

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Bluffton Recreation Center
Thursday, February 7, 2008
2:30 PM

- Board Members Present:** Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern, Vice Chairman
William Grayson
Thomas Mobley
- Board Members Absent:** William Brown
Bill Evans
Corrine Hagood
Bryan Hill
Michael Manesiotis
- PALS Staff Present:** John Miller, Director of Northern Beaufort PALS
Joseph Penale, Director of Southern Beaufort PALS
Sherry Gordon-Jones, Administrative Assistant to Directors
- Guests Present:** Saleem Khattak, Director of Public Services Dept.
Tim Austin, Bluffton Tennis Association
Joe NacMara, Bluffton Tennis Association
Diane Seggi, Tennis Coach – Bluffton Tennis Association

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Middleton, Chairman, at 2:32 pm.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2008 AGENDA

It was motioned by Thomas Mobley and seconded by William Grayson to approve the February 7, 2008 agenda. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2008 MINUTES

It was motioned by Thomas Mobley and seconded by Allan Stern to approve the January 3, 2008 minutes. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Austin, Joe NacMara, and Diane Seggi addressed the Board regarding the need to immediately build tennis courts at the Buckwalter Community Park. The Board was provided a handout entitled, "Let's Build Public Tennis Courts in Bluffton." Per the presentation and handout, Hilton Head Tennis Association and the Bluffton Tennis Association will be splitting due to lack of tennis courts and play times. The school courts are overcrowded and there is an overflow of players in need to use them. In certain instances, the school had asked tennis players to leave their premises. Bluffton Tennis Association has about 100 members including Sun City. There are currently 13 courts that can be used by the public

with 6 of them in the Bluffton area. The group also explained that they do have revenues to assist in building tennis courts at Buckwalter and would assist in any fundraising efforts to reach the goal.

Mr. Stern asked how Sun City plays in this realm because they have their own courts. Ms. Seggi explained that she lives in Sun City and there is a lot of overflow. Sun City has about 800 USA/USTA players, a number that has increased 128% over the last 5 years. There are only 6 courts and not enough for leagues.

Mr. Stern asked why Bluffton courts are unplayable. The group answered that the courts at Bluffton Recreation Center are cracked and in need of wind streams, nets, etc. USTA also require 5 courts for players to have a league and Bluffton only has two split courts.

Mr. Grayson asked if the association has funds to assist in repairs, why hasn't any funds been offered to Bluffton Recreation Center/PALS for repairs. The group explained that they do have funds but there is a process for attaining and uses of the funds.

Mr. Stern asked if PALS still had a Joint-Use Agreement between the schools. Mr. Miller explained that the agreement is still active with the school district.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Saleem Khattak, Director of Public Services to the Board. Mr. Khattak thanked all the Board members for their warm welcome and explained that he is always available for assistance.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort – John Miller, Jr. reporting

- A. Fort Fremont Park – Ian Hill, Mark Roseneau, Tony Criscittello, and John Miller met with Cullen Chambers and his assistant, on January 25, 2008 to discuss Fort Fremont. Mr. Cullen is the Executive Director of Fort Screven and Tybee Island Historical Society. The next step is to create a preservation plan which will be created by Mr. Chambers.
- B. Crystal Lake Park – Working on mapping of the site.
- C. Senior Services Center – Construction Associate Group of Bluffton won the bid with a bid of \$515,000. This amount was well under the \$537,000 that has been allocated.
- D. Agnes Major Center Lease Agreement – We received the revisions from Ms. Jean Washington, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club. The revisions have been forwarded to Kelly Golden, County Attorney for review and approval.
- E. Greene Street Neighborhood Activity Center Renaming – The renaming of the center to the Charles Lind Brown Neighborhood Activity Center is scheduled for February 9, 2008 at 10:00 AM.
- F. Mr. Miller congratulated Mr. Grayson for being reappointed to the PALS Advisory Board for 4 more years.
- G. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Stern to contact members of the finance committee to schedule a meeting to go over the upcoming budget for next fiscal year.

Mr. Mobley asked Mr. Miller what would need to be done to expedite the process with the school district for the Crystal Lake Park. Mr. Miller explained that he will contact the Director

of Facilities to see if he/she has any knowledge of the letter or plans. Mr. Mobley asked if it will help to speak with some School Board Members and what about the church. Mr. Miller told Mr. Mobley if he had any information, they would speak later and he, Mr. Miller, would forward the information to Fred Lewis to assist with negotiations.

Mr. Mobley asked how the plans are going in acquiring additional land for the Lady's Island Park. Mr. Miller explained that he is still awaiting the survey of the land of the additional interested owners.

Southern Beaufort – Joe Penale reporting

- A. Buckwalter Community Park – Met with electrician and engineers to discuss parking lot. The Recreation Center will cost \$4.9 million.
- B. Altamaha – Still waiting for permits. The completion date is set for July 24, 2008.

Mr. Stern asked if they were going with the steel building for the Buckwalter Recreation Center. Mr. Penale explained that they would not be using a steel frame building for the facility.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stern asked about the replacement of Bryan Hill. Mr. Miller explained that Bryan Hill has recently been hired by Beaufort County as Budget Analyst and will need to be replaced on the Board. Mr. Miller will get with Sue Rainey about the process and report back to the Board.

Mr. McNamara asked the Board's permission to clarify his statement about the school not allowing him and some players to play on tennis courts. He explained that the school needed the courts for their own players at that time and asked them to reschedule.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Middleton thanked everyone for attending meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 2:30 pm at the Burton Wells Recreation Center, Burton, South Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 PM.