

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

Bluffton Recreation Center
Thursday, June 5, 2008
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern, Vice Chairman
Robert Anderson
William Grayson
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis
Thomas Mobley

Board Members Absent: William Brown
Bill Evans

Staff Present: Eddie Bellamy, Interim Director of Public Services
John Miller, Director of Northern Beaufort PALS
Joseph Penale, Director of Southern Beaufort PALS
Sherry Gordon-Jones, Administrative Assistant to Directors

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Middleton, Chairman, at 2:31 pm.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 2008 AGENDA

It was motioned by Allan Stern and seconded by William Grayson to approve the June 5, 2008 agenda. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MAY 1, 2008 MINUTES

It was motioned by Allan Stern and seconded by Thomas Mobley to approve the May 1, 2008 minutes. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort – John Miller, Jr. reporting

- A. Interim Director of Public Services – Mr. Miller informed the Board that Mr. Khattak has resigned as Director of Public Services and Mr. Bellamy will resume his post as Interim Director of Public Services until further notice.

- B. Fort Fremont Park – Awaiting Preservation Plan from Mr. Cullen Chambers. Mr. Chambers has been out of the office on a family emergency. The Board will be updated once we speak with Cullen. The report is due in July.
- C. Crystal Lake Park – PALS is talking with Truitt Rabun to discuss completion of the Master Plan. Glenn Stanford has taken over the negotiations since Fred Lewis has been transferred to another department. Glenn has asked Mr. Rabun to complete the Conceptual Master Plan with the information that he currently possesses. Glenn is still in the negotiations process with the church for property.
- D. Senior Services Center – Currently under construction. The rods for the footing has been placed and they will pour the footing next week. PALS is anticipating completion by late August or early September.
- E. Agnes Major Center Lease – An e-mail was sent to Kelly Golden, County Staff Attorney, requesting a response so that we can finalize the process. Mr. Grayson asked if this Agnes Major Lease is the same lease that has been discussed for the past year and half. Mr. Miller explained that it is.
- F. New PALS Advisory Board Member Appointee – Mr. Robert Anderson was appointed by the Council to fill Bryan Hill’s place on the Board. A representative with the school district will still need to be appointed if Mr. Evans will not be active anymore. Mr. Grayson asked if Mr. Evans was no longer on the Board. Mr. Miller explained that an e-mail was received a couple of months ago from Mr. Evans explaining that Mr. Anderson was taking Mr. Evans place as a school district representative but since Mr. Anderson has been appointed in a voting capacity, a school rep will be appointed. PALS will get more clarification and report to the Board at the next meeting.
- G. June 9th Council Meeting – Mr. Stern’s Volleyball Team and PALS 9-10 year old All Stars will be recognized as State Champions.
- H. June 23rd Council Meeting – The Council will be presenting the proclamation to the PALS Advisory Board Chair, Mr. Middleton, in recognition of National Parks and Recreation Month.
- I. Fuel Saving Measures – In attempting to counteract the increased fuel prices, Northern PALS will receive two Toyota Prius hybrid vehicles as a means of saving on fuel costs.
- J. Summer Camp – There are over 300 children registered so far. This amount is around the same range as last year.

Southern Beaufort – Joe Penale reporting

- A. Buckwalter Recreation Center – The estimates are back from the architectural firm at \$5.8 Million. This means that Southern PALS had to earmark \$1.8 Million in impacts fees for Bluffton to cover potential cost. The earmarking does not mean that the entire project will be completed but as much will be done as PALS can afford. Bids will go out next month. Mr. Kubic wants to move forward with the project.
- B. Altamaha – Altamaha Town Heritage Preserve Project completed. The signs are in. The letters came in on yesterday and are being painted. The signs should be completed and up within the next week. Mr. Penale will get with Mr. Kubic on a grand opening date. The Board will be informed of that date once plans are made.
- C. Bluffton Recreation Center – Gym construction has begun. Construction will also take place in the outer buildings and the Recreation Center also.
- D. Baseball Program – Season is ending and tournaments are beginning.

E. 13-15 yr. old Dixie Belles – The Dixie Belles sign up was at the end of February in which there were 21 girls registered. The girls were never contacted by anyone nor did they have a draft. Mr. Penale sent an e-mail to ABBS in May asking what was going on with this age group which was forwarded to Mr. Larson and Mr. Hickey. A response was never given. On May 15th an e-mail was sent from an ABBS Board Member explaining that there were not enough girls for two teams and there wasn't anyone to play against. Mr. Penale contacted Mr. Miller and Jasper County Athletics. Mr. Miller has three teams and Jasper had one. That would have given ABBS five teams to play against each other. ABBS has dropped that age group and PALS had to reimburse 21 girls' registration fees. Mr. Penale explained that this is an example of what he was afraid would happen with the ABBS take-over. Mr. Penale asked the Board if they could recommend the Board's Program Committee to do a telephone survey of random parents of their thoughts on the ABBS takeover this year. Once the Program Committee has completed the survey, a letter could be drafted to Mr. Kubic with the findings. Mr. Middleton asked Mr. Penale for clarification on what he wanted the survey to accomplish. Mr. Penale explained that the survey would poll the parents' thoughts on the progress of baseball since the ABBS takeover and their overall feelings of process. Mrs. Hagood asked Mr. Penale if he would provide a list to the Program Committee which consists of Mrs. Hagood, Mr. Grayson, and Mr. Brown. Mr. Penale agreed to get the information to them to allow time for completion prior to the next Board meeting. Mr. Grayson asked if Southern PALS has received any feedback on the ABBS takeover. Mr. Penale explained that all PALS has received is negative feedback. Mr. Grayson explained that he has witnessed first-hand the lack of communication within the ABBS process whereas PALS has listed all the scores and had footage of games in the newspaper....ABBS has not publicized anything on the baseball program. Mr. Penale explained that he hates to see the entire program turned over to ABBS if programs are not going to continue as they have been. Mr. Mobley asked if there was supposed to be a checks and balance between PALS and ABBS. Mr. Penale explained that PALS had an appointed liaison that ABBS would report to with the progress and numbers. So far, there has been no communication. ABBS has been reporting to Mr. Kubic.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Manesiotis asked if the expenditure report that the Board got was based on the new budget. Mr. Miller explained that it was just a monthly expenditure report. The 2009 Budget has not been approved, it is still going through budget hearings. PALS has been informed that the 2009 Budget will reflect the same as 2008's Budget...no increases, but that can change. Once the budget is approved, the Board will receive final numbers. Mr. Bellamy explained that there will be zero growth with the upcoming budget. Mr. Bellamy also explained that in an effort to cut costs, the county will utilize the County's television channel to televise live Council Meetings and possibly move to web-based or conference calls for many County meetings to reduce rising cost of fuel and other utilities. Mr. Bellamy also explained that the County is potentially considering going to four 10- hour working days rather than five 8-hour days to cut down on cost.

Mrs. Hagood asked if photographer is still going to take pictures of PALS properties as explained at previous meetings. Mr. Miller and Mr. Penale explained that the photographer has

taken some pictures and will be attending various events to photograph for the County broadcast channel.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Middleton thanked everyone for attending meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.