

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2005
Burton Wells
2:30 P.M.

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

Absent: William Brown
William Grayson
Jeannie Wells, Assistant to the Directors, PALS

PALS Staff: John Miller, Director, Northern Beaufort PALS
Joe Penale, Director, Southern Beaufort PALS
Stacie Hawkins, Administrative Technician

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m.

APPROVAL OF January 6, 2005 AGENDA

Mrs. White motioned to approve January 6, 2005 agenda.
Mrs. Hagood seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF December 2, 2004 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned to approve December 2, 2004 minutes.
Mrs. White seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF Draft 2005 MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the 2005 Draft Meeting Schedule.
Mrs. Hagood seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSED LADY'S ISLAND PROPERTY

Mr. Miller presented a map of the land proposed for Lady's Island Community Park. The land was appraised at \$325K and is 24.9 acres. It is located on the corner of Springfield Road and Marsh Hawk Drive. A request to pursue the property was submitted to Public Services and approved. PALS is working with the Trust for Public Land to cover a portion of the purchase. If this happens, that portion of the park must be passive. However, the county desires an active park. Mr. Mobley asked how many owners are involved and was informed there is only one owner. Mr. Stern asked how the park would be paid for since it is desired to be an active park. Mr. Miller stated the monies would have to come out of the CIP budget. Mr. Manesiotis asked about the surrounding areas of the park and was informed that the surrounding areas are all residential but no ordinances would have adhered to for lighting. The sale price is unknown at this time.

Mr. Mobley motioned to approve PALS pursuing the Lady's Island property for an active park.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

FORT FREMONT

Mr. Miller informed the Board that the county has purchased Fort Fremont and its surrounding properties of about 14 acres. PALS will pursue a Master Plan for the fort. A meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2005. (**The meeting has been re-scheduled for January 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the Scott Community Center on St. Helena Island.**) Mr. Crisitiello from the Planning Department will bring a conceptual design in and the community will be able to give input for the design. The fort's guns are in the Philippines and will try to be retrieved. There will also be pristine beach access through the property.

ATHLETIC FEE INCREASE

Mr. Penale announced that the original proposal was to round off all registration fees to \$50 across the board. Currently some are \$48, \$45 and \$52.50. Upon further discussion, the idea of raising all the fees to \$55 with \$5 from each registration going into a capital account to off-set equipment fees arose. In the past few years in the budget process, PALS' Capital allowances have been wiped out. Mr. Penale asked for the Board's approval to increase fees to \$55. The last time the fees were increased was October 2003. If approved, the increase would take effect in July 2005. Scholarships are offered for multi-children families, low-income families, etc. Mrs. White suggested a letter be sent to all parents explaining the increase of funds.

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the \$55 registration fee with the caveat of \$5 of each registration going into a capital reserve fund for PALS. Increase to \$50 if the decision to begin a capital reserve fund for PALS is not approved by the County Administrator.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Penale informed the Board that a late fee of \$5 is charged for all late registrations. This does not seem to be deterring the late registrations. PALS would like to raise the late fee to \$25 in

hopes eliminating late registration. Other Recreation Departments across the state do this. St. Andrews charges a \$25 late fee and North Charleston charges \$20. A suggestion was made to do away with all late registrations together. However, this would not be feasible for PALS as proved in the past.

Mr. Stern motioned to approve the \$25 late registration fee for all athletic programs.

Mrs. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stern inquired about the youth taking physicals for athletic programs. Mr. Miller stated that PALS would be open to the approval of the Board. The Board decided that school physicals would be acceptable for PALS. However, children under school age would still need to have physicals performed. Adult sports are not covered by insurance. Mr. White voiced his concern of the liability still existing among adult sports even though each adult participant signs a declaration form before the season. Mr. Stern stated that USA Volleyball has never been successfully sued due to liability. Mr. Manesiotis brought up the idea of PALS having a physical day.

Mrs. White motioned to approve the requirement for youth physicals for all youth athletic programs.

Mrs. Hagood seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PALS will research the liability policy for adult sports physicals.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort

- A. Crystal Lake (Lady's Island)- A couple of properties have been purchased, there is still one parcel being pursued. The TPL will handle the purchase for this since this will be a passive park. The Butler Marine building has been purchased with an agreement they will be there for 3 more years. After that, the building may be converted into a Nature Center. After the process with TPL has been completed, the Board will then be able to approve to move forward with the master plan for that area.
- B. Mink Point- The air conditioning system is being installed. Mr. Stern asked if the gym floor was ever replaced and it was by using CIP funds. Mr. Middleton asked if there were any plans for acquiring more property there and Mr. Miller stated that PALS has looked into opening the area up into the cafeteria. Some items are stored in this area now and have to be moved.
- C. Burton Wells playground equipment- The bid has gone out. The playground will go in between the soccer and baseball fields in the athletic complex. The bids opened at three o'clock today. (Jan 6.) Mr. Middleton asked if this is Part of Phase I and was informed by Mr. Miller that it is. The Long Range Planning Committee needs to look at the CIP Plan. Phase II is part of this plan. \$1.6M was earmarked for the last FY but Mr. Kubic

deferred that amount. PALS is hoping another bond is issued this upcoming FY. Mr. Stern suggested that a meeting be set up with the Long Range and Finance Committees.

Southern Beaufort

- D. Barker Field- The County has not yet taken this over from the town. Some checklist items have to be completed, hopefully this month
- E. Bluffton Rec/Shults Park lighting-Bids were received and paperwork sent in. The process should be started soon.
- F. Dafuskie Island playground- This will be funded out of CIP money. The equipment has been bid out. When the equipment is received, it will be turned over to Public Works for installation.

Mr. Penale announced that PALS Soccer teams attending the State Tournament won the following: 7-8 Girls State Championship, 7-8 Boys State Championship, 9-10 Girls State Runner Up and 11-12 Boys State Runner Up. This was the first time attending.

Mr. Miller announced that 4 buses were purchased for PALS. Ms. Hawkins handed out Jacob's Law material from the SCRAP Newsletter. Mr. Miller explained that these new buses that were purchased to conform to this law.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. White announced that while attending the community meetings on Hilton Head. Each organization submitted a "Wish List" of what they would like to see. Museums are desired, a building be put in Mitchellville to replace the one that was there at one time, the library to go into a larger area. The Frisbee Hockey Association would like to use Bristol Park soccer field for their play. The Public Tennis Inc. came in and gave thank and reported. The Sailing Crew would like to have a place to store boats and train the high school teams. The Chaplin Park POA would like to see the half fields and smaller fields be used by the 10+ year olds and keep the larger field open for adult play. The Aquatics Group still would like a larger Aquatic Center.

Mr. Middleton inquired about the status of the Recreation Leader positions. Mr. Miller informed him both applicants' packages have been submitted to HR.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Middleton announced that Mrs. Hagood would no longer be a part of the PALS Board. Mrs. Hagood stated that she would remain until a replacement is found.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Bluffton Recreation Center, 61B Ulmer Road, Bluffton SC.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM.

/jmw