

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2001
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
3:30 P.M.**

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chair
Orethia White, Vice Chair
James Vicar
Allan Stern
Thomas Mobley
Jimmy Mackey
William McDuff
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis

Absent: William Brown
John Parker

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Acting Director
Claudine Campbell, Assistant to the Director

Administration: Morris C. Campbell, Deputy Administrator

County Council: William McBride, Committee Chairman, Council Community Services

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6, 2001 AGENDA

Mr. Mackey motioned to approve the agenda.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 1, 2001 MINUTES

Mr. Mackey motioned to approve the minutes.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bobby Smith and Mr. Kenneth Singleton, Members of the Coach Brown Committee, attended the meeting to ask the board to consider renaming the Greene Street Complex after

Coach Lynn Brown. Coach Brown was a dedicated member to the community. He taught the neighborhood children how to play baseball on a baseball field where the Green Street Gym is now located. Mr. Singleton feels that renaming the gym would be fitting because Coach Brown's grave is positioned right where the dugout once sat. Coach Brown, at age 74, died two weeks ago from a long-term illness.

In January, the Coach Brown Committee would like to begin the process for renaming this building to honor Coach Brown.

Jim Vicar gave Mr. Smith a copy of the renaming ordinance and made him aware of the policy and procedures of renaming a county facility. He placed on the record his support for this project, and made a motion that the board supports the efforts for this proposal. Mr. McDuff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

UPDATE ON BURTON WELLS:

Mr. Miller stated that he mentioned in the last meeting that the paperwork would be completed by the end of November, but PALS is still trying to adjust the project to remain within budget. Therefore, bidding for the Burton Wells Park has been postponed until January 2, 2002. He ask LS3P to complete the bid document so that he may present it to the PALS board at the February meeting.

UPDATE ON WEIGHTLIFTING CENTER:

Mr. Mobley stated that the weightlifting committee sent a proposal to Mr. Campbell to get on the agenda of Community Services Committee of County Council. Mr. Miller stated that he and Mr. Campbell are attempting to get the proposal on the agenda for the December 19 meeting.

Mr. Vicar questioned what time is the meeting, where is the meeting, and will the PALS Board be represented at that meeting.

Mr. Miller replied that the meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. in the executive conference room on December 19, 2001. He will send a reminder notice to Mr. Mobley, as well as, all the PALS board members who are interested in attending.

SHULTS PARK:

Mr. Miller updated the Board that Malphrus Construction started Phase II of Shults Park on Monday, December 3. Phase I of the project, the ball field portion, has been completed. Phase II will actually finalize the completion of the ball fields, which will consist of fencing, concession stands, and restroom facilities. Phase II, as well as Phase I, should be completed in March.

Mr. Stern reported that there is a collegiate baseball league that is trying to move the field's fencing further out to meet the collegiate field standards. The league is interested in creating a

team in Bluffton to play in the collegiate league. Mr. Stern questioned, "Who would make the final decision on these plans, the town of Bluffton or Beaufort County?"

Mr. Miller responded that there is a TIF (Tax Incremental Financing) Committee Group, which consist of himself, Mayor Johnston, Mr. Behren the Town Manager, and occasionally Mr. Campbell, that meets once per month at the Bluffton Town Hall to discuss things of this nature.

The TIF Committee asked the Mayor to go back to the group and bring a formal proposal, as to what they would like to accomplish in bringing this league to Bluffton. Mr. Miller added that the citizens of Bluffton were complaining that there were not enough facilities for the youth. He does not think that the committee should venture away from that priority. Mr. Miller also committed that having a professional league in Bluffton is a great idea, and the league will need a facility.

Mr. Stern committed that Steve Owens, head of the Bluffton Baseball Association, is very definitely opposed to this idea, for the reasons that Mr. Miller stated.

Mr. Miller responded that this proposal would definitely create more problems for PALS. The league will infringe on PALS activities. Their season will begin on June 1, and PALS recreational league does not end until mid July.

Mr. Vicar asked, "Who has the final authority as to whether or not the league comes to Bluffton?"

Mr. Miller responded that Shults Park is a town park and the town contract with Beaufort County for operation and maintenance. The final decision would be a joint decision made between the county and the town.

Mr. Vicar made a gesture " The town says yes and the county says no, it has to be one way or the other. Only one can be in charge, the county or the town."

Mr. Miller answered, "I think that it would result in the county making the final decision, due to the TIF dollars appropriated by the county.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES:

Mr. Miller reported:

Basketball practice has started, all over the county, for the youth basketball league; the league games will not start until January 5, 2002.

As a Christmas celebration for the department, PALS will host a Holiday Luau at the Battery Creek Pool on December 14, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

Polar bear swim on January 1, 2002 at the Greene Street Pool.

The Bladen Street tennis courts, as well as, the restroom will go out for bids by the end of this month.

Mr. Miller spoke with Mark Roseneau and Mr. Roseneau said that he was going to bundle the Coosaw project with the Bladen Street restrooms, to get those two projects out by the end of the year.

Dale Center, Scott Center, and St. Helena Parks' projects are in a permitting phase. PALS are hoping those projects would be out for bid by February.

The Bluffton Rotary is raising funds to build a community center at the Shults Park. This does not mean that the Rotary will be responsible or in charge of that building. Beaufort County PALS is contracted to operate all the facilities at Shults Park.

On Monday, the finance committee of county council reviewed PALS CIP Plan. Mr. Campbell presented the deficiencies of parks for 1995 through 2001. PALS have been incorporating some of the CIP projects in the long-range plan. Mr. Miller has put together a committee for the CIP project. He will mention this at the next long-range CIP meeting. The PALS committee is to look at some of the improvement projects, and maybe place them into a 5-year plan. There was also a discussion about hiring a consultant or firm to revise the COMP plan for parks and recreation, and teaming up with Hilton Head to update both plans.

PALS, together with Beaufort County School District, have completed the construction of three indoor swimming pools. There is a small moisture problem at all three locations, due to lack of heat. PALS is taking measures on rectifying the situation by placing heat in the pool buildings.

PALS is in the process of naming and placing signs in front of the three pool locations. On the bottom portion of the sign, we would include some sort of recognition of the school district. At this time, PALS personnel call the pool at the M. C. Riley, the Bluffton Pool; they call the pool at Battery Creek High School, the Battery Creek Pool; and they call the pool on the campus of Beaufort High School, the Beaufort Pool. Mr. Miller, on behalf of the PALS staff, recommended that the pools be named as PALS have been calling them.

Mr. Middleton requested a motion for Mr. Miller's pool names recommendation.

Mr. Mackey made the motion, and Mr. Stern second that motion.

Mr. Vicar said that he's not opposing to naming these pools, but he feels naming two of the pools after schools and one of the pools after a community, he wanted to note on the record that he see naming these pools like this would not be suitable for the county.

Ms. White suggested that both names could be used to name the pool such as the M. C. Riley Bluffton Pool.

Mr. Mackey questioned what does the communities think about the names. Have we gotten any feedback from the communities about the naming of the pools?

Mr. Miller replied that we have not gotten the communities' feedback.

Mr. Vicar was interested in finding out what measures did PALS take to seek the communities' input about renaming the pools.

Mr. Middleton requested that all board members in favor of the renaming of the pools vote.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stern asked was there any votes taken for approval of the PALS CIP budget.

Mr. Miller responded no.

Mr. Mackey asked for an update on the research on the equalization task force recommendation.

Mr. Miller replied that he did some research and telephoned Mr. Vicar to let him know that the overall equalization study minority opinions were not particularly geared toward the recreation segment of the study.

Mr. Mobley asked for an update on the organization of the task force committee, which was recommended by the equalization committee.

Mr. Miller responded that the committee had not been organized yet.

Ms. White wanted to emphasize on the CIP 5-year plan and the improvement projects. She said that we continually add projects to the plans, but have not kept up with the older parks, fields, and facilities as well as we should have. She is hoping that the 5-year plan work.

Mr. Miller acknowledged her emphasis.

Mr. Vicar stated that the board had discussed Public Works taking over the facilities and grounds operations so that PALS would have more time to complete projects. We were told at the last meeting that certain things would be done by the end of the year, though we are being told today that it will happen in February. He does not see any renewed emphasis of getting the PALS projects completed. He feels that this renewed system is not working.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Vicar mentioned the plaque for Mrs. Bremer at the Bluffton Pool.

Mr. Middleton stated that a resolution for the plaque, from the PALS board, need to be presented to County Council before the meeting on December 19 for discussion.

Mr. Vicar made a motion that the Board adopts in principle a resolution directing that a plaque be placed at the Bluffton Pool in the name of Mrs. Bremer, recognizing her 10 years of service on the PALS Board and her efforts to get a pool in the Bluffton community.

Mr. Stern seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

PALS Board meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month for 2002. There may be a small conflict with the meeting scheduled for January 3, 2002 in the Council Chambers. The meeting for July is scheduled for the second Thursday, July 11, 2002 due to the Independence Day Holiday.

Mr. Middleton recommended that the meetings with conflicts be held at the PALS Main Office Conference Room, and the meeting scheduled for the second Thursday in July would be fine.

Mr. Vicar stated that for the last three years that he has been chairman of the PALS Board, he cancelled the board meeting in January because of the holidays.

Mr. Vicar also made a statement about the erection of the signs. He wanted to put on the record for consideration that he do not think that the school districts needs the advertisement.

Mr. Stern stated that the people of the school district may object to non-recognition, but he has no problem with the school district not being mentioned on the sign.

Mr. Vicar stated that there have been some things in the paper about the city wanting the county to help them with the waterfront park. As a private citizen of Beaufort County, he has corresponded with chairman Taylor voicing his objection to any donations to the city for that project.

Mr. Mackey asked for an update on the Kayak boat ramp proposal and what was the decision made for that proposal

Mr. Miller replied that he had forwarded the kayaking proposal to the administration and they have not responded.

Mr. Mobley asked about the dock at Camp St. Mary. People wanted to do away with the floating dock, was it placed before the Community Service Committee?

Mr. Miller replied that the dock has been completed, and it never went to the Community Service Committee.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Middleton wished everyone a safe, joyous, and memorable holiday.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 3, at 3:30 p.m. in the PALS Main Office Conference Room.