

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006
Bluffton Recreation Center
2:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern
Michael Manesiotis
William Grayson
Thomas Mobley
Paul Osborne, Bluffton Resident
Caylee Osborne, Bluffton Resident
Christy Prince, Bluffton Resident
Barry Bryant, Hilton Head Resident

Absent: Calvin White
Corinne Hagood
William Brown

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 2:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF April 6, 2006 AGENDA

Mr. Stern motioned to approve April 6, 2006 agenda.

Mr. Grayson seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF March 2, 2006 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned to approve March 2, 2006 minutes.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bluffton resident, Paul Osborne, addressed the Board with his concerns of moving his daughter, Caylee Osborne, up a level in softball. Explaining his family recent move from Florida, Mr. Osborne believes his daughter's skills exceeds the ability of the other children in her age group, stating Caylee has the ability to pitch 50 mph. Caylee missed the birthday cutoff by 25 days. Christy Prince, Caylee's pitching coach, states it is a safety issue having a child with such a skill

level play with children of lesser skills. Mr. Osborne and Ms. Prince ask consideration be given to children coming into Beaufort County with competitive skills.

Barry Bryant, Hilton Head resident, addressed PALS Board, requesting daughter, Rachel Bryant is allowed to move up one age level. Mr. Bryant states because of change in birthday requirements, his daughter is forced to play with 3rd and 4th graders who have never played. Mr. Bryant's daughter has played with U-10 team for past three years. Mr. Bryant stated PALS league is supposed to be a developmental league, however there is no development when exceptional skilled players are forced to play with lesser skilled players.

Mr. Osborne stated he would be forming a competitive team that will not compete with recreation programs. Both parents agree it is a coach's decision to recommend a child is moved up rather than that of the parents.

Mr. Middleton thanked residents for bringing their concerns to PALS Board and advised them they would be contacted with PALS Board decision. Residents dismissed themselves from meeting.

Mr. Penale stated there should be allowances for exceptional players to move up. Mr. Stern stated parents should have no say, except to decline a move for their child.

Mr. Miller asked if this is recreation ball or competitive ball? PALS is responsible for recreational ball, not competitive ball. Those interested in competitive ball have the option of playing on a traveling team. Mr. Miller advised Board he and Mr. Penale met to discuss this subject and he has no problems with players moving up as long as he and Mr. Penale are responsible for it. Mr. Miller wants the decision to belong to PALS, not coaches or parents. Mr. Miller believes PALS staff is expert enough to be able to decide if a player is eligible to move up.

Mr. Penale advised Board, he and Mr. Miller will meet and present recommendation at next Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Mr. Stern asked for status of PALS Budget. Mr. Miller advised Board PALS has not presented budget to County Administrator. As it stands, PALS Budget is still intact. Mr. Manesiotis asked when final decision has to be made by County Council. Mr. Miller advised deadline is last County Council meeting in June.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

With the recent resignation of Mrs. Orethia White, Mr. Middleton reminded Board member the seat of Vice Chair is now void. Mr. Middleton opened the floor to accept nominations for PALS Board Vice Chair.

Mr. Grayson nominated Mr. Al Stern.

Mr. Manesiotis seconded nomination.

Nomination approved unanimously to name Mr. Al Sterns PALS Board Vice Chair.

BURTON WELLS COUNTY PARK TRAILS

Mr. Miller explained to PALS Board the proposed Burton Wells County Park Trail and all that it entails. Mr. Miller explained that Burton Wells County Park Master Plan calls for a 3.7 mile trail to connect all amenities offered. Burton Wells County Park Trail is actually a part of Burton Wells Phase II.

Mr. Miller stated that Beaufort County PALS has applied for grant monies from South Carolina Recreational Trails Program to assist in constructing what is considered Burton Wells County Park Trail Phase One.

In his description, Mr. Miller stated Phase One will consist of a 4-inch aggregate. This 2.11 mile trail will connect Burton Wells Recreation Center, which houses PALS Administrative Staff, Burton Wells Athletic Complex, and Old Burton Wells Park. Along the trail, users will have access to picnic areas, benches and informative plaques that will describe their scenic view. There will also be mile markers to assist those using the trail for exercise. The trail will be accessible to those wishing to use it for walking, jogging, or bicycling. It will also be handicap accessible. There will be no user fee applied.

Grant will be awarded in June or July 2006.

PROPOSED FACILITY FEE INCREASE

Mr. Miller reported staff has met and has a recommendation for presentation. Referring to handouts of old facility rental fee policy and proposed facility rental fee (attached). After describing all the fee changes, Mr. Miller asked PALS Board for approval to change fees as recommended by staff.

Mr. Mobley motioned to accept facility fee increases as recommended.

Mr. Grayson seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

CIP Statement(attached) - Mr. Stern reported two major changes to CIP statement as originally written. Those changes are:

1. Statement in first paragraph referencing population rate of growth modified.
2. On list of priorities, move pursuing property for an active park on Lady's Island from #6 to #3.

Mr. Stern recommends adding a footnote stating Lady's Property will move up to #2 if property becomes available.

Buckwalter Park – Mr. Mobley asked for a description of Buckwalter Park Phase I and II. Mr. Penale reported:

Phase I – 3 soccer fields and restrooms.

Phase II – Received \$2.6 million in CIP funds with recommendation to build recreation center, consisting of 5 offices and a gymnasium. Phase II also includes lighting for soccer fields.

Mr. Sterns recommended e-mailing new changes to CIP statement to reflect changes for distribution of CIP funds. Mr. Stern's recommendation include priorities as:

1. Repair and improve active facilities
2. New active facilities
3. Repair and improve community and art centers.

Mr. Miller expressed his disagreement with completing Buckwalter Park before completion of Burton Wells Phase II.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort

- A. Fort Fremont Park- Recommendation has been forwarded today to Mr. Boehm to move forward with improvement to areas between Bay Point Road and Lands End Road. Recycled asphalt will be used to build roads and driveway into park. PALS recommended in memo to Mr. Boehm using asphalt for pathways. PALS is seeking an additional \$50,000 from County to complete construction of park.
- B. Crystal Lake Park- PALS has requested being placed on the agenda of the next Lady's Island Community Preservation Committee meeting to compose a plan for development of Crystal Lake Park. As soon as this is accomplished, Mr. Miller will present to PALS Board and then present to public at-large.
- C. Lady's Island Property- Mr. Miller spoke with Councilman Mark Generales reference property across from Coosaw Point (owner asking \$4 million). Mr. Miller has communicated with Robert Gallant who is now asking \$1.2 million for his property. Dan Morgan, GIS, has compiled a map of large properties on Lady's Island. Mr. Miller will meet with Councilman Generales, Mr. Boehm, Jim Hicks and Mr. Mobley to review property listing to determine which property to pursue.
- D. PALS Board Vacancy – Public Services committee recommended Bryan Hill to represent Southern Beaufort on PALS Board. Recommendation has not been confirmed. Confirmation expected to happen at next County Council meeting.
- E. Southern Regional Conference – Mr. Miller will attend NRPA Southern Regional Conference in Louisville, KY April 10-15, 2006.
- F. Pool HVAC Systems – Mock Plumbing won bid on HVAC systems at pool. Pools will experience weekend closures and 2-week closures on a staggered schedule. The order of repairs is:
 1. Bluffton Pool
 2. Beaufort Pool
 3. Battery Creek PoolThis will cause to least amount of disruption to Summer Camp activities.
- G. Summer Camp – Registration ongoing.
- H. Community Seasons – A new concept for online registration. PALS staff has recently participated in online training of this new system. This will provide automated reports of revenue and participation numbers, as well as, any other information defined by PALS.

Southern Beaufort

- I. Adult & Coed Softball- Season begins on next week.

- J. Baseball & Spring Soccer- Season ongoing with 953 participants.
- K. Altamaha – will meet April 11, 2006 to discuss moving forward using \$300,000 gift money
- L. Shults Park - Site preparation to begin for playground in two weeks. PALS has \$63,000 in CIP funds for this project.
- M. Daufuskie Island – Playground almost complete. Expect to reward bid for mulching soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Participation Numbers – Mr. Stern inquired about explanation of differences in reporting of participation numbers between Northern and Southern Beaufort. Mr. Miller reported he and Mr. Penale were still in discussion and will present explanation to Board as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, South Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

/srh