

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Buckwalter Recreation Center  
Thursday, November 7, 2019  
2:30 PM

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**Board Members Present:** Bruce Yeager, Phil Kaiser, Will McCullaugh , Eric Priester , Carlos Cave, Ron Campbell

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Manesiotis, Bill Brown

**Staff Present:** Shannon Loper (Parks and Recreation Director), Matt Watts (Parks and Recreation Deputy Director), Phil Foot (Director of Public Safety), Eva Golis (Senior Administrative Assistant), Vincent Leon (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Antoinette Binette (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Harry Perry (Athletic Manager), Evan Christian (Athletic Supervisor), Thomas Shotter (Marketing Assistant)

**Guests Present:** Ray McBride – Director of Libraries  
John Campbell – Construction Manager- Beaufort County

**Call to Order:** Bruce Yeager called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance, was said by all that were present. Introductions were made around the room. Bruce Yeager mentioned that number 8 of the agenda needed to be taken out due to legal issues. Shannon asked to have a discount to be given out at the Bluffton and Beaufort parade be added to the agenda. Eric Priester made a motion to approve the agenda. Phil Kaiser second the motion. The Agenda was passed.

**Public Comment:** Jan Horan – Downtown Beaufort Tennis: Discussed the conditions of the courts. A packet of information was handed out at will be provided.

Emily Uckerman – Northern Beaufort County Pickle Ball: Currently playing at “the Shed” She would like to know when the pickle ball courts might be Built and where.

**Review:** The board approved the minutes for June 6, 2019. Bruce Yeager made a motion to approve the minutes and Carlos Cave seconded the motion. All approved.

## **New Business:**

**Coosaw Community Group:** Mr. Isiah Smalls spoke on behalf of the group. He stated that he is not there for any monies but would like consideration on use of the center. They built the center in 1984 and took care of it until signing a 25 year agreement with the county. The agreement stated that we would take over maintaining the center, paying the expenses for use of the center. When someone called to book the center they were told that there is a security deposit of \$200.00 and that they would need to have their own insurance for the type of event that they were having. The community understands that these costs are necessary to offset the expenses of the center but they feel that they should have some sort of sliding scale. They have discussed that when the agreement is over that they take control of the center back, unfortunately they feel the center needs renovations. They would like the county to make the necessary renovations before they would take control back.

**Pool Presentation:** John Campbell from the engineering dept. with Beaufort County presented the difference of what the Board gave PAR to fix all three pools and what is actually needed to repair the three. Originally the board gave PAR \$525,000.00 to repair all three pools. With further investigating the cost of the Bluffton Pool alone would be around \$600,000.00. This does not include the replacement of the HVAC system. With a new HVAC system the cost would be \$700,000.00 - 775,000.00. The current one is between 17-20 years old. This is only a part of the problem currently at the Bluffton Pool. There is major corrosion with the "envelope" of the pool. The roof is made up of double pane panels that have air leaking both in and out as well as moisture getting between the panes, causing mold and mildew between some of the panels. The corrosion is caused by the leaking of the air, the mold and mildew as well as the environment inside the pool. In regard to the corrosion, Bluffton is the worst at this time because it is the most used. Bluffton Pool is used twice as much as the other two pools combined. There are areas of the pool where the plaster is chipping away from the concrete. This is also covered in the higher quote. In 2000, the county entered into an agreement with the school district that we maintain and operate all three pools for 25 years. Mr. Foot explained that the estimated cost is different because the structure had not been looked at prior. He would like the Board to give them their recommendation as how to proceed. Mr. Yeager asked if the money that was given by council could be used for anything else. Mr. Foot replied that the money was solely given for the pools and any other use would need the council to re-appropriate those funds, which would take at least. PAR would like to go ahead and move forward with the necessary work with the understanding that we would go back to council for the additional funding to complete all three pools. He would like more information as to the long range plans for the pools.

## **Director's Report:**

**Pickle ball Court Update:** Shannon explained that the location that they would have liked to use for the Pickle ball court is now going to be the Library. The building is paid for by impact fees. Unfortunately the Burton area is not high for impact fee. It is going to be around \$ 477,000.00 to build the courts. At this time there is \$40,000.00 that came from impact fees in the last 3 years. In December the plan is to reach out to see if we could get a 50/50 grant which would allow a 3 year build time. Mr. Yeager noted that at this rate this rate the courts might never be built. We would like the Board to approve the 50/50 grant. Mr. Yeager mentioned that they are currently playing at "the shed" in Port Royal. Shannon reminded the board, that location is owned by the town of Port Royal and they do not pay into the impact fees for Beaufort County. The only thing to do right now is for Pickle Ball to share the courts with tennis courts. Some suggestions to lower the cost would be not to have a roof on the courts, lower cost fencing.

**Downtown Tennis Update:** Wayne Lily came to us for upgrades on the tennis courts. He received a \$60,000.00 grant from USTA. The grant is with the stipulation that the drainage issue is repaired. We contacted engineering who intern contacted Andrews Engineering. They did confirm that there is an issue. The cost for the repair is \$20,000.00. These costs we put in last year's budget and it was not approved. \$20-25,000.00 has already been spent to repaint the courts. To renovate all the courts it would be approximately \$25,000.00 per court.

**Fee to Advertise on the Televisions:** There are 2 televisions in the main hallway at the Buckwalter Center. We have had some interest in having businesses advertise on these screens. Shannon has come up with a suggested amount using what it costs for a banner and the length of time that the banner is up. The cost would be \$100.00 per month, \$250.00 per quarter or \$700.00 annually. The banner cost is \$300.00 per season which is about 2 months or \$500.00 for the quarter. All ad content would have to be approved before anything was shown. Mr. Yeager asked if an answer was needed today. Shannon said yes. Mr. McCullough made a motion for the cost and placement of ads to run on the televisions in the center. Mr. Kaiser second, no one opposed.

**Room Rental Deposit:** There is currently a deposit of \$50.00 on a rental of a center room. Unfortunately when people have been renting the room until the closing time, they are going later then allowed and forfeiting the deposit. Shannon would like to raise the deposit for those rentals that go until the closing time of the center to be \$100.00. She is hoping that this will deter people from staying later then allowed. Mr. Priester mentioned that there needs to be something in the contract stating this fee charge. Mr. Priester made the motion that the security deposit for a rental that is going to the closing time of the facility be changed to \$100.00. Mr. Kaiser second the motion. No one opposed.

**Special Need Rate:** There is a member that comes in with her mentally disabled son. He is in his mid to late 20's. She has asked if there was any way that he could have a discounted rate or even be free. All he does is walk on the track with her. He does not use any of the equipment or the gym. She is currently paying the full rate for herself and him. Mr. Yeager asked how we would qualify someone with these needs. Shannon stated that there is medical documentation. There is also a program that most of the people are in. Mr. Priester made the motion that any person medical diagnosis of Special Needs and the proper documentation will be able to use the facilities for free as long as they are with a companion paying the facilities fee and staying with that individual. Mr. Kaiser second the motion. No one opposed.

**Time change for Buckwalter:** At the Buckwalter center the opening time has changed to 7am. We have had a pretty good turn out so far. The first day we had 18 members, the second day was election day and not as many and the third day was 16. The trial basis is just until January 1<sup>st</sup>, unless, the numbers can support the opening.

**Pool Hours:** It has been brought to Shannon's attention that during the week after 7pm not many patrons are coming into the pool. This is also on Saturday after 1pm. Shannon would like to change the hours of operation to

7pm during the week and 1pm on Saturdays. Mr. Priester made motion to change the hours of all the pools, Mr Kaiser second. None opposed.

**Les Mils:** Les Mils is a program that was being offered at Breakthrough Fitness in Bluffton. The recently closed and offered us their equipment. We contacted Les Mils and met with them. We will run the program at Buckwalter. It cannot be in Beaufort because as of now the YMCA is going to have it. They like to only have one in an area. If for some reason the Y does not run the program then we will get it for Burton Wells. The program will be a 70/30 split. The patrons will pay us the facility fee and be charged per class. The classes will be taught by Les Mils instructors and will be held in one of the classrooms.

**Hot Dogs with Cops:** The Bluffton Police department reached out to us and asked if they could use Oscar Frazier for this event. It was open to all and the purpose of the event was to have the community come together with the police and spend time getting to know each other. They want the children to not be afraid of the police. They ended up serving 1400 hot dogs. They are thinking this may be a yearly event. Mr. Yeager asked why it was just Bluffton. Shannon told him that it was the police that got in contact with her for the event. If Beaufort came to us that would be fine also.

**First Responder Scuba:** Our first responders came to us to use the pool for their recertification class. As of now we never had a fee for this. Shannon let them use the pool for free stating she would find out if there is a charge for this. She would like to know if any charged could be waived as they are recertifying in case of the event they are called upon for the community. Mr. Priester made the motion to have the First Responders recertification class be free of charge. Mr. Kaiser second, no one opposed.

#### **Deputy Director's Report:**

**Tournaments:** We hosted the Ozone Tournament at Burton Wells as well as the Triple "A" district tournament in June. In July we hosted Dixie Youth Ozone and Dixie Jr Boys State tournaments at Oscar Frazier Park. Beaufort County Junior Boys were finalist in their division. They did end up going to the World Series in Aiken, because Arkansas fell out. There were 8 boys from Beaufort and 5 from Bluffton. The Chamber of Commerce gave us a survey. The results of the survey were as follows:

- Economic Impact – Tournaments**
  - 72% of the patrons stayed for at least seven days**
  - 70% of the patrons stayed at a full service hotel**
  - 89% of the patrons said the tournaments were extremely influential when planning their trip to Bluffton**
  - 92% said they would not have visited Bluffton if the tournament wasn't held here**
  - 46% said they were likely to return to Bluffton even if the tournament is not occurring**
  - 79% of patrons said they spent \$50-\$200 a day on restaurant dining**
  - 71% rated our staff friendliness as very good (none said**
  - 83% said the overall value of our tournaments were good to very good**

In total there were 384 families that came to the Bluffton area for the tournament. Next year we are planning on hosting the State Softball Tournament in Beaufort.

**Athletics:** Fall sports registration has the following increases and one decrease this year.

- Fall Sports Registration**
  - Beaufort**
    - Youth Baseball – 56 (+2)**
    - Youth Flag Football – 20 (-4)**
    - Youth Soccer – 316 (+17)**
    - Youth Tennis – 16 (+12)**
    - Adult Church League Softball – 8 teams (increased by 1 team)**
  - Bluffton**
    - Youth Baseball – 273 (+46)**
    - Youth Cheerleading – 34 (+6)**
    - Youth Flag Football – 149 (+7)**
    - Youth Soccer – 783 (+24)**
    - Youth Softball – 83 (+29)**
    - Youth Tennis – 24 (+5)**
    - Adult Softball – 34 teams (increased by 1 team)**
    - Adult Volleyball – 6 teams**
  - Tackle Football**
    - We did not have enough participants in either Beaufort or Bluffton to have a program this fall**

**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.

**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. All pools have seen an increase in use.

**Employee Update:** Evan Christian has started as an Athletic Supervisor in Bluffton. Thomas Schotter is our new Marketing Assistant. There are still two Athletic Supervisor position open. Shannon and Phil Foot met with Ashley in regard to Maintenance. We feel each crew should have a crew leader. We are just waiting on her decision.

**Questions:** No questions.

Mr. McCullaugh motioned to go to executive session. Mr. Kiser second. No one opposed.

### **Executive Session**

**Coosaw Community Center:** Mr. Priester made a motion to recommend to County Council that the Board would like to terminate the lease. Mr. McCullaugh second the motion. No one opposed. Mr. Priester made a second motion that if County Council wants the lease to continue then his recommendation is that they are charged the appropriate fees when using the facility. Mr. McCullaugh second and no one opposed.

**Holy Trinity School:** Mr. Priester made a motion that the fee for using the facility be reduced to \$250.00 per game instead of \$500.00 they are paying now. Mr. Kaiser second the motion. No one opposed.

**Three was tabled**

**Tim Waz :** Request for a fee reduction to our standard fees. Mr. McCullaugh motioned that the fee be reduced to \$500.00 total and waive the \$200.00 per day fee per day for the twilight run for this inaugural event only. Mr. Priester second. No one opposed.

Mr. McCullaugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Priester second the motion. No one opposed.

**Announcements:** Next meeting – January 2, 2020 in Beaufort. Mr. Yeager asked to see if the meeting could be moved to the following week, January 9, 2020, because it is so close to the Holiday. Shannon will get in touch with Cheryl to see if the executive conference room is available for that date.

**Adjourned:**

