

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chair
Orethia White, Vice Chair
James Vicar
Thomas Mobley
William McDuff
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis

Absent: William Brown
John Parker
Jimmy Mackey
Allan Stern

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Acting Director
Joseph Penale, Acting Deputy Director
Jill Shannon, Assistant to the Director
Norma King, Assistant to the Director
Michael Smith, Recreational Supervisor
Johnny Davis, Athletic Supervisor
Christopher Canady, Recreation Specialist II (Athletics)

Administration: Morris C. Campbell, Deputy Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2002 AGENDA

Mr. McDuff motioned to approve the agenda.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2001 MINUTES

Mr. Mobley motioned to approve the minutes.

Mr. McDuff seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms Dadrian Green, mother of Joe Fields, 8 requested the board consider allowing her son to play baseball with the 9-year-old AAA Minor League because of his outstanding ability as a baseball player. His birthday is 9 days after the date at which he would play in AAA and she requested the board wave the date to allow her son to play on a more advanced team. Ms Green spoke with Mr. Miller on the phone and he explained to her that there is a policy that her son must play with his age group. Mr. Middleton told Ms Green that the subject would be discussed and he would call her with the decision of the board. Mr. Middleton asked for her phone number so he could respond.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Mr. Middleton reported that Mr. Parker has requested to resign as a board member and that Mr. Mackey is absent because his daughter is having health problems. Mr. Mackey was also in an accident on February 6, 2002 on his way to Charleston.

UPDATE ON BURTON WELLS:

Mr. Miller stated that the Burton Wells Park project would be presented to DRT (Development Review Team) for final approval on February 13. On February 14, the bids will be opened on Burton Wells Park.

UPDATE ON WEIGH LIFTING PROJECT :

Mr. Miller requested that the weight lifting project be removed as an agenda item. Weightlifting will be included in the proposed budget process that will begin in a couple of weeks. Ms. White stated that weightlifting should not need to be updated unless something happens to it in the process. Mr. Vicar asked how the weightlifting budget would be handled considering the lease is for three years and the budget is based on one year. Mr. Miller replied that if County Council approves the budget for the first year, they would have to commitment for the second and third years. Mr. Vicar's concern is that he does not want to have to find the money elsewhere in the budget if year 2 and or 3 was not funded. He does not want to have to take the money from another source in the budget.

SCHULTS PARK:

Mr. Miller stated that Schults Park is now in phase II. There were problems with the infield and outfield that Malphrus is going to return and correct soon. The park is scheduled to open April 1, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW:

Mr. Miller would like the board to participate in reviewing the comprehensive plan. This plan must, by law be reviewed every five years. Parks and Leisure Services will review the plan in house this year. Mr. Miller would like for the long range planning committee to meet this month in order to discuss the comprehensive plan. Mr. Middleton asked if a date was planned for the meeting. Mr. Miller replied no. Mr. Miller requested Mr. Middleton allow PALS to get through budget, then get with the chairperson of the committees and set up a date.

Mr. Mobley asked Mr. Miller to please contact all members of the board with that date. Mr. Miller responded yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

Mr. Miller presented a copy of the proposed Hilton Head Parks Operation and Maintenance agreement to the board for information. Mr. Miller has forwarded the proposed agreement to Public Works for comment.

Mr. Miller informed the board that Johnny Davis; Athletic Director needs coaches for baseball this year. Late registrations are being accepted; however there are many children signed up already and there is a shortage of coaches. If anyone knows of anyone interesting in coaching, please contact Johnny Davis.

Mr. Miller said that the budget packet coming from county finance office should arrive February 8. Mr. Miller requested that once he completes the budget, the PALS Board Finance Committee meet to discuss the budget. Mr. Miller said there might be some things the board members would like to include, and if there are any ideas, please contact Mr. Miller or his Assistant so they can be included in the proposed budget packet.

Mr. Miller will meet at 5:30 at Mossy Oaks Elementary with City of Beaufort officials to discuss Southside Park. The Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority property adjacent to Southside Park will revert to the City of Beaufort and there is clause that the property must become a park

Mr. Miller said the Bladen street tennis courts restroom bids are being solicited. Beaufort County Council has approved a bid of \$52,850.00 from REA Construction to construct the tennis courts. Once the contracts are signed, the work will begin.

Mr. Millers reported that Coosaw bids open today at 3:00p.m. The bid totals are being validated and he could not disclose the low bidder at this time.

Mr. Miller stated that when they began the permit process for Dale center, they found that the road directly behind the proposed center is too close. The building must be brought out 15 more feet. This must go back to the committee next week for permitting. Scott Center has already been approved. Mr. Miller would like to accept bids on both Dale Center and Scott Center together in order to receive a lower bid. The restrooms and picnic shelters will also be put in the same packet.

Mr. Mobley asked about the agreement with The Town of Hilton Head. Mr. Miller responded that they are trying to come up with a generic agreement that would encompass all the parks on Hilton Head so that an agreement would not be needed for each individual park. The Town owns the parks and Beaufort County are responsible for Maintenance and Operations. Mr. Mobley asked if this agreement would be beneficial. Mr. Miller responded yes.

Ms. White requested that the Long Range Planning Committee and Finance Committee meet on the same day. This would give the members a chance to do research in order to give Mr. Miller the best possible advice. Mr. Miller responded that is a great idea. Ms. White responded that the idea is to get all this before them so they can do research in advance.

Mr. Vicar inquired as to whereabouts of exhibit A of the Hilton Head Operations and Maintenance agreement and Bladen street restrooms and tennis courts, will they be done simultaneously? Mr. Miller thought the tennis courts would take longer. In terms of the approval process, it will probably take two to three weeks to get it through the approval process. County Council Public Works Committee only meets the first Monday of the month, and it would not get to committee until March 4. It would then go to the full Council meeting after that which would be March 11. Mr. Vicars concern was that they don't do the tennis courts first then find out they have to do piping for the restrooms, and have to damage the newly finished tennis courts with heavy machinery.

Old Business:

Mr. Miller provided wording for the plaque for Ms Bremer to be dedicated at the Bluffton pool. The time to have the dedication should be suitable to Ms Breemer, to the Board members and to the staff. A weekday between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. or if done on a Saturday it should be done between the hours of 11:00 and 12:00 or 12:00 and 1:00. Mr. Miller asked what would be better for the board. Mr. Vicar said Ms Bremer needs to be there and during the week would be the best time for everyone concerned. Mr. Vicar thought the wording might be too strong. He wanted to recognize the countless hours Ms. Bremer spent on the pool, not dedicate the pool to her. It is a rare occasion when the Board can honor one of it's own. Mr. Middleton asked if there was any problem with the wording. Mr. Miller responded there was no problem with changing the wording. Ms Bremer requested Mr. Miller notify her once a date and time was approved. The Board decided to have the dedication March 7, 2002 at 3:00, and then have the board meeting at 3:30 in Bluffton.

New Business:

Mr. Vicar stated that his opinion on Ms. Green's public comment is to keep the player in his age group. He said it would be doing him a disservice by allowing him to play higher. Mr. Middleton suggested that the player also stay in his age group. He said once you allow someone to bend the rule, where does it stop? Stay with the rules as written. We must have a set of guidelines to follow. Mr. Middleton will telephone the parent with the decision of the board.

Mr. Vicar said the field next to M. C. Riley Elementary School in Bluffton is being left in poor condition. Mr. Vicar wants to meet with the Principal and Mr. Miller to discuss the field operations and maintenance.

Ms White wants to see something done with Barker Field. She continually gets notes and letters on the upkeep of the field. Barker is located on Mitchell Road Hilton Head Island. Ms White stated that it is a shame to let this park go. Barker field is not in the new agreement because it is an old park. Ms White explained that money has to come from somewhere to help Barker Field.

Mr. Miller will discuss the maintenance with Mr. Bellamy whom he meets each Thursday. Ms White stated that there are nice things that should be saved and kids are just destroying them. The leaks and the sinks must be kept up. Mr. Vicar stated he is not sure who is responsible for the upkeep of these parks. Mr. Vicar thinks maintenance should take better care of the parks.

Mr. Vicar requested that a letter be sent from the Chairman in reference to Mr. Parker. Mr. Miller stated that the procedure is that someone from that area is nominated to the councilperson; the councilperson takes that nomination to the nomination committee of council. Clerk to Council keeps record of people nominated and there may be someone on the list.

Ms White asked when will work start at Green Shell. Mr. Miller said he would meet with the town architect to give him an idea of how PALS would like to renovate the building.