

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Burton Wells Recreation Center
Thursday, March 6, 2008
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: William Grayson
Corrine Hagood
Thomas Mobley
Michael Manesiotis

Board Members Absent: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern, Vice Chairman
William Brown
Bill Evan

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: Gary Kubic, County Administrator
Saleem Khattak, Director of Public Services
Justin Newman, Current President of ABBS
Mark Lawson, Former President of ABBS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by John Miller at 2:50 pm. Mr. Miller asked Board Members to elect a stand-in Chairman in absence of Chairman Middleton. It was motioned by Michael Manesiotis and seconded by Corrine Hagood to elect Thomas Mobley as acting Chairman for meeting. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2008 AGENDA

It was motioned by Corinne Hagood and seconded by William Grayson to approve the March 6, 2008 agenda. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2008 MINUTES

It was motioned by William Grayson and seconded by Corrine Hagood to approve the February 7, 2008 minutes. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PALS Partnership with Association of Bluffton Baseball/Softball

Gary Kubic, County Administrator, addressed the Board regarding his decision to allow Association of Bluffton Baseball and Softball (ABBS) to take over Southern PALS Baseball and Softball Leagues. Mr. Kubic apologized to the Board for making the decision without explaining

it to the Board first, but he made the decision feeling that it was the best solution for overall operations. Mr. Kubic stated the decision was based on financial and operational reasons. ABBS can offer the same services for the Bluffton area for Baseball and Softball that Southern PALS offers. The change-over would save the County over \$30,000.00 in overages that PALS has been absorbing for uniforms and equipment. Now ABBS will take on the responsibilities of funding the programs and services for the Baseball/Softball League. ABBS also is a community-ran organization that is comprised of parents that has their children enrolled in PALS Baseball/Softball. The take-over will allow parents to better control their children's activities and open up more playing opportunities for the participants in the program. Although ABBS will take over operations, the County will still provide the playing fields and staff for support.

Mr. Kubic also explained that the decision was not result of the operation of Southern PALS. Mr. Kubic told the Board the County plans to cut operational spending by 10-20% overall.

Mr. Grayson asked Mr. Kubic why Northern PALS was not considered for the turn-over. Mr. Kubic explained that Northern PALS does not have such resources as Southern PALS. Mr. Grayson also asked if there are any other turnovers foreseen for the future. Mr. Kubic explained that at this point he doesn't see any other plans at this moment. Mr. Grayson asked if the decision was based on cost savings. Mr. Kubic explained that he did not look at cost savings but at production efficiency.

Mark Lawson, Former President of ABBS, addressed the Board on behalf of ABBS. Mr. Lawson explained that the move toward allowing ABBS to run the Baseball/Softball League was not a reflection on Southern PALS leadership but as a parent, it was for the children. Mr. Lawson thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

Justin Newman, President of ABBS, addressed the Board on behalf of ABBS. Mr. Newman explained that ABBS saw a need to approach the County regarding allowing ABBS to run the Southern PALS Baseball/Softball League for a better playing environment. The ABBS organization will allow all children an opportunity to play and more rotation with playing times that will better meet parent schedules. Mr. Newman explained that ABBS would like to start a Baseball/Softball League similar to Mt. Pleasant's program that offers an instructional program, a recreation program, and a travel program. With these three programs, it will allow children to learn, play, and travel to various cities to compete with other leagues verses being limited to county leagues. The concept could not be reached with the County program because of policies. ABBS has seen more excitement from parents because of take-over and look forward to the growth of the program. Mr. Newman thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort – John Miller, Jr. reporting

- A. Fort Fremont Park – Awaiting confirmation from Mr. Cullen Chambers, to put together Preservation Plan.
- B. Crystal Lake Park – Awaiting response from School District. Trust for Public Lands will approach St. Peters Catholic Church with an offer to purchase land.
- C. Senior Services Center – Plans were approved at last County Council Meeting. Activities should begin within the next 30 days to start the building process.

D. 08-09 PALS Budget – Will go over after Mr. Penale gives his report.

Southern Beaufort – Joe Penale reporting

- A. Buckwalter Community Park – Bid on schedule. Should begin later in March.
- B. Altamaha – All permits are in place. Public Works will begin a project beginning next week.
- C. Bluffton Recreation Center – Work will start shortly and be completed in July.
- D. Registration for Lacrosse - Has begun. Will be running the program with Hilton Head/Bluffton Lacrosse. The first week of registration had 35 applicants so it's looking good.
- E. Bluff Fest – Working with the Town of Bluffton for the 1st Annual Bluff Fest to be held at Bluffton High School Football Field. Proceeds will be split between PALS and Bluffton High Booster Club. The event will consist of various vendors and at the end a fireworks display at the Bluffton High Soccer Field.

Mr. Mobley asked if Lacrosse will be an organized league. Mr. Penale explained this spring will consist of a month of instruction followed by a month of games. The same will be done in the fall. Next year, the plan is to have an organized league.

Mr. Grayson asked about the proceeds of the Bluff Fest. Mr. Penale explained that this event will be used as a fundraising tool for Southern PALS. The event will mostly be paid for by the hospitality funds of Bluffton.

PALS 08-09 Budget

Mr. Miller went over all budget lines of the 08-09 Budget with the Board.

Department Name	FY 2008 Approved	FY 2009 Requested	Increase/Decrease	Reason for Increase/Decrease
Central Admin	\$140,894.00	\$165,369	17% increase	Purchase of Software to better track participants in program
Aquatics	\$309,120	\$421,881	36 % increase	Pools need to be resurfaced
Hilton Head	\$309,880	\$294,525	5 % decrease	
Bluffton	\$391,069	\$446,100	14% increase	Buckwalter Project costs, athletics, and special events
Athletics	\$441,481	\$484,160	10% increase	Purchase of one vehicle replacement and recreational equipment
Centers	\$387,992	\$440,016	13% increase	Purchase of two vehicle replacements and multipurpose fitness station equipment for St. Helena Gym

The total PALS 2009 Requested budget is \$2,261,851.

Mr. Grayson asked if the purchase of the new software for athletics will make registration smoother. He went online to look at Southern PALS website and it said that Southern PALS

does not provide online registration. Mr. Penale explained that Southern PALS has elected not to utilize the online registration software because it is too time consuming. It takes his staff 15 - 20 minutes to decipher information for each registrant.

Ms. Hagood asked if any vehicles being purchased will be hybrid to save fuel. Mr. Miller explained that PALS does not currently have or requested in hybrid vehicles.

Mr. Grayson asked the differentials between the line items labeled Bluffton, Athletics, and Centers. Mr. Miller explained that Bluffton includes recreation and centers. Athletics covers the athletic programs for Northern PALS. Centers cover the centers for Northern PALS. Mr. Grayson asked why are Northern PALS numbers more than Southern PALS. Mr. Miller and Mr. Penale explained that Northern PALS has more centers and athletic facilities than Southern PALS.

Mr. Manesiotis asked if once the Board approves the budget, what happens next. Mr. Kubic explained to the Board that the budget will then go to Mr. Bryan Hill, Budget Analyst, who will meet with each department to discuss possible changes. Mr. Kubic also explained that Beaufort County is working out of a deficit budget and he is working toward correcting that. In doing so, he will be asking department heads, more so PALS and the Library Systems to look at cutting 10 - 20% of their operational budgets. For PALS, this may mean closing of facilities or pools. For the Library, this may mean cutting down on hours of operations for branches. But overall, the PALS budget will be cut.

It was motioned by Corrine Hagood and seconded by Michael Manesiotis to approve the 2009 Requested budget. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mobley thanked everyone for attending meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 2:30 pm at the Bluffton Recreation Center, Bluffton, South Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.