

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES BOARD MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2003
PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES MAIN OFFICE
2:30 P.M.

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

Absent: James A. Vicar

Guests: H. C. Boehm, Jr., Director, Public Services Division
Mr. Dave Essler, Representative for proposed Equestrian Center

PALS Staff: John Miller, Jr., Division Head, Division of Parks and Leisure
Services
Norma Baker, Assistant to the Division Head, Division of Parks and
Leisure Services

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 6, 2003 AGENDA

Mr. Mobley motioned to approve March 6, 2003 agenda.

Mr. Stern seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2003 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned to approve February 6, 2003 minutes.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MR. DAVE ESSLER, EQUESTRIAN CENTER PROPOSAL

Mr. Essler made a proposal to PALS Board for an equestrian center. The Silver Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Mr. Esslers' hope is to give 700 children per year horseback riding lessons. Lessons will be once a week for one and a half to two hours over a six-week period.

Mr. Essler' requested the use of 15 acres. He stated the land near Broad River Bridge is for sale and equipped with stables.

The Silver Center will not charge for beginner lessons. Boarding horses will provide operating money and a \$15.00 fee will be charged for advanced lessons. He suggested opening a tack shop and the veterinarian could be an intern, keeping cost low. Mr. Essler requested \$50,000.00 from Beaufort County for starting fees. Board members queried Mr. Essler on his proposal.

Mr. Miller asked if operations, maintenance and liability insurance were taken care of and Mr. Essler stated liability insurance has been. Mr. Middleton told Mr. Essler thank you for the presentation.

Mr. Boehm stated if PALS negotiate land for an equestrian center, it must open to procurement.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

Burton Wells

Slab will be poured Monday, March 10, 2003. Malphrus Construction will install irrigation and grade parking area. Meeting with all utilities is in planning stages.

PARD

PALS presented PARD request to Legislative Delegation. Request was approved unanimously and has been forwarded to Columbia. PALS PARD Request consists of resurfacing Basketball courts at St. Helena, Burton Wells, Bluffton and Resurfacing South Side Tennis Courts.

LADY'S ISLAND

Restrictions for Lady's Island property cannot be removed. PALS will solicit a Realtor to assist in finding property. Mr. Stern asked if CIP money was the source and Mr. Miller replied yes.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance Committee:

Mr. Stern stated 2004 budget layout is the best he has seen. PALS Budget has large increases, mostly encompassed by Burton Wells and new facilities. Total increase request is 32%. Total increase request without new facilities is 18%.

Finance Committee asked if they should send budget forward with or without cutting. Mr. Boehm suggested dividing projects. Projects such as Burton Wells must be complete. Projects without an obligation should be separate and all other growth well justified.

Utilities for PALS Main Office will end when staff moves to Burton Wells. Public Works will then pay utility bill. Mr. Miller will notify Mr. Bellamy.

Mr. Stern showed support for fee increase and Mr. Boehm suggested possibly raising fees again to increase revenue.

Mr. Mobley asked if garage repair cost could be lowered. Mr. Miller said garage amounts are set and can not be changed.

Mr. Stern suggested PALS put projects we do not own in one group.

Make second group mandatory increases (Burton Wells.)

Put everything else in the third group.

Mr. Boehm asked about Weightlifting. Mr. Miller stated weightlifting was not included in budget.

Mr. Stern motioned to continue supporting the creation of weightlifting in Beaufort County. PALS can not submit weightlifting in 2004 because of cost. Mrs. White seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stern requested a meeting with Mr. Miller in reference to PALS projects.

Facilities:

Mrs. White stated Mr. Bender would be inspecting parks with her. Mr. Miller requested PALS staff be invited to attend inspections.

Programs:

No report.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Basketball tournaments began Monday, March 3, 2003 and will continue all week.

Baseball and Softball teams begin practice Monday, March 10, 2003.

Bluffton had great turn out for spring soccer. Mr. Stern asked if there was conflict with baseball. Mr. Miller stated no, games are played on different fields.

Creation Station is holding classes for Spanish speaking citizens looking for jobs.

Greene Street is planning a pottery class.

Summer Camp dates are Monday, June 9 through Friday, July 25, 2003.

Burton Wells construction is going well.

Beaufort Construction Company received the bid for New Dale Community Center.

Mr. Mobley asked how summer camp dates work for year round schools. Mr. Miller stated Summer Camp dates are coordinated with Year Round School calendar.

Mrs. White asked about Mr. Butlers request, to advance his son in baseball. Mr. Miller stated Mr. Butler's son must stay with his age group, a letter was sent to the Butlers explaining. Mr. Mobley stated board would discuss future problems like this and requested it be put on the agenda for April 2003. Mr. Middleton stated the Program Committee would devise a plan and present it to the board next month.

Mr. Stern asked the response from school district to raze the old locker room at Lady's Island. Mr. Miller stated it was approved, building must be checked for asbestos.

Mr. Middleton inquired why the Lady's Island field lights are left on. Mr. Miller responded, staff would ensure lights are not left on.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Middleton stated to board members who arrived late, Mr. Esslers proposal and offered each a packet. Mr. Middleton stated letter from staff relating to public procurement policy would be written.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. in the Parks and Leisure Services Main Office, Port Royal, SC 29935.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.