

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004
PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES MAIN OFFICE
2:30 P.M.

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

Non- Board Members Present: William Grayson- PALS Board Applicant
Jerry Parker- Coach for ABBS
Andy Moran- ABBS Board Member

Absent: William Brown

PALS Staff: H. C. Boehm, Jr., Director, Public Services Division
John Miller, Jr., Acting Division Head, Division of Parks and Leisure
Joe Penale, Acting Deputy Division Head, Superintendent SOB
Jeannie Wells, Assistant to the Division Head, Division of PALS

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF March 4, 2004 AGENDA

Mr. Mobley motioned to approve March 4, 2004 agenda.

Mr. Stern seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF February 5, 2004 MINUTES

Mrs. Hagood motioned to approve February 5, 2004 minutes.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andy Moran was present for two issues. As a member of the ABBS, he was requesting permission to put recognition and advertising boards on display at Shults Park. Bruce Behrens is in favor and has requested something in writing. Volunteers improved the dugouts at the M.C. Riley facility last year and three scoreboards were donated and installed. The recognition boards would improve donations by thanking the donors publicly. They would be displayed on either side of the restrooms at Shults Park. Mr. Miller has been working with Mr. Moran on this issue

regarding town ordinances. Mr. Moran will work with the Town of Bluffton and Mr. Behrens to get whatever permits he needs.

Mr. Manesiotis motioned to proceed with taking care of the signage issue.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

As a citizen of Bluffton, Mr. Moran was requesting the PALS Advisory Board re-address the grievance filed by PALS employee Shannon Loper. Forty-six signatures were collected from the residents of Bluffton to request the grievance being re-addressed. Mr. Miller explained that once a decision is made by the Grievance Hearing Board and the County Administrator, that decision is final. Also requested was that Ms. Loper be used in the Athletic Department until the matter is resolved, that the job requirements of the Athletic Director in Bluffton be revisited and possibly to schedule a community meeting.

Mr. Stern motioned to approve a recommendation to the County to revamp the Athletic Director job description.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDANCE

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

BURTON WELLS

Mr. Miller spoke on the delay at Burton Wells. There is a punch-list that has items on it that still need to be taken care of. In addition, MIS has said that because of the delays, Sprint is asking for some advance time to come and install the telephones. Malphrus is paving around the ballfields and soccer complex. Ninety-eight percent of the landscaping is completed around the Recreation Center. Burton Wells opening is TBA.

ROTATION OF PALS BOARD MEETINGS

Mr. Manesiotis suggested that the yearly PALS Board meetings be revolved around PALS facilities quarterly so everyone can be more aware of PALS facilities. PALS will send out a schedule for the Board's endorsement with next month's package.

CONDUCT OF COACHES, PARENTS & PLAYERS AT PALS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Mr. Stern commented on the 15-17 year old basketball league incident at the Greene Street gym between Beaufort and Bluffton on February 14, 2004. There is a Code of Conduct the players, coaches and parents have to sign at the season's beginning. There are no penalties spelled out. After the incident, Mr. Kubic, Mr. Boehm and Mr. Miller met with all the coaches. Per PALS rules, two of the Beaufort players were banned from the league for the remainder of the season. In the future, all the 15-17 year old games will be played at Mink Point Gym or Burton Wells on Saturday mornings with security present.

Mrs. White suggested PALS talk to the Sheriff's Department to see if they could provide some "donated" security.

Mrs. White motioned to propose to the Sheriff's Department to provide some "donated" security for the 15-17 year old basketball games.

Mr. Mobley seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Mr. Miller reported that the PALS Basketball Season Tournament will conclude on March 13, 2004. The Baseball/Softball Season is beginning with assessments and teams are ready to begin practices. Summer Camp sign-up will begin in April 2004. Camp will begin on June 7, 2004 and run for six weeks. The Aquatics Division of PALS is advertising for two Water Safety Instructors. The new Dale Center opening date is not yet known, but the PALS Board will be contacted when a date has been set. The Scott Center construction is on going and PALS expects to get into the building in May.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Finance Committee met on March 1, 2004. The budget increase is over 60%. Program increase is over 10%. Program increases need to be prioritized by PALS. The top two increases are capital costs (\$377K) and new facilities (\$324K). Mr. Stern asked about leasing computers and vehicles for PALS. Mr. Boehm stated this has to be approved at county level. Chaplin Park water costs are high, however, no water can be run to the park from the surrounding plantations. Mr. Manesiotis questioned *Jacobs's Law*. Mr. Miller explained that *Jacob's Law* requires all recreation programs with school age children replace the 15 passenger vans with small 20-22 passenger buses. According to the state, this is at a cost of \$180K to replace all three vehicles.

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the budget.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

A letter has been sent to the Beaufort County School District via Mr. Jim Vicar for PALS to pick up the lockers that were donated. The replacement for the PALS Marketing position will be handled through the budget process and Mr. Boehm. The Weight Lifting Program is a budgetary item and has not moved forward to date, however, it is on PALS's agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stern announced a Volleyball Tournament on March 6, 2004 in Hilton Head. NC, SC and GA will be competing. The Bluffton Swimming Program has four girls who live on Hilton Head but want to swim with Bluffton. The swimmers would like to use the Island Recreation Center pool to practice. The Island Recreation Center will not allow them to do so because the adult seniors program is using all the lanes. Mr. Manesiotis has contacted Mr. Frank Soule who insists the lanes are full at these times in the morning. Mr. Soule also stated the Masters Swim Program is there in the morning which consists of swimmers 18 years old and older. Mrs. White brought up the safety issue of no coach being present during the time these girls practice, but a lifeguard is on duty. Mr. Manesiotis suggested a letter to be written to Island Recreation Center addressing this issue. Mr. Boehm brought up the issue of this being a county program and according to policy, people living in a certain district should participate with that district-period.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. at the new Burton Wells Recreation Center, 75 Burton Wells Road, Burton, SC 29906.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.

/jmw