

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2006**  
**Bluffton Recreation Center**  
**2:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Calvin White  
Michael Manesiotis

PALS Staff: John Miller, Director, Northern Beaufort PALS  
Joe Penale, Director, Southern Beaufort PALS  
Stacie Hawkins, Assistant to the Directors

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF February 2, 2006 AGENDA**

**Mr. Stern motioned to approve February 2, 2006 agenda.**

**Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF January 5, 2006 MINUTES**

**Mrs. Hagood motioned to approve January 6, 2005 minutes with corrections.**

**Mr. Mobley seconded the motion with corrections.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

*Correction to January 5, 2006 minutes: Mr. Mobley present for meeting.*

*Mr. Grayson asked for clarity of funds used for playground equipment at Shuts Park.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Robert Rouse Middleton, St. Helena Island resident, addressed PALS Board recommending renaming Seaside Center Gloria Potts Community Center, recognizing Mrs. Potts as founder of Seaside Center. Mr. Middleton described Mrs. Potts as an active member of St. Helena Community, who was a cornerstone in the development of the community center now known as Seaside Center. Mr. Bobby Middleton, also a resident of St. Helena Island, addressed PALS Board expressing his desire to rename Seaside Center Gloria Potts Community Center.

Mr. Arthur Middleton, PALS Board Chairman, advised residents PALS Board would consider their recommendation and provide a written statement of its decision. Mr. Robert Middleton and Mr. Bobby Middleton dismissed themselves from PALS Board meeting.

Mr. Middleton advised Board member discussion would be postponed as renaming Seaside Center was item #8 on the agenda.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** Mr. Al Stern, PALS Board Finance Committee Chairman, reporting. PALS Board Finance Committee met Thursday, February 5, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at Bluffton Center to discuss CIP FY06. Mr. Miller provided handouts to attendees listing all PALS projects included in FY06 CIP plans. PALS Board Finance Committee will not submit to Board for formal approval; instead Finance Committee will compose a five (5) year priority listing to be submitted to County Council at March 2, 2006 PALS Board meeting.

**Mr. Stern motioned to submit priority listing of PALS CIP projects at March Board meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **PALS BOARD VACANCY**

Mr. Miller reported County Council Public Services Committee January meeting included discussions of upcoming PALS Board vacancies and absenteeism. There were concerns of the absenteeism of Mr. Brown and Mr. White. Mr. Miller reported every six months PALS must report PALS Board attendance to County Council. Mr. Miller reported County Council wanted to draft a letter to Tri-Command and Beaufort County School district recommending appointing replacements for Mr. Brown and Mr. White. Mr. Miller reported he asked County Council to allow Mr. Middleton the opportunity to speak with Mr. White and Mr. Brown to find out their intentions.

In term of Mrs. White's retirement from PALS Board, County Council Public Services Committee would like to have any recommendations for replacement from PALS Board. There are three applicants vying for the vacancies. One of those applicants was disqualified for conflict of interest. Public Services meet 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of February and a recommendation will need to be forwarded.

Mr. Middleton reported Mr. Calvin White was contacted to discuss his intentions on serving on PALS Board. Mr. White advised Mr. Middleton of his recent retirement from Beaufort County School District. However, since his retirement, Mr. White has returned to work for Beaufort County School District. With his return, Mr. White is confident that will be able to resume attending PALS Board meetings.

Mr. William Brown, in attendance, advised Board members due to very personal issues, he was unable to attend meetings. With those concerns behind him, he is also confident he will be able to fulfill his obligations to PALS Board.

Mr. Middleton will forward a letter to Council Peter Lamb advising Public Services Committee of the intentions of Mr. Brown and Mr. White. The letter will also include verification of PALS Board one vacancy and its recommendation.

### **PALS COMPENSATION PLAN**

Referring to a handout included in PALS Board packet, Mr. Miller reported Mr. Kubic, County Administrator has been taking before Employee Services Committee different departments' plans for compensation. PALS compensation plan is modeled after a plan originally submitted to

Public Works. Currently PALS employees remain at entry-level pay. There is no variance for seasoned employees. PALS Compensation plan included detail descriptions of responsibilities of the four integral departments of PALS. Also included were future facilities and the need for additional staff.

PALS Compensation plan recommends:

1. Use the same longevity pay plan proposed for Public Works Division employees for PALS employees. This will allow for long term employees to be paid according to their time of services to the County and separate them from having the same salary as an entry level employee.
2. Increase Recreation Supervisors from pay grade 13 to pay grade 15. This will allow PALS to be competitive when advertising for supervisor positions.
3. Increase Southern Beaufort County PALS Director to pay grade 30.
4. Move recreation Aides from unclassified pay rate of \$6.63/hr to grade 1 at \$6.76/hr.

Recommendation one is simply the system outlined previously by the Public Works Director where longevity pay raises are calculated at 3% if minimum pay for every two years of service for a maximum of 39% above the minimum pay after 26 years of service.

If approved by County Council, PALS Compensation plan will allow for the following pay increases in FY2006/2007:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Administration - | \$25,800        |
| 2. Summer Camp -    | \$0             |
| 3. Aquatics -       | \$12,840        |
| 4. Hilton Head -    | \$9,328         |
| 5. Bluffton -       | \$7,853         |
| 6. Athletics -      | \$14,429        |
| 7. Centers -        | \$20,015        |
| <b>Totaling</b>     | <b>\$90,265</b> |

In keeping with this plan, this will allow for an annual increase of approximately \$20,000 for employees as time of service grows.

### **RENAMING SEASIDE CENTER**

Mr. Miller reported residents made an original request five years ago to rename Seaside Center Gloria Potts Community Center and was advised a wait period of five years was required before a recommendation could go forward. The five year waiting period has lapsed and PALS Staff is in agreement with request to rename Seaside Center Gloria Potts Community Center. Mr. Brown asked if Mrs. Potts donated land. Mr. Miller reported six acres was purchased from the Seven Sisters.

**Mr. Brown motioned to rename Seaside Center Gloria Potts Community Center.**

**Mr. Stern seconded.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

*Northern Beaufort- John Miller, Jr. reporting*

- A. Fort Fremont Park- Permit received for Phase I on Tuesday, January 31, 2006. PALS are awaiting a stamp of approval from OCRM. Russ Marane, Trust for Public Lands, is

handling gift monies received. Phase I includes the enclosure of park and developing parking and entrance to park. Phase I is going out for bid.

- B. Crystal Lake Park- Group met last month at Crystal Lake and is now awaiting fact finding from Truitt Rabon.
- C. PARD- Successfully passed at the Legislative Delegation January 30, 2006 meeting. All recommendations were accepted. A resolution was signed showing approval. Mr. Stern asked what PARD projects were submitted by Town of Port Royal. Mr. Miller reported Town of Port Royal submitted a PARD project for 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park restructuring. This project includes relocating plantings and infrastructure work.
- D. Agnes Major Center – Mr. Miller met with residents of Sheldon Township on Monday, January 30, 2006 to discuss their concerns for access to Agnes Major Center. Mr. Miller met with Bob Andoga, Boys and Girls Club, on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 to discuss the issue of Sheldon residents’ access to Agnes Major Center. Mr. Miller presented to Board members a brief history of the establishment of Agnes Major Center. Mr. Miller reported residents requested Agnes Major Center is turned back over to the community. PALS will not recommend turning Agnes Major Center back to residents of Sheldon Community.
- E. Competitive Cheerleading – Mink Point Gymnasium has developed a competitive cheerleading team, consisting of two squads: an elite squad made up of 23 members and a junior squad made up of 13 members. Both squads will compete in April in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- F. Port Royal Senior Learning Program – Mr. Mobley asked how this program will fit in with Senior Services at Burton Wells. Mr. Miller advised Board members PALS Senior programs do not affect Senior Services programming, as PALS already has several senior programs in operation at several sites.

*Southern Beaufort- Joseph Penale, Jr. reporting*

- G. Buckwalter Park – Continuation of Phase I will enable PALS to utilize soccer fields this fall.
- H. Bluffton Oyster Factory – Restrooms are complete.
- I. Use of Middle School Gymnasiums – Mr. Penale will meet with principal of Bluffton Middle School on Monday, February 6, 2006. Mr. Penale, along with Program Committee Chair and Members will meet with Ms. Edna Crews, Superintendent Beaufort County School District, to discuss a working relationship between Beaufort County PALS and schools in Southern Beaufort County on Wednesday, January 22, 2006 at 10 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Barker Field – Mrs. White recommend a need for increased police patrol at Barker Field to deter unfavorable activities.
- B. Gym Rentals - Mr. Grays asked if PALS is satisfied with approved increase of rental fees. Mr. Penale reported PALS agrees with increase as is.
- C. Mr. Stern recommends developing a schedule of key issues PALS Board must vote on yearly.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A plaque was presented to Mrs. Orethia White in honor of her years of service on the PALS Board.

**NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting is Thursday, March 1, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center,  
1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, South Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.