

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

MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

**BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3:30 P.M.**

Present: James Vicar, Chair
Orethia White
William McDuff
Jimmy Mackey
John Parker
William Brown for Colonel Robert Hayes
Arthur Middleton
Allen Stern

Absent: Ben Barnes, Jr.

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Acting Director
Joseph Penale, Acting Deputy Director
Marjorie Lamb-Strawn, Aquatics Supervisor
Jean Schroder, Assistant to the Director

County Staff: Morris C. Campbell, Deputy Administrator, Community Services

County Council: William C. McBride, Chair of County Council
Community Services Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Vicar called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF 5 MARCH 2001 AGENDA

Mr. Vicar requested an amendment to the agenda. The subject of "Aquatics Update" will be inserted after "Chairman's Correspondence".

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

Mr. Stern seconded the motion.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 8 JANUARY 2001 MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes.

Discussion: none.

Mr. Brown abstained.

Motion passed unanimously.

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MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

APPROVAL OF 5 FEBRUARY 2001 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the minutes.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

Discussion: none.

Mr. Brown abstained.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kirkwood presented a request for more space at the gymnastics center. In approximately five months, the one year lease entered into last year will expire. County Council is in the process of looking at space allocations throughout the county. More space is needed because children in the program are progressing at such a rapid rate they need more training tools. In order to do that more space is required. Additionally, more space allows more programming.

Mr. Kirkwood also presented a proposal to establish the Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services Youth Sports Academy. The Academy would be dedicated to enhancing the physical skills of children while contributing to their cognitive, social, and emotional development. This program would be available to everyone, regardless of their income level. The President's Council on Physical Fitness has written a letter to the President stating that a more concerted effort needs to be made to get America's youth healthy. There are already other programs in place across the country involved in such a multi-faceted program, focusing on movement education, gymnastics, wrestling, cheerleading, aerobics and stretching/strength training for children. A junior Olympic weight training program & a sports skills instruction program would serve not only as a home for the Junior Olympic volleyball program, but also provide a venue in which to provide age appropriate sports skill instruction in a safe and comfortable environment.

Potential partners in this venture are unlimited; anyone who has anything to do with children could be a partner, (i.e., the school district). Eight programs of this type are currently funded in South Carolina. A program in Charleston County has received \$880,000 of grants to provide the services previously mentioned. These grants are normally for a three-year period. Other partners could include the private school sector, day care centers, First Steps, Early Start, and Marine Corps Community Services.

Mr. Kirkwood indicated that he had spoken with Mr. Miller regarding five acres in the Shell Point area potentially available for a gymnastic training center and multi-use facility. Mr. Kirkwood urged the Board to make resources available and to form a working group to study this proposal.

Discussion: None.

The Board will appoint a committee to research this proposal. Mr. Kirkwood was advised that he would be notified of the results of this review. The Board extended their appreciation to Mr. Kirkwood for his efforts.

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MINUTES
MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001**

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Michael Glaze has resigned from the Parks and Leisure Services Board effective 21 February 2001. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Glaze states, in part: "...professional training requirements have created more demands on me and made it impossible to remain an active participant in the Parks and Leisure Services Board...".

A letter from Mr. John F. McDonough, Beaufort City Manager, to Mr. John Miller, Jr., Acting Director, Parks and Leisure Services, dated 20 February 2001, was read to the Board regarding the parking lot at the Basil Green Recreation Complex. This topic will be covered in detail under Agenda Item X, Parking Lot at Basil Green.

A letter from Mr. Simon Fraser, Parks and Leisure Services Board, and Hilton Head Baseball Association, dated 26 February 2001, to Mr. Thomas C. Taylor, County Council Chair, regarding transfer of field maintenance from Parks & Leisure Services to Public Works was read to the Board. This letter stated, in summary, that Parks and Leisure Services has done a fine job in getting fields ready for games and understands the needs of constituent user groups. A request was made to continue this effort. Hilton Head Baseball Association is concerned that services will suffer as a result of the transfer of field maintenance to Public Works.

Discussion:

Mr. Vicar spoke to County Council at their last meeting and was assured that the 5 March 2001 transition of the Maintenance Department will be a seamless, transparent change with no adverse effects.

The following questions were asked: what budget code does the maintenance department now report to? Much equipment purchased with Parks and Leisure Services funds was transferred to Public Works; will any money be recovered by Parks and Leisure Services to offset this transfer? What affect has this transfer had on the Parks and Leisure Services budget for this year?

The Board expressed their opinion that the Grounds and Maintenance Department does an outstanding job for Parks and Leisure Services. Public Works will continue to provide these same services.

Mr. Stern made a motion to express official concern to County Council regarding significant budget and staffing ramifications due to the transfer.

Mr. Mackey seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Vicar will attend the next County Council meeting.

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MINUTES**

MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

AQUATICS UPDATE

Mrs. Lamb-Strawn spoke about the Learn To Swim program. The program, which is still under development by Parks and Leisure Services staff, would be offered to all second and third grade students in Beaufort County. There are 14 elementary schools, with a targeted public school student enrollment of approximately 1400. Private school and home school students will also be afforded the opportunity for participation, with a targeted enrollment of approximately 860. This brings the total overall projected enrollment to 2,260 students.

The School District would be responsible for the following:

- Secure parental permission to participate in Learn To Swim Program.
- Transport students to and from pools.
- Supervise students while being transported.
- Supervise students while in changing rooms at pool.
- Assist with supervision of students on pool deck.
- Limit number of students to a maximum of 30 or a minimum of 10 per session.

The Parks and Leisure Services would be responsible for the following:

- Provide a safe and operable pool for swim instruction.
- Provide certified instructors to teach swim lesson.
- Teach each second and third grade student Water Survival skills.
- Provide American Red Cross certification certificate for level completed.
- Provide District with parental permission slips for distribution.
- Schedule of Learn To Swim Program sessions.

The program would be conducted in conjunction with the American Red Cross Aquatics Programs and would provide each student the opportunity to learn water safety and swimming techniques. The student would receive Red Cross certification for each level of instruction successfully completed. The levels range from Level I through Level VII. If the student progresses beyond the highest level, then another type of program such as synchronized swimming or water polo could be offered. This provides an opportunity to show students there are other water sports other than just swimming.

Questions were raised about the availability of this program for older students. Mrs. Lamb-Strawn responded that as time permits and the progress of the current program is noted, additional programming could be added. There is not a pool at every school, raising the issue of scheduling procedures. Island Recreation should be included in the overall scheduling plan.

The Board expressed a desire to see water survival taught as part of the program.

Steel framing is up at MC Riley pool. Battery Creek pool is waiting for good weather to begin construction. Beaufort High plumbing has been installed; awaiting permit to begin construction.

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MINUTES**

MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

BARKER FIELD PARKING LOT

The requisition for purchase of materials has been signed. The materials have been ordered and are on their way to the site. Construction is expected to begin the week of 12 March 2001. The project began later than the projected mid-February start date because additional bids had to be solicited for purchase of materials in excess of \$25,000. The bids were for materials only, no bids for labor were included.

COOSAW CENTER RENOVATION

This project is moving ahead. The building was inspected by Mark Roseneau and the architect on 2 March 2001. The deadline for this project is 31 May 2001.

BLADEN STREET TENNIS COURTS

Mr. Robert Klink, County Engineer, has stated that construction will begin as soon as possible. Mr. Vicar will mention this to County Council.

PARKING LOT AT BASIL GREEN

In a 20 February 2001, letter from Mr. John F. McDonough, Beaufort City Manager, to Mr. John Miller, Jr., Acting Director, Parks and Leisure Services, it was stated, in part: "...After doing some research, it is my understanding that at the time when the City was considering the construction of a skateboard park facility it was also contemplating some on-site parking improvements. However, since the skateboard park project has been placed on hold by City Council, the City has no current plans to make parking improvements at the Basil Green Complex. If the City should change its position on the skateboard park, I will contact you so that we may work together...".

Discussion: The Board is of the opinion that the City agreed to develop the parking lot whether or not a skateboard park was built. All parties would be willing to meet for discussion regarding a mutually agreeable arrangement. There is no further information presently available.

RENAMING OF SEASIDE CENTER TO GLORIA POTTS CENTER

The Beaufort County Council, Community Services Committee, has already notified the parties sending the request that they would have to wait five years from the date of death before the request to rename Seaside Center to Gloria Potts Center could receive consideration. There is currently a plaque in place at the site recognizing Gloria Potts for her contributions to the county in terms of obtaining the property and the funds for the center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Stern reported for the Finance Committee. He suggested that to expedite the Parks and Leisure Services Board review of the budget, a one line justification/explanation be written for any item going up or down by 15%. A question of concern to the board is: How will the monies expended by Parks and Leisure Services on equipment for the Maintenance Department be reallocated or recovered now that this equipment is assigned to Public Works?

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

Mr. Miller reported that Parks and Leisure Services is recreating the entire budget to reflect the recent transfer of Maintenance to Public Works. The budget is to be submitted by 16 March 2001. There has been an overall increase in budget of 13%. Aquatics was listed as a separate line item.

Mr. Vicar recommended that the Parks and Leisure Services Board support/accept the budget.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Teams have been selected for the baseball/softball league, ages 5-12. Practice starts 5 March 2001.

Association of Bluffton Baseball/Softball and Northern Beaufort Baseball/Softball Association will be meeting to go over proposed Memorandums of Agreement.

An update regarding the Burton Wells project is scheduled for the 2 April 2001 Parks and Leisure Services Board meeting. Final plans will be presented.

The Hilton Head Tennis Courts Maintenance Agreement is still in the hands of the school district attorneys.

Park contract agreements are signed by the Mr. Kachmar, County Administrator.

Bids on construction costs for Coosaw Center renovations are being collected.

Mr. Vicar recommended that the Mink Point gymnasium roof be replaced, not repaired.

OLD BUSINESS

Only 2001 Capital Improvements Projects have been approved. Funds are approved only one year at a time even though a plan was completed indicating projects to be accomplished over the next five years.

Mr. Mackey asked about the funding for Jones Park. The \$700,000 budget item for Jones Park is for the actual 40-acre park itself. The Town of Bluffton received a \$50,000 grant for a trails system under the Rails to Trails program. The trail, formerly an old railroad bed, will connect Jones Park to the Jones Development and will also eventually connect the Jones Development to Buckwalter. Parks and Leisure Services will budget for recreation programming.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mackey will chair a Gymnastics Committee. This committee will research Mr. Kirkwood's proposal and submit a report at the next meeting.

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MINUTES**

MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2001

The Board wishes to extend best wishes to the family of Mr. Asa Godowns. His death was a tragic loss to the community. Mr. Godowns served for 30 years with Emergency Management Services and will be missed both personally and professionally.

NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services Board will be held on 2 April 2001 @ 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the County Administration Building.