

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2002
PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES MAIN OFFICE
3:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Orethia White, Vice Chair
James Vicar
Thomas Mobley
William Brown

Absent: Allan Stern
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Division Head, Division of Parks and Leisure Services
H. C. Boehm, Jr., Director, Public Services Division
Joe Penale, Recreation Superintendent, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services
Norma Baker, Assistant to the Division Head, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 2002 AGENDA

Mr. Vicar motioned to approve agenda.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2002 MINUTES

Mr. Vicar motioned to approve the minutes.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Middleton informed the board of a letter received in reference to the request for grant funding for land and an equestrian center in Beaufort County. Mr. Vicar suggested a representative attend PALS Board meeting for discussion. Mr. Brown told the Board Laurel Bay has stables, they are not in the best condition and he will research possibility of using them and operational costs.

BURTON WELLS PARK

Burton Wells Park has been cleared. Building pad for the Recreation Center is complete, waiting for the building permit. Once building permit is obtained, construction will begin on the Recreation Center first, followed by construction on the baseball press box/concession stand and then the soccer press box/concession stand. Fine grading will be completed in the next two weeks.

Burton Wells Construction Team will meet again Thursday, December 19, 2002 and then in January 2003.

PARD

PALS presented PARD to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on Monday, December 2, 2002. Intergovernmental Committee unanimously approved PARD, which will now go before County Council Monday, December 9, 2002. PARD money will be used for resurfacing the basketball courts at Burton Wells, St. Helena Park and Bluffton Center. 2002 PARD money will also be used to resurface the tennis courts at Southside Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Mr. Vicar, Chairman, Facilities Committee, walked through M. C. Riley Park the month of November. Mr. Vicar stated the facility looks great. Handicap parking is correct, marked and easily accessible. There is one section of fence, which is skeetawapus. M. C. Riley is a good-looking facility, not a safety problem and in excellent shape.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

The Calhoun Cup is finished. Investigation is in progress reference an altercation at the 13-15 co-ed championship game. Mr. Miller will give a report to Administration at the conclusion of the investigation. There were no actual fights at the game.

Basketball assessments were the week of November 26, 2002. Practice is beginning and games will commence the first week of January 2003.

Star Struck Dance from Mink Point will compete at National Finals in Orlando, Florida.

M. C. Riley Outdoor Basketball Courts are complete.

Bladen Street Tennis Courts, minor fence problem is in process of being resolved.

Shults Park sod has been laid which completes the soccer field. Community Center is being constructed. PALS sent proposal to Town of Bluffton requesting to maintain and operate the Community Center.

Mr. Boehm explained to the Board, article in "Beaufort Gazette" was incorrect in reference to Mr. Miller changing his decision concerning rescheduling a soccer game. Mr. Miller was not contacted for comment by the paper. Mr. Cato, Publisher, has apologized.

Mr. Boehm informed the Board a problem may arise with the Community Center at Shults Park. Land is owned by the town of Bluffton, park is owned by Beaufort County. Town of Bluffton wants to operate the Community Center themselves, without PALS managing activities. Community Center is in the middle of the park, ball fields and soccer fields. Possible problems could stem from alcohol parties during game times, liability for accidents, cars driving in during game times and more.

Mr. Vicar explained if this happens, it could have a ripple affect throughout the county with other organizations requesting the same. Mr. Vicar stated the board should make a formal comment regarding their disapproval for Town of Bluffton to operate the Community Center. Mrs. White stated one group must be in charge of the Center. One could buy the other out or a settlement should be reached. Two entities cannot run the same Center, it does not work.

Mr. Vicar motioned that the PALS Board oppose the town of Bluffton operate the Community Center located at Shults Community Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. White asked if Mrs. Graves, swim team parent, had information yet Ref. Swim team. Mr. Miller responded PALS is waiting for response from Hilton Head Island Aquatics.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Middleton offered condolences to Mr. Miller for the loss of his Mother.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2002 at 3:30 in the Parks and Leisure Services Main Office, Port Royal, South Carolina.

Mr. Middleton adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.