

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center
Thursday, June 6, 2019
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Bruce Yeager, Mike Manesiotis, Carlos Cave, Bill Brown, Arthur Middleton

Staff Present: Shannon Loper (Parks and Recreation Director), Matt Watts (Parks and Recreation Deputy Director), Phil Foot (Director of Public Safety), Jennifer Williamsen (Administrative Assistant), Vincent Leon (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Antoinette Binette (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Raymond Hines (Athletic Supervisor), Harry Perry (Athletic Manager)

Guests Present: Frank Sole – Island Recreation Center, Jeremy Herron - Marriot

Call to Order: Arthur Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all that were present. Introductions were made around the room.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Review: The board approved the minutes for April 4, 2019. Bruce Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes and Carlos Cave seconded the motion. All approved.

New Business:

Island Recreation Update: Frank Sole presented a slide show featuring the updated Island Recreation Center and happenings there. The fitness center is doing well. There are about 1500 new memberships for the center and the pool and these are all people that are new to the Island Recreation Association. Swim lessons are going really well. Water aerobics classes have been added. There are active senior programs taking place at the senior center. There are about 600 monthly members. They take trips, play games and have many activities to participate in. Summer camp is up and running. We are averaging about 200 kids per day. We just had the week of champions take place there. Tennis lessons are taking place as well as other sports camps will take place this summer. We offer buy two get one free for the camps. The town is working on updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We will be reaching out to Shannon and her staff in the next 30 days to speak with our consultant about that. We are preparing information currently to share with that consultant. Frank spoke about how having the pool and the recreation facility all in one place is very helpful to the community.

Director's Report:

Lind Brown Pool Update: Shannon explained that the pool is in the process of being resurfaced. She went through the steps that it takes to have this done. We hope to open in three weeks or possibly before. The rain is affecting the schedule.

Pickle ball Court Update: Shannon explained that we are in the final stages with the engineer on the plans. A picture of the proposed look was shared with the board. We ended up with eight courts since putting twelve would not fit due to the wetlands. Estimate to construct the eight courts is just over \$400,000. We are paying for the design, engineer and beginning stages with funds left in the budget for this year which ends July 1, 2019. We will not have all the funds up front but impact fees and capitol money will help cover the cost. The location is to the right of the senior center.

Atax Funding Update: We have been approved from Beaufort County for \$50,000 per tournament. The Town Of Bluffton Atax committee also approved us for the additional \$50,000 per tournament and it will go to The Town of Bluffton Council on Tuesday for final approval. If it is approved, we will be covered for the entire amount that we estimate both tournaments to cost.

Fundraisers: Swim: Shannon read a letter to the board written by Brayden Mitchell's mother explaining how Brayden drown at the age of two in a family friend's pool. His mom, Brielle Mitchell, came to us and asked if she could hold a fundraiser to raise money to pay children to have swim lessons. Together with this money and our scholarship funding, we should be able to provide swim lessons at Battery Creek pool by our lifeguards to many children. Both our pool managers will attend the fundraiser to answer questions and promote the program. Ms. Mitchell expressed that she is even willing to pick the children up and take them to the lessons. She asked that the fees involved with renting our field be waived for the day of the fundraiser. Arthur Middleton proposed to grant the waiver and all were in favor.

Kickball: Jeremy Herron from The Marriot spoke about a proposal to have a kickball tournament with teams made up of several Marriot location employees. The proceeds would benefit The Children's Miracle Network. He asked to use one of our fields for a four-hour event. It would include a tournament and raffles. All money made would go to the network and he is hoping through donations there will be no cost to hold the event. Donations from local businesses will be use for the raffles. Jeremy claims he will call the local networks and news crews to cover the event and include promoting Parks and Recreation as a partner in the event. Shannon was in favor of the event and explained that we are trying to add kickball as an adult sport so it would not be a bad thing to have such an event to peak people's interest in the sport. Mike Manesiotis made a motion to approve a waiver for the use of a field for the event. Carlos Cave seconded the motion. Arthur Middleton asked that the motion be approved and all were in favor.

Adult Baseball Rate: Shannon explained that we were approached by a group out in Beaufort to start an adult baseball league. The numbers there have been declining and we saw this as a positive thing to promote adult sports. Our current fee for team play is \$450.00 per team. We would like to add the option of individuals coming in and signing up for \$50.00 per person like the one we do for volleyball, soccer and basketball. It will take time to build this league up and if they can sign up individually, teams can then be made up from the people who have signed up. Bruce Yeager made a motion to accept the fee of \$50.00 per person for adult softball. Carlos Cave seconded the motion. Arthur Middleton asked that the motion be approved and all were in favor.

Deputy Director's Report:

Athletics: We have had a good turnout for all out registrations for summer. Summer basketball in Beaufort, we have almost doubled our numbers from last year. Numbers are still not where we want to be but it is growth. Bluffton numbers are the same as last year. High school lacrosse numbers are up for both Bluffton and Beaufort. Adult baseball registration is going well. Looking to have three teams play at Burton Wells. Church baseball looks like it will be nine teams out in Beaufort.

Programs: We are providing more summer camps this year than in the past. We have golf camp, two lacrosse camps, and five soccer camps. Camps will be held in Bluffton and Beaufort.

Tournaments: We are collaborating with Low Country Crusaders and the Bluffton Police Department to hold a three on 3-basketball tournament. It will be youth and adult teams. There will also be a three-point contest. 70 percent of proceeds will go to The Low Country Crusaders and 30 percent will go to the county. This will take place on June 29th. We will be hosting the Ozone Tournament at Burton Wells as well as the Triple A district tournament in June. In July we will host Dixie Youth Ozone and Dixie Jr Boys State tournaments at Oscar Frazier Park. Tournament packets are available for the boards review. There will be merchandise available for sale with the tournament logo on it. Shannon asked that the board volunteer as announcers and scorekeepers.

Aquatics: Anny Binette presented programs for Battery Creek and Beaufort pools. Vinnie Leon presented programs for the Bluffton Pool. Programs include BOGA, swimming lessons, water aerobics, school lessons and lifeguard training. Summer camps begin June 5th and they will take place at the indoor pool until the outdoor pool opens.

Employee Update: We have one opening for an Administrative Clerk because one that we have now is moving next week. We will get a temporary worker in to help until that is filled. One Athletic Supervisor has been filled by Raymond Hines and an offer has been made to a second candidate, which will fill the openings for that position. Grounds Maintenance has two positions to fill. Shannon stated when asked that it is challenging but going well with grounds maintenance and it is easier to get stuff done without waiting on anyone else. Phil Foot explained how this was our first full year with Grounds Maintenance of our own and moving forward the budget would be amended to reflect the needs.

Questions: No questions.

Announcements: Next meeting – August 1, 2019 Beaufort

Adjourned: 3:23 PM

