

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004
Burton Wells
2:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Orethia White, Vice Chair
Thomas Mobley
Calvin White
Allan Stern
Corinne Hagood
William Brown
William Grayson

H.C. Boehm, Jr., Deputy Administrator, Public Services

Absent: Michael Manesiotis
Joe Penale, Director, Southern Beaufort PALS

PALS Staff: John Miller, Director, Northern Beaufort PALS
Jeannie Wells, Assistant to the Directors, PALS

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:31p.m.

APPROVAL OF December 2, 2004 AGENDA

Mr. Brown motioned to approve December 2, 2004 agenda.
Mr. Stern seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF November 4, 2004 MINUTES

Mr. Brown motioned to approve November 4, 2004 minutes.
Mrs. White seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

**Mr. Grayson arrived at 2:35 pm.*

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. White recapped her quarterly park inspection. The inspection covered Jarvis Park, Fish Hall, Barker Field and Green Shell. Fish Hall has a lot of artifacts and is being treated very carefully. There is also a beautiful boardwalk that leads you out into the marsh. It is very nice. Barker Field extension's field is not in use yet but will be hopefully by the springtime, the grass is coming in nicely. There is also a boardwalk built there. Green Shell also has many Indian artifacts being preserved in that area. There are some complaints about the basketball court, however, that is not under our control yet.

**Mr. Boehm arrived at 2:40 pm.*

Mr. Middleton announced that he visited the Scott Center on Special Needs Day. He was extremely impressed with the program. He is concerned with the amount of advertising that is given to PALS programs. Mr. Boehm said he would speak with the Public Information Officer and see if advertising visits can be made to the centers. Mrs. White added that the Bluffton Center should also be mentioned for its After School Programs. She would also like to see more advertising for these programs. Mr. Miller stated that the PALS Marketing Director has worked with the local papers to come out and cover special programs.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

** Mr. Miller announced that Mr. Penale is absent due to a family emergency.*

Northern Beaufort County

PALS is still advertising for Recreation Leaders and three positions will be filled. A Recreation Specialist position is open in Southern Beaufort and the applications were received November 3rd. Basketball registration in Northern Beaufort is over and teams have been put together and practices began November 3rd. Southern Beaufort's registration will continue until December 5th. Fort Fremont is now owned by PALS. This park is located on St. Helena Island in the Lands End area. Mr. Bellamy and Mr. Miller will go visit the park and see what kind of security fencing should be installed around that park. Once a copy of the Master Plan is received, community meetings will be scheduled and the Board will be involved in the future of Ft. Fremont. Crystal Lake is now owned by PALS. There is a pond area that will be fenced in. The Butler Marine building was also purchased with the park. When Butler Marine moves out, the plan is to create a Nature Center in the building. The appraisal for Lady's Island property came in at \$325K. Bluffton Center, Basil Green and Shults Park lighting projects bids will open on December 9, 2004. Once opened, this will go to the Public Services Committee for approval and then to County Council. Mink Point heating and air conditioning is currently being installed. PALS is now involved in the Junior NBA and the Junior WNBA through the Charlotte Bobcats. This will help with uniforms and all coaches will receive packets containing guidelines for successful coaching. The Dale playground is currently being installed and next week the surfacing should go in. The playground should be open within two weeks.

Mr. Miller asked all members to sign the Conflict of Interest Statements and return to Jeannie at the end of the meeting. These will go to Sue Rainey in the County Council's Clerk Office. Mr. Miller invited all the Board Members to the PALS Christmas Party on December 10th at 6pm at Burton Wells.

PARD projects will be submitted to the Delegation Committee in the Jan/Feb 05 meeting.

Burton Wells will hold the After School Intercession program during the December holidays.

Mr. Mobley asked if the Lady's Island property (24 acres) owners are interested in selling. Mr. Miller said that he is unaware of the owner's position. Mr. Boehm stated that another option may be to look at additional sources of purchase, such as the Rural and Critical Lands fund. If this money is used, it must be used for passive parks only. Property on Lady's Island has been extremely hard to find, especially all dry land.

Mr. Stern asked if there is a possibility of improving the dirt parking lots at gyms and parking areas. The gym floor becomes very difficult to keep clean. He used the Bluffton Gym as an example. Mr. Miller and Mr. Boehm explained that most parking lots at gyms are covered in grass or crushed rock. However, the crushed rock has broken down to plain dirt. Mr. Miller stated that PALS would start the process to having the crushed rock laid again at the Bluffton Gym.

Mrs. White asked about the progress of the improvements of Bristol Skate Park. Mr. Miller and Mr. Boehm referred Mrs. White to Joe Penale for details but did state that once the improvements are made, PALS will be responsible for the maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Boehm announced that Chaplain Park has a lot of graffiti all over the restrooms, mostly in Spanish. It has been very difficult to remove. Public Works has contacted several contractors to see what can be done to remove the obscenities. Mrs. White said that there is a lot of loitering at the Barker Field extension. Mr. Penale will be made aware of the problem.

Mr. Miller announced there would be a new schedule coming out for the 2005 PALS Board Meetings at the January 2005 meeting. Mr. Boehm announced it might be a good idea to have the meetings one place NOB and one place SOB. This may be easier for the public to make it to meetings since they will always be in the same central locations. Mr. Mobley reminded that Board that the idea of having these meetings in different locations was so that Board members could be able to eventually visit each PALS location. Mrs. White stated that Board members should know the division they are representing. Mr. Boehm reminded the members that their mission was not to visit each facility, but to have interaction with the public. He also announced he would like to see decisions and votes being brought up each meeting.

Mr. Stern also brought up the idea of having the agenda items published in the paper along with the date and location of the Board Meetings. The meeting date and location is published in the paper now, but will include agenda items beginning in January 2005. Mr. Stern would like the agenda to be more specific.

Mr. Grayson had a concern with the Dixie Youth in Bluffton but will hold until next meeting when Mr. Penale is present.

Mr. Brown asked how many teams PALS has registered in basketball. PALS has 43 teams total. The older age group is lacking in participation.

Mr. Grayson asked why the basketball registration SOB is extended further than NOB. Mr. Miller and Mr. Penale will work on the registration schedule together and will coordinate dates. Mr. Grayson asked if the members could receive participation numbers for each month. Jeannie announced that she does have copies for each member and could include them in the packages for January 2005.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, January 6, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, SC 29906.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

/jmw