

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2005
Bluffton Recreation Center
2:30 P.M.

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern
Corinne Hagood
Michael Manesiotis
William Grayson
Calvin White
Thomas Mobley
Mark Lawson, President, ABBS

Absent: Orethia White, Vice Chair
William Brown

PALS Staff: John Miller, Director, Northern Beaufort PALS
Joe Penale, Director, Southern Beaufort PALS
Stacie Hawkins, Assistant to the Directors
Henrietta Goode, Accounting PALS

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m.

APPROVAL OF February 3, 2005 AGENDA

Mr. Stern motioned to approve March 3, 2005 agenda.

Mr. Manesiotis seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF January 6, 2005 MINUTES

Mrs. Hagood motioned to approve February 3, 2005 minutes.

Mr. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Carolyn Bremer and Mrs. Jean Welch were present to voice their concerns about the Bluffton Pool. Mrs. Bremer said the main reason for the Bluffton Pool was to teach our children to swim since Beaufort County is surrounded by water. However, she was concerned about the use the public schools are getting out of the pool in Bluffton. She wanted to swim in the pool during the wintertime instead of in the river, but it was so cold when she got out of the pool, she could not swim there anymore. Earlier this year, she heard about the water walking classes and how wonderful they were so she thought she would join. The class is an hour of mild exercise in the water for elderly people. She says the water and the outside air is just too cold. The population that is concerned is the elderly, arthritic folks. She said they have a lot of health

problems and simply cannot take the low temperature. Early in the morning the pool is for Master Swimmers and the water is 78-80 degrees. Is there a way that the pool temperature out of the water could be turned up during the times the elderly are using it? The classes used to be 15 plus people per class and now it is down to 3 or 4 people. She referenced a letter to the Editor of the Island Packet which is attached after minutes. Mrs. Jean Welch also reiterated the same concerns and expressed the desire to continue using the pool comfortably and how helpful the exercise really is for the elderly population. She also mentioned that she has never seen the children present. Both ladies pleaded that something needs to be done.

Mr. Boehm wanted to address some of the issues immediately and stated that out of the three pools in Northern Beaufort, two have similar problems. Mr. Miller said that PALS does heat the pools up to 82 degrees. He indicated the HVAC systems need to be upgraded. CIP funding will allow a new HVAC system to be purchased for the Bluffton, Beaufort and Battery Creek Pools. Engineers are now preparing the specifications for this. All PALS pools are at 82 degrees water temperature and may fluctuate to 80 degrees. Mr. Miller and Mr. Penale will have the temperatures checked daily this month. Mr. Boehm said that the pools were design built and the budget was not adequate at the time, therefore, sufficient HVAC systems were not in place to heat and cool the air surrounding the pools. Upgrading the HVAC systems is a must. Doing this would cost almost \$200K per pool and was not budgeted for. The HVAC upgrading was put into the CIP Program and was approved a couple of months ago—the HVAC upgrading is now in the engineering phase. Concerning the temperature of the water, there are different groups of swimmers that need different temperatures and Mr. Boehm will be waiting for the report from the Bluffton Pool.

Mrs. Bremer expressed her thanks and appreciation and asked if PALS could contact her when the upgrading is done.

Mr. Boehm stated that the 80-degree water temperature was pretty standard around the county and the PALS pools were not built strictly for therapeutic purposes. PALS will continue working to resolve this.

Mr. Middleton asked what the timeframe was for this project. Mr. Miller stated that he thought that by the beginning of next winter this should be completed. Mr. Manesiotis asked if the operating costs would go up and Mr. Miller stated that yes- costs would go up because sufficient HVAC systems would be in place and running.

ADULT PHYSICALS

Mr. Penale announced the he contacted the County Attorney's Office to see if it was legal to enforce physicals and have not heard from them yet. He did canvas other Recreation Departments in the state and found that no one makes it mandatory that physicals are required for all sports. Some departments do it for football only. Investigation will continue and Mr. Penale will keep the Board posted on what he finds out.

CREATION STATION/ART LEAGUE OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Mr. Penale said the lease with the Island Recreation Center expires August 31, 2005. Right now PALS has sub-let to the Hilton Head Art League. PALS is awaiting direction from the County Administrator whether to renew the lease or not. The HHI Art League was looking for another space for less than \$700 per month but Mr. Penale does not know if they found a lower price. Mr. Boehm said he would talk to Frank Soule of Island Recreation on HHI.

FORT FREMONT- CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Mr. Miller gave a summary of the meeting at Scott Center on January 26, 2005. The meeting focused on the reconditioning of the fort. Over 150 people attended this meeting. There was a lot of concern about taking away private beach access, safety and increased population on the beach from the residents. A committee will be established from local citizens. Mr. Miller asked that the Board be represented on this committee also. Mr. Middleton volunteered to be on the committee. Mr. Miller is going to touch base with the planners and establish a meeting with J.K. Tiller Associates and report the meeting findings to the Fort Fremont Committee. Mr. Boehm announced that \$25M has been spent on parks so far and 300 acres have been preserved.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Southern Beaufort

- A. Barker Field- has been completed and turned over to the county for use in mid March 2005. The expansion includes a soccer field and a half with lighting and an observation deck that overlooks the sound. The lighting will not affect the sea turtles.
- B. Altamaha- Mr. Penale showed the conceptual plan for Altamaha that includes over 100 acres of passive parkland. There will be trails, picnic areas, an orientation house, observation decks, etc. Heyward Point is developing the park.
- C. ABBS Contract- Mr. Penale said the budget has not been received yet, but the ABBS has ordered 4 batting cages; 2 for M.C. Riley and 2 for Shults Park. Netting was also purchased. So far about \$6K has been spent. Mr. Grayson asked who oversees ABBS. Mr. Penale informed Mr. Grayson that PALS oversees ABBS according to the contract. Mr. Grayson asked if this could be handed over to the Board but was informed that the PALS Board is an advisory board and overseeing this contract would be out of the PALS Board's scope. Mr. Boehm announced that if the Board would like a presentation by ABBS or any other group, the Board is entitled to that. Mr. Grayson said he would like to see the final report submitted by ABBS before the next Board meeting.

Northern Beaufort

- D. Athletic Fee Increase- no new news yet from administration.
- E. Crystal Lake- Purchased by TPL as a passive park on Lady's Island. When a conceptual plan is completed, it will be presented to the Board. The area may be fenced in due to liability.
- F. Mink Point- The air conditioning work is in progress.
- G. Burton Wells playground equipment- Went out to bid and will go before the Public Services Committee on February 14, 2005 and on to the full Council for approval.
- H. Police Sub-Stations- Mr. Miller met with Colonel Brown from the BC Sheriff's Department and Chief Dowling of the City of Beaufort Police Department to discuss designating offices at Greene Street and Mink Point for sub-stations.
- I. PARD- Requests go before the Legislative Delegation Committee on February 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.
- J. Budget- Finance Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bluffton Center. (Finance Committee: Allan Stern, Michael Manesiotis, John Miller, and Joe Penale.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Hagood announced she visited the Greene Street Gym on January 7, 2005. She met with Maryanne Payne. The programs are running smoothly. They have added a small weight-lifting area that they hope to expand in the future by possibly knocking out a wall. The Senior Aerobics Program is in high gear with excellent attendance, and they are considering adding another class each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs. Hagood also met with Gwen Hendley at the Mink Point Gym and learned that the dance programs are going great. They are also considering adding a theater class. There is a lot of old furniture in the cafeteria that the County may sell eventually. Ms. Hendley said a new computer was on the Mink Point wish list so she could do calendars and schedules.

Mr. Miller announced that Jeannie Wells would be leaving PALS on February 25, 2005. She will be greatly missed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, South Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.

/jmw