

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY AUGUST 4, 2005
Bluffton Recreation Center
2:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Calvin White

Staff: H.C. Boehm, Director, Public Services
John Miller, Jr., Director, Northern Beaufort PALS
Russell Byrd, Current Project Planner
Ian Hill, Historic Preservationist
Stacie Hawkins, Assistant to the Directors

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF August 4, 2005 AGENDA

Mr. Stern motioned to approve July 7, 2005 agenda.
Mrs. White seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF July 7, 2005 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned to approve May 5 minutes.
Mrs. Hagood seconded the motion.
Correction: Mr. Middleton called July 7, 2005 meeting to order.
Motion passed with correction unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CRYSTAL LAKE PARK PROPOSAL

Referring to a handout included with Board packets, Mr. Miller introduced the Lady's Island property located off Hwy 802, between Hwy 802 and Beaufort High School Stadium known as Crystal Lake. It is comprised of three parcels making up 15 acres. Mr. Miller reported these properties were acquired through Trust for Public Lands for Rural and Critical Lands. Mr. Miller proposed that funds from Lady's Island property search be transferred to Crystal Lake Park for development of this passive park.

Mr. Mobley, representing Lady's Island, stated that residents support the idea of allocated funds for Lady's Island being transferred to Crystal Lake Park to design a Master Plan and development of the park. Mr. Stern asked if there were any active parks presently on Lady's Island. Mr. Miller reported PALS has a two (2) acre park at Broomfield Center, with a Community Center, playground and ballfield. Mr. Stern asked how many fields and how critical a need for fields on Lady's Island? Mr. Miller reported fields at Coosaw, Lady's Island Elementary, and Lady's Island Middle Schools are used. At this time there is no critical need for ballfields on Lady's Island.

Mr. Boehm reported that for some time Beaufort County has been pursuing property on Lady's Island to no avail. Every opportunity has been unsuccessful. Mr. Boehm explained that this is property we already own and can develop. Northern Beaufort does not see the crunch as Southern Beaufort has. Mr. Boehm suggested that in the future funds can be diverted back to Lady's Island.

Mr. Mobley motioned to transfer allocated funds for Lady's Island to Crystal Lake Park for a Master Plan and development of park.

Mrs. White seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

FORT FREMONT PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Miller reported Fort Fremont Planning Committee, made up of residents of the Lands End area, have made recommendations for the Master Plans for Fort Fremont Park. With an enlarged copy of the Master Plan, Mr. Miller gave a briefing on the amenities recommended by Fort Fremont Planning Committee members to include:

- Black vinyl-coated fencing for perimeter
- Administrative/Admissions building with offices for park rangers
- 22 parking spaces

Ian Hill reported that archeological studies were completed on July 21, 2005 with significant finds on the former Stewart property at Fort Fremont. Mr. Hill recommended Beaufort County avoid any construction, other than walking paths, on the area around Battery Fornance. Mr. Stern asked if Fort Fremont is listed on the National Registry and if federal funds are available. Mr. Hill reported Fort Fremont is on the National Registry and at this time there are no federal funds available. Mr. Mobley asked what funding has been obtained. Mr. Miller reported none at this time.

**Mr. Stern motioned necessary security fence work is completed, Master Plan accepted as conceptual, hire a management firm for Master Plan to address development of park; any decisions on Fort Fremont Committee recommendations are deferred until management plan is complete.
Mrs. White seconded.
Motioned passed unanimously.**

OKATIE REGIONAL PARK

Russell Byrd presented Board members with a Conceptual Master Plan of Okatie Regional Park giving Members descriptions of the many amenities that will be offered. Joe Penale reported there is \$400,000 in gift money already available. Approval for the Master Plan is needed to move forward with project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. White reported residents want an area to play beach volleyball at Shults Park. Mr. Penale advised Board members Town of Bluffton must approve.

Updated Committees

Finance Committee – A. Stern, Chairman
M. Manesiotis
C. White

Long Range - A. Middleton, Chairman
A. Stern
C. Hagood

Program – C. Hagood, Chairman
M. Manesiotis
W. Brown
W. Grayson

Facilities – A. Middleton
O. White
C. White
T. Mobley

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Northern Beaufort County PALS

- A. Lady’s Island Park – Mr. Gallant sent letter stating his decline for Beaufort County’s offer to purchase land.
- B. Senior Services- Mr. Miller reported decision for stand-alone building to be built at Burton Wells Recreation Center. Senior Services will obtain inkind services from an architect for floor plans.

Southern Beaufort County PALS

- A. Buckwalter Park - Mr. Penale reported work has started with two (2) soccer fields and restrooms to be completed by fall.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mr. Brown inquired on the outcome of Adult Basketball. Mr. Miller reported Mr. Kubic denied recommendation. Seabrook has been declared League Champions. Mr. Powell will receive a prorated refund.
2. Mr. Mobley inquired of the status of Broad River fishing pier. Mr. Miller reported old pier will be demolished. The old bridge will be used as pier. State currently has jurisdiction of the pier.
3. Mr. Stern inquired of lack of public notice for meetings. Mr. Miller reported Ms. Hawkins e-mailed notices to local papers with exception of Bluffton Today. Ms. Hawkins received confirmation of receipt of e-mails from Beaufort Gazette. Mr. Miller also reported that meeting dates and locations have been added to PALS website.
4. Mr. Manesiotis asked if County has Accommodation Tax. Mr. Miller report County does have Accommodation Tax. Mr. Manesiotis suggested use of Accommodation tax to help cover some expenses.

Mr. Stern motioned to applaud SOB Staff for a job well done on State All Star Tournaments.

Mrs. White seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Miller asked Board Members what individual contact information they would like listed on PALS website. Board members agreed to list what Committee they served on and e-mail addresses.
2. Mr. Miller reminded Board Members of the upcoming Council Tour of Facilities to be held Friday, August 12, 2005. Mr. Miller invited all Board members to attend. Mr. Middleton and Mrs. White committed to attend with confirmation to be made at a later date by others.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is **Thursday, September 1, 2005** at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, South Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.