

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2002
PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES MAIN OFFICE
3:30 P.M.

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

Absent: William McDuff
William Brown

PALS Staff: Morris Campbell, Deputy Administrator, Community Services
John Miller, Jr., Acting Director, Parks and Leisure Services
Joe Penale, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure Services
Louise Hearon, Accountant (Retired)
Henrietta Gadsden, Accountant
Chuck Culpepper, Marketing
Norma King, Assistant to the Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2002 AGENDA

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the agenda.

Mrs. Hagood seconded the motion.

Discussion: none

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 7, 2002 MINUTES

Mr. Vicar motioned for discussion of the minutes.

Mr. Stern seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Vicar inquired as to whether the board recognized Ms. Bremers ceremony at the Bluffton Pool.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Carol Murphy, representative of "Team Beaufort" addressed the Board in reference to how well the team is doing this year. Two team members placed first and the Team placed fourth out of forty-seven at the Junior National Championships which were held in California. Ms. Murphy

said she is looking forward to the possibility of weightlifting becoming a part of Beaufort County Parks and Leisure Services Program.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

Mr. Middleton recognized Louise Hearon for 13 years of service as the Accountant for PALS. He presented her with a plaque and congratulations.

BURTON WELLS:

Mr. Miller reported that Mr. Strecansky has forwarded a recommendation of \$8,303,777.00 for Burton Wells Park to Beaufort County Administration. The request includes the Recreation Center, baseball complex and soccer complex. Mr. Strecansky is waiting approval to move forward. Mr. Vicar asked if there is an alternate funding source. Mr. Miller reminded the Board of the Grant he applied for in the amount of \$250,000.00. The results will not be known until the middle of June.

FIRST STEPS:

Mr. Miller introduced Jim Glasson, representative of First Steps. The First Steps proposal is to use the Agnes Major and Booker T. Washington Centers. First Steps will schedule around all other programs at the Centers. Mr. Glasson passed a pamphlet out explaining the First Steps program.

Mr. Glasson explained that the Sheldon area is targeted for First Steps this year, Seabrook next year, then Bluffton and Pritchardville based on readiness scores and lack of resources. First Steps has been given names of 30 families in the Sheldon area that would benefit from the program.

Mr. Vicar asked how the program is funded. Mr. Glasson replied they are funded through the State (\$1,000,000) and they are required to meet a 15% match. First Steps also receive money through local resources. Mr. Mackey asked how they are protected for funding. Mr. Glasson told him \$43,000,000 was allocated for statewide implementation.

Mr. Mackey asked whom First Steps are accountable to and how performance is assessed. Mr. Glasson said First Steps are accountable to the State Legislature. They are required to report production and status to the State of South Carolina. The local board is mandated and included on the board are, the Director of Social Services, Superintendent of Schools, DHEC, Childcare providers and others. Mr. Mackey asked Mr. Glasson when their reports are due. Mr. Glasson said their first report to the Legislature is due the end of April 2002.

Mr. Vicar asked how families are chosen for participation in the program. Mr. Glasson told him it is a voluntary program and referrals are received from hospitals and community organizations. Bi-weekly meetings are held to discuss the referrals of families in need.

Mrs. Hagood asked if First Steps are in other states and Mr. Glasson told the board that South Carolina and nine other states that have committed State dollars to early childhood. This program is similar to North Carolina's Smart Start. Ms. White asked what type of services First

Steps provide. Mr. Glasson told her parenting, transportation, health care, adult education and literacy through home visits. Parenting skills are demonstrated instead of lecture. How parents interact with their children is another focus along with other activities which prepare toddlers for first grade.

Mr. Vicar made a motion to formalize an arrangement with First Steps.

Mr. Mackey seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

SHULTS PARK

Grand opening will be 8:30 a.m. on 27 April. Mr. Miller invited the Board to the Grand Opening. Shults Park is 95% complete. The pump and grind station should be completed soon. Shults Park will be turned over to PALS on April 19, 2002. Ball games will begin April 22, 2002.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms White said that Hilton Head Park on Highway 278 and Crossings Park also had work done in addition to Ferguson Park and most of their work is complete.

Departmental Updates:

Mr. Miller introduced Henrietta Gadsden, PALS new accountant to the board. He is very pleased to have her on staff.

Mr. Miller gave a copy of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Update to each Board Member and asked that Board Members please call him with questions.

Youth Baseball and Softball began for 12 years old and under March 23, 2002.

Men's Softball started March 25, 2002.

MC Riley Basketball court is under negotiation by the Engineering Department. They are trying to get the bid lowered.

Coosaw Center is 80% complete and ADA Accessible. The flooring needs finishing before it will be completed. The anticipated date is May 1, 2002.

Mr. Miller will be attending a conference in Lexington, Kentucky. He will be leaving Friday morning and returning Thursday, April 11, 2002.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Mr. Miller has given the budget to Mr. Campbell, Deputy Administrator, Community Services. Minimal cuts have been made to the budget. Mr. Miller will present the budget to the budget committee next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Vicar would like to have it noted in the minutes that Ms. Bremer was recognized for her work on the Bluffton Pool. The ceremony was held at the Bluffton Pool before the last board meeting, March 7, 2002.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Manesiotis attended the Hilton Head Recreation Board meeting and stated that Ferguson Park is scheduled to be finished September 1, 2002. He asked if the county would take care of the maintenance. Mr. Miller said the County will operate and maintain Ferguson Park.

MC RILEY FOOTBALL FIELD

Mr. Vicar said the Bluffton Bulldogs would like to assume the lease of the Old McCracken Football Stadium when it expires in May of next year. Mr. Miller told the board that PALS is interested in a long-term 25-year lease when the current lease expires. Mr. Vicar suggested that the PALS board make a decision and let the school know as soon as possible if this is our intention. Mr. Stern said the school board has received three long-term leases, and all three were approved. Mr. Middleton asked if PALS have taken any steps in renewing the lease and Mr. Miller explained that normal procedure for lease renewal is to submit a letter 6 months before expiration of the current one, however if the board deemed it necessary, he will begin the renewal process now for Old McCracken Stadium. Mr. Vicar said he would try to get a copy of the leases from the board for the Old McCracken Football Stadium.

Mr. Vicar stated there have been numerous problems at the field. The Bluffton Bulldogs have attempted to do maintenance and rewiring at the Stadium. Mr. Penale is drafting a letter to the Bluffton Bulldogs stating that they cannot do any repairs without consent from the PALS Office

Mr. Vicar welcomed Mr. Mackey back from his unexpected leave of absence due to family emergencies. Mr. Mackey also thanked Ms. White for her phone call of concern.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

The next PALS Board meeting will be held May 2, 2002 at 3:30 p.m. in the PALS Main Office Conference Room.