuss refurbishing the building. At Charles Lind Brown Center, the department encountered several electrical issues, but the project is now back on track. The gym floor replacement is scheduled to resume in a couple of weeks. The timeline for the project has been extended due to the electrical complications that were discovered. **Eric Brown** also noted that GO Bond funding is available for improvements at the Old Burton Wells fields. **Shane Stager** and **Eric Brown** will soon meet with the CIP team to walk the site and provide a scope of the work they would like to complete, including refurbishing the fields. The department is also moving forward with the bid process for a new Daufuskie Island Community Center. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether this would be a completely new facility. **Eric Brown** confirmed that it would be and noted that the existing structure there is like the current facility at Wesley Felix. He also mentioned that the department plans to request a boat to support operations related to that facility. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether the gym floor at Lind Brown had been redone a few years ago. **Eric Brown** stated that he was unsure but explained that the current rubber floor is now being replaced with hardwood flooring.

Eric Brown continued with additional facility updates. A new parking lot is currently under construction in Port Royal. Remaining funding is still pending for the building at the Beaufort pool, as well as for the Lind Brown awning and restroom improvements. He also stated that the department has submitted its FY27 CIP and facility requests to the board for review. **Bruce Yeager** asked what improvements were planned for MC Riley. **Eric Brown** responded that the facility would receive general upgrades, including improvements to the concession area. **Jonne Hayes** asked about the Beaufort baseball and softball improvements listed in the request. **Eric Brown** explained that these refer to additional fields maintained by the department that need maintenance and general upgrades. **Eric Brown** noted that some of these projects may be completed in-house and will be brought back to the board once further details are finalized.

Bruce Yeager asked what the total dollar amount was for the submitted projects. **Eric Brown** stated that he did not yet have a total cost estimate. Some projects may be funded through the general fund, while others may exceed \$50,000. Once more details are available, the information will be brought back to the board.

Eric Brown then provided a training update. Staff members attended the department's national conference, and **Eric Brown** attended the state conference. Following those conferences, the department conducted several internal trainings. **Eric Brown** highlighted a branding training session that focused on positioning Parks and Recreation staff as "recreators." He added that the department plans to continue staff training on both an annual and quarterly basis during staff meetings. **Bruce Yeager** asked about a note indicating that training modules had been reduced by 60 percent and whether those modules referred to required certifications for employees. **Eric Brown** confirmed that they did.

Jonne Hayes asked about vandalism occurring across multiple facilities. **Eric Brown** stated that the department has experienced ongoing issues, particularly at the Buckwalter facility, including graffiti on buildings, vandalism at the skate park, and damage in restrooms. He added that during colder weather, homeless individuals sometimes use restrooms for shelter. Similar situations have been reported at the tennis courts in Beaufort. **Eric Brown** stated that the department is working with the Facilities division to develop a system that will automatically lock restroom doors once programming has ended. While some facilities currently have cameras installed, others do not. The county is working to upgrade the camera system across multiple facilities. **Jonne Hayes** asked how the community could assist with these issues. **Eric Brown** responded that community members can help by reporting suspicious activity and following the principle of "see something, say something."

Mark Rennix asked whether there were any plans for Basil Green. **Eric Brown** stated that the department plans to begin maintaining the fields at that location.

Christian Kata congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department on the recent groundbreakings for Agnes Major Community Center and Wesley Felix Park.

- **Personnel Updates**
 - Admin
 - Open: 1- PT Admin Specialist
 - Recent hires: 2 -FT Admin Specialist
 - Aquatics
 - Open: 1- FT WSI; 1 – PT WSI
 - Recent hires: 2- FT WSI; 1 -PT Lifeguard
 - Athletics
 - Open: 1 – FT Assistant Athletics Manager; 1-1PT Recreation Leader (officials)
 - Recent Hires: 1 – FT Athletic Supervisor (awaiting on-boarding); 1- PT Recreation Aide
 - Recreation
 - Open: 2 – PT Recreation Aide
 - Recent Hires: 1 – FT Recreation Coordinator
 - Grounds
 - Open: 1 – FT Maintenance Tech
 - Recent Hires: 1 – Maintenance Tech
 - Seniors
 - Open: 1 – Recreation Aide
 - Recent Hires: 1 – FT Bus Driver; 1 – PT Bus Driver
- **FY27 Personnel Requests:**
 - Aquatics: 3 – PT Lifeguards; 3 – PT WSI
 - Athletics: 1 – FT Athletic Supervisor
 - Recreation: 2 – PT Recreation Aides
 - Seniors: 3 -PT Recreation Aides
- **Facility Updates / CIP Updates**
 - BRACE (Buckwalter Recreation Athletic Complex Expansion)
 - RFP dropped on 10/10; bid due date shifted to 1/16/2026
 - Agnes Major Center, Wesley Felix (New Construction Planning)

- Pre-construction meeting underway
 - Groundbreaking 1/7/2026 and 1/9/2026
- Senior / Community Centers
 - Scott Center –bids due 2/9/2026
 - Bluffton Center – renovations started 12/1/2025
- Charles Lind Brown
 - Construction underway; existing flooring removed, backboards and curtain replaced
 - Initial re-painting of top section of gym completed
 - Floor work scheduled to resume mid-January
 - 1st phase of electrical work complete; another 3-week closure expected mid-year 2026
- Old Burton Wells Baseball and Restroom Improvements
 - GO bond project approved for FY26, Initial assessment underway
- Daufuskie Island Community Center at Frances Jones Park
 - Bids under evaluation
- Port Royal Playground Parking Upgrades
 - Construction underway
- Beaufort Pool Renovations (partially funded)
 - Pending remaining funding acquisition and then RFP release
- Charles Lind Brown Awning / Restroom Improvements
 - Pending funding
- FY27 Submittals CIP / Facility Requests
 - A & E MC Riley Complex
 - A & E Bluffton Center Complex
 - Shell Point Pickleball Restoration
 - Burton Wells Bleacher / Basketball Courts Improvements
 - Burton Wells Pickleball Restrooms
 - Beaufort Baseball / Softball Improvements (multiple)
 - Port Royal Playground Pavilion
- **Training Updates**
 - Recreation, Senior Recreation and Director attended Carolinas Recreation & Park Conference in December
 - Grounds Maintenance attended Southeast Field Management Conference and Trade Show in November
 - Marketing attended and SCRPA Marketing Workshop in November
 - Most of the department attended Defensive Driving courses in November and December
 - Director Brown conducted “Professional Brand” training module with leadership in December
 - Department made substantial progress on outstanding training in November / December, reducing outstanding training modules by over 60%
- **Misc. Updates**
 - BCSD is allowing use of Robert Small Leadership Academy gymnasium on Saturdays in January and February to support Beaufort Youth Basketball league while Charles Lind Brown is under construction. Thank You, BCSD!!!
 - Team is tracking vandalism incidents across multiple facilities and working with Facilities and IT to identify potential solutions
 - Athletics is actively strategizing on solutions to the national shortage of umpires and referees, especially baseball / softball – seeking Advisory Board input as well
 - Leadership is in FY27 budget planning to include Capital Improvement Projects, new vehicle, new staffing and overall department budget requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Yeager stated the next meeting will be on Thursday March 5, 2026, at 2:30, at Buckwalter Recreation Center.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.