

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2002
BLUFFTON CENTER
3:30 P.M.

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

Absent: William McDuff
Jimmy Mackey

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Acting Director
Norma King, Assistant to the Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH 7, 2002 AGENDA

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the agenda.

Mr. Vicar seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2002 MINUTES

Mr. Vicar motioned to approve the minutes.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Mr. Parks (Principal, MC Riley Elementary School) was introduced to the PALS Board. Mr. Parks expressed he would like to establish a partnership between the school and Beaufort County Parks and Leisure. He believed the walkthrough with Mr. Miller showed true concern from both

parties of willingness to work together for the betterment of the community. Items Mr. Parks wished to discuss were security, parking, maintenance, trash removal and signage. Mr. Parks requested a key to the gate of the football field for emergencies; his example, Life flight needed access to the field to transport an accident victim. Mr. Vicar requested this be honored. Mr. Miller said that he would give Mr. Parks a key.

Mr. Stern suggested the track be resurfaced. Since the lease expires May 2003 Mr. Miller expressed concern of spending a large amount of money. If there were a long-term commitment, PALS would be more apt to resurface. Mr. Vicar agreed that the amount of money spent should depend on the length of the lease, however if there is concern of danger, the track should be fixed regardless. Mr. Parks requested permanent trash cans that would be dumped on a regular basis.

The problem with alcohol containers being left on the field is another concern. This is illegal and Bluffton Police Department would like to help, however they cannot enforce the alcohol ban without proper signage posted. Mr. Parks asked that signage be placed at Bluffton Pool also. Mr. Miller met with the Director of Public Works after his walkthrough with Mr. Parks. A letter of concern as a follow up was sent to Mr. Bellamy, the Director of Public Works. A few of the items on this list are trash cans, the press box and signage. Mr. Parks requested a monthly walkthrough.

UPDATE ON BURTON WELLS:

Jim Strecansky of Strecansky and Company was present to update the board on Burton Wells. Mr. Strecansky gave a handout to all Board Members and Mr. Miller. Mr. Strecansky explained the project was significantly over the projected budget. Mr. Strecansky then reviewed the budget for the board. The three main areas: Fees and overhead cost to run the project, Recreation Center and the Baseball Pavilion. Mr. Miller stated that PALS needs to approach the County Administrator and the Deputy Administrator of Community Services in reference to the Soccer Pavilion.

Mr. Miller stated the funds could come from CIP fiscal year 2003. He believes the Recreation Center, Baseball Field and the Soccer Field are the most important parts of Burton Wells Phase I. In addition, if the soccer field were delayed in Phase I, it would cost more to be completed in Phase II. Mr. Strecansky gave a handout in reference to what the cost would be if the soccer field were added to Phase I. Mr. Strecansky said there is a shortfall of \$1,052,532. Mr. Vicar said the site work and the bottom number were the same numbers. Mr. Strecansky replied they were information numbers. Mr. Vicar said we only need \$700,000. Mr. Miller expressed PALS should request the money to complete Burton Wells.

Mr. Strecansky stated that the soils could be unsuitable which would mean restoration of the wetlands. Mr. Stern asked could we move money for Phase I. Mr. Miller replied we might need to move some projects from 2003 to 2004. Mr. Vicar asked if staff would like a recommendation? Mr. Miller said it was the board's decision, however, he suggested pursuing the additional funds for the soccer complex.

Mr. Manesiotis asked if there is any money in escrow. Mr. Miller said bonds are issued and explained how the CIP money works. Mr. Manesiotis asked if the money earns interest. Mr.

Miller responded the 2002 money is in the bank and does earn interest. 2003 money will not be in the bank until next year. Mr. Miller explained that some projects are behind and it is a possibility that we could use the monies to offset additional funds for Burton Wells. He has also applied for a \$250,000 grant from PRT. Timber money is another possibility, however it will not amount to that much.

Mr. Vicar motioned that the Director be instructed to pursue a funding source to come up with the shortfall of the Burton Wells Project Phase I.

Ms. White: Seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON SCHULTS PARK

Pavilion is going well, fields are in and have been top dressed and leveled, and the lighting is up. Malphrus projected completion date is April 1, 2002. Actual turn over to the county is scheduled for April 19, 2002. The developer will pick up some of the expense. Mr. Miller explained the folder APAC brought to the PALS Main Office to give to the board members. APAC was the low bidder, however, the Soccer Field is a priority and should be added to Phase I. This may drop APAC from being the low bidder. Mr. Strecansky stated that since the bid has not yet been awarded, PALS is well within its rights if APAC is not awarded the bid.

FIRST STEPS PROPOSAL

Mr. Miller explained that Jim Glasson want to utilize the Agnes Major Center to get the First Steps program in the Sheldon area. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Glasson for \$100.00 per month to offset utility costs. Mr. Miller's concern is that it does not interfere with PALS programs. Mr. Mobley asked how long the commitment would be. Mr. Miller stated there is no time frame. Mr. Stern stated that Sheldon is the poorest performing school in Beaufort County and if this will help improve report cards, it will be a good program. Discussion was held on the purpose of the program.

Mr. Vicar Motioned to accept the First Steps proposal.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Mobley asked for a report at the next meeting.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

BARKER FIELD

Ms. White informed the board the many ills at Barker Field have been corrected. The fencing is being done, trees have been trimmed, fields are beautiful. Maintenance is to be commended. The list of things that needed done, there are only two left.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Mr. Miller informed the board Joe Penale father died.

Louise Hearon (PALS Accountant) retired effective Feb 28.

Mr. Miller asked that the next board meeting be at PALS main office.

Baseball and Softball games will begin in the next 2 weeks.

MC Riley Basketball Court had only one bid. The bid came in over budget. Engineers are negotiating for a lower cost. If bidder chooses not to lower the cost, the project will be put back out for bids.

Patterson Construction began work at Coosaw Center on Saturday March 2, 2002. There is a 60-day turn around.

Bladen Street Tennis Courts and restrooms have been approved by County Council. PALS requested that they do the restrooms first and then the Tennis Courts.

There is a request from Hilton Head Art League to provide a program at Creation Station. The Creation Station lease expires in May and negotiations are still taking place. Hilton Head Island Recreation Association is offering a 2-year lease. Mr. Miller has forwarded the request to Mr. Campbell and Mr. Kachmar.

DOG PARK REQUEST

Mr. Miller explained that there was a request for a dog park. Ms. White suggested that any time we create a new park it should include a dog area. Mr. Mobly suggested PALS make it standard in all new parks.

Mr. Vicar Motioned to keep dog parks standard in all future parks.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

BRISTOL SPORTS ARENA

Mr. Miller explained that the Bristol Sports Arena Roller Hockey surface need to be replaced. Mr. Miller wanted to let the board know that PALS may be responsible. Mr. Manesiotis said it gets a lot of use.

SUMMER ART CAMP

Mr. Miller informed the board that fees for Art Camp are the same as Summer Camp. The Art Camp cost more to operate and PALS request a fee of \$180.00 for the Art Camp. Ms White asked if we could keep the same fee and compensate the artist. Discussion was held on the Art Camp fee increase. The Board decided they would keep the same fee for this year and charge more next year. Mr. Miller said PALS would come back next year since there is research being done now in reference to how much each program cost. Mr. Vicar suggested that those who can pay should. Mr. Miller agreed.

At 5:00 p.m. the board took a 5-minute break.

FISCAL YEAR 2003 BUDGET REVIEW

5:05 p.m. Meeting continued and Mr. Middleton gave the floor to Mr. Miller to discuss fiscal year 2003 budget.

Mr. Miller informed the board that the budget before them is only an operating budget, no personnel, only new employees, and no CIP Budget. Last years budget was \$1,214,976. This year PALS are requesting \$1,588,191, an increase of 24.2% or \$244,350.00. The budget was discussed for Fiscal Year 2003. Board members expressed their concerns, the aquatics propane, increase for Creation Station, weightlifting and vehicles. Mr. Vicar suggested not to cut the request because it will most likely be cut before it goes to council. Mr. Miller agreed that the board should not cut the budget. After Mr. Miller explained all questions, the board made the decision to stay with what staff requested. Mr. Middleton told Mr. Miller to submit the budget as is.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Middleton spoke to Ms. Green, concerning the age problem. She was not happy with the decision of the board to stay within the guidelines for baseball and withdrew her son. She was given a full refund.

NEW BUSINESS

The next PALS Board meeting will be at the PALS Main Office, 1514 Richmond Avenue, Port Royal on April 4, 2002 at 3:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.