

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2002
PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES MAIN OFFICE
3:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Orethia White, Vice Chair
Allan Stern
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis
James Vicar

Absent: William Brown
Thomas Mobley

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Division Head, Division of Parks and Leisure Services
Joe Penale, Recreation Superintendent, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services
Norma Baker, Assistant to the Division Head, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services
Clarissa Douglas, Supervisor, Sea Island Centers, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3, 2002 AGENDA

Mrs. White motioned to approve agenda.

Mr. Manesiotis seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2002 MINUTES

Mr. Vicar motioned to approve the minutes.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Mr. Middleton presented Clarissa Douglas, Supervisor, Sea Island Centers, with a plaque from South Carolina Recreation and Parks Association naming her "Ethnic Minority Professional of the Year".

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Middleton noted the letter sent to Councilman McBride on Friday, September 13, 2002. Discussion to follow under PALS Board composition.

PALS BOARD COMPOSITION

Mr. Middleton referred to the letter written to Councilman McBride, County Council Community Services Committee Chair Person on Friday, September 13, 2002. Mr. Middleton is waiting response.

Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2002, was cancelled. Mr. Miller advised the Board; as soon as date and time are released, PALS staff will advise Board Members, allowing for attendance.

BURTON WELLS PARK

Monday, September 30, 2002, PALS received wetlands permit for Phase I, Burton Wells. Permit was presented to DRT, same day. DRT permit was received Wednesday, October 2, 2002.

Malphrus Construction will begin clearing timber at the entrance. Clearing will proceed to Recreation Center location. When land is cleared, Brunson Construction will begin construction of the Recreation Center building.

Zoning has issued three permits for Burton Wells. This will allow PALS personnel to relocate upon completion of the Recreation Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Miller reviewed current committee assignments with Board members. They are as follows;

Facilities - Mr. Vicar, Chairman
Crossings Park - Mrs. White, Chairwoman
Finance - Mr. Stern, Chairman
Long Range - Mr. Middleton, Chairman
Programming - Vacant

Mr. Vicar asked if PALS needs "Facilities" since they now fall under Public Works. Mr. Miller responded, there are three main committees, Finance, Long Range and Programming. Mrs. White explained the Crossings Park Committee entails all Hilton Head Island Parks, which also include the Bluffton area.

Mr. Vicar suggested waiting for possible reconfiguration of PALS Board before establishing committees. PALS Board decided to move forward. The new Committees consist of:

Facilities - Mrs. White, South of the Broad
Mr. Vicar, North of the Broad
Finance Committee - Mr. Stern, Chairman
Mr. Manisiotis

Long range Committee - Mr. Middleton, Chairman

Mr. Stern

Programming Committee - Mrs. Hagood, Chairwoman

Mr. Vicar suggested Mr. Brown; his career is in this field.

Mr. Middleton stated he would contact Mr. Brown to verify his willingness to participate.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

PALS is conducting kinder music at two Centers, Greene Street and Bluffton.

Mr. Miller attended Chaplin Park ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, September 21, at 9:00 a.m.

PALS is hosting Intercession Camp for year round schools at Greene Street Activity Center from Monday, September 23, through Friday, October 11, 2002.

Punt, Pass and Kick, hosted by PALS and the Kiwanas will be held Sunday, October 6, 2002 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Bruce Edgerly Field in Port Royal.

Senior Games Opening Ceremony is 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2002 at Sun City, Hilton Head Island under the Picnic Pavilion.

Mr. Miller will attend the NRPA Congress from Monday, October 14, 2002 through Friday, October 19, 2002 in Tampa, Florida.

M. C. Riley Basketball Courts

Paving is complete. Courts must cure three to four weeks before the contractor returns to finish the surface.

Bladen Street Tennis Courts

Water lines for restrooms are complete, waiting to tap into lines by Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer.

Tennis Courts are level. Surface will be complete Friday, October 25, 2002.

Mr. Vicar asked if there are two or more Tennis Courts at Bladen Street. Mr. Miller responded two.

Department Manuals

Updated Parks and Leisure Services Department Manuals are complete. Mr. Miller requested the Board Members review and give feedback to PALS Staff.

Old McCracken Football Field Lease

Mr. Miller requested a Twenty-Five year lease from Beaufort County School District. Letter was received and signed by Mr. Kachmar for a three-year extension on the current lease. Beaufort County School Board voted for fifteen-year lease. PALS is waiting further correspondence.

PALS Staff is working on Barker Field annual lease. Current lease agreement cost is \$1,000.00 per year. Owners are requesting \$5,000.00 per year. Mr. Miller met with family members, landowners, who do not want the County to leave; they would like fair payment for use of the property. Mr. Miller will meet with County Assessor for accurate property rental. Mr. Miller stated he will talk to County engineering. It is questionable that the acreage is not a full 3.69 acres.

Mr. Manesiotis asked if PALS needs the property. Mr. Miller explained PALS currently have batting cages located there. Mr. Manesiotis suggested if the cost does go up to \$5,000.00, PALS should renew lease for longer than one year.

Mr. Vicar asked if PALS could give the owners a tax break instead of rental increase. PALS Board decided to offer property owners what County Assessor recommends offering.

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE FEES

Mr. Miller explained to the board members that PALS fees have not been increased in quite some time. During budget, PALS was asked to increase revenue. Only way to increase revenue is to increase fees. PALS staff recommends increasing all fees \$5.00 beginning January 1, 2003. Mr. Stern asked if revenues were raised would the budget be cut. Mr. Miller said even at \$5.00 the revenue will not increase significantly. Mr. Vicar stated there is danger with increasing by a flat rate across the board.

Mr. Stern asked what the price for Summer Camp is. Mr. Miller answered \$135.00. Mrs. White expressed PALS Staff must have enough money to provide programs. Mr. Stern suggested asking participants to pay. Mr. Manesiotis asked if participation would drop by increasing fees. Mr. Miller said no.

Mr. Vicar stated traditionally this is a subject for the PALS Board Finance Committee. Each program needs to be researched on all aspects, how many people are hired, how much supplies cost, how much refreshments cost, cost for uniforms and what the cost of the program is. Mr. Middleton requested Mr. Miller have Staff put all PALS programs financial information together. Mr. Stern told Mr. Miller to let the finance committee know when information is ready and they will meet. Meeting will take place in Bluffton.

Mr. Miller requested recommendation from the board in November or December at the latest so PALS staff will know prior to Baseball registration, which begins January, 2003.

DHEC CITATION

Mr. Miller explained to the Board that Battery Creek Pool received five citations this summer, resulting in a \$5,000.00 fine from DHEC. Citations were for, not enough lifeguards, loose ladder, lifeguard without certification in possession and incorrect chlorine level. Mr. Miller told the board there were no excuses. PALS learned a hard lesson.

Mr. Middleton stated the person on duty should be checking for things like loose ladders. Mr. Miller told the board in July the Aquatics Supervisor went to DHEC in Columbia to explain discrepancies at a hearing. DHEC did not accept explanations. Mr. Stern asked raised questions about the supervisor of the pool. Mr. Vicar cautioned personnel matters must be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Manisiotis asked if DHEC checked the other pools. Mr. Miller stated Battery Creek was inspected twice as much as the other pools this summer. Mr. Vicar informed the board Mr. Miller did not know about the Citations for the Pool until July, when Aquatic Supervisor went to Columbia for the hearing. Mr. Middleton stated the Board needs to show support for the Director. Mr. Vicar said personnel matters need to be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Stern motioned PALS Board hold an executive session.

Mr. Vicar seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Maintenance is not being done. When written in the paper, it should specify maintenance is not under the Department of Parks and Leisure Services. Mrs. White expressed all sponsors should be made aware of the fact PALS is not in charge of maintenance and given a point of contact with Public Works for repairs and maintenance when needed.

Mr. Vicar explained this is similar to the problem years ago with mole crickets on Barker Field. Mrs. White said they are back and Mr. Manisiotis reiterated the mole crickets are back at Barker Field.

Mr. Miller explained, proper procedure for maintenance of Parks is; Public contacts PALS, PALS in turn notify Public Works while recording and following-up on all work requests.

Mr. Vicar stated the ultimate authority is Mr. Boehm's. Mr. Boehm must let the public know who is responsible for Park Maintenance.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Manisiotis stated Miracle in the River is a true statement upon what Parks and Leisure Services is doing for the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PALS Board went into executive session, no action was taken.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 3:30 in the Parks and Leisure Services Main Office, Port Royal, South Carolina.

Mr. Middleton adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m.