

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 March 3, 2005 AGENDA

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

Mr. Manesiotis seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF February 3, 2005 MINUTES

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

Mr. White seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MARK LAWSON, PRESIDENT OF ABBS

Mr. Lawson presented the Board with a brief summary of the history and mission of the Bluffton Baseball/Softball Association. He stated that ABBS is a completely volunteer-run organization made up of parents. ABBS operates concession stands and reports last years profits at \$13,000 and \$15,950 in sponsorship fees. Mr. Lawson also stated that ABBS current balance is \$11,444.62. A handout of supporting facts was given to Board members.

ABBS reports that residents are requesting a parking area and playground for Shultz Park. ABBS will host a Coaches clinic March 5, 2005 at Shultz Park. Opening Day Ceremony will be held March 18, 2005 with expected attendance of 1500.

Mr. Stern questioned the availability of fields and existence of PALS policy concerning saturation. Mr. Lawson indicated that the saturation point has been met. Mr. Penale stated that PALS policy is not in place at this time, however the Buckwalter project should help to alleviate any future problems. ABBS report that last year there were 49 teams all-inclusive South of Broad River. ABBS is offering support of PALS programs.

SUMMER CAMP FEES

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Boehm received inquiry from County Council Committee Meeting concerning the Summer Camp, participation numbers and fees. Mr. Miller requested of Board consideration for decrease of fees. Mr. Middleton stated that the impact of last year's increase of fees caused a significant drop in participation. After much discussion and debate Mr. Mobley made a motion to reduce Summer Camp fees to \$210 for non-scholarship participants and \$120 for scholarship participants, with no reductions for second and third child. Mr. White seconded. Board voted unanimously to accept fee reduction.

BUDGET

Allen Stern, Chairman, PALS Board Finance Committee present the board an overview of PALS Budget 2006. Each Board member was given a copy of proposed budget. Mr. Stern recommends that County considers leasing equipment and vehicles, with a countywide advantage.

Mr. Miller stated Island recreation Association has request an increase in stipend from \$64,000 to \$80,000 because of increase in recreation services provided to county residents. Creation Station lease is up Sept. 1 to Hilton Head Art Association. It is PALS hope to not renew and use Creation Station as a community center. Mr. Miller will meet with Mr. Kubic, Mr. Boehm, and Mr. Penale to discuss leasing of Creation Station, adult basketball, volleyball league and girls softball. Following discussions, Mr. Stern motioned to approve 2006 PALS Budget as presented. Mr. Manesiotis seconded. 2006 PALS Budget passed unanimously.

RE-VISITATION OF THE RULES FOR CHILDREN MOVING UP IN SPORTS

Mr. Penale referred to Board members to April 1, 2004 minutes where board passed policy to allow children to move up from their age group. Mr. Penale asked Board members to provide clarity of policy in place or abolish policy altogether. Mr. Penale requested that if policy remains, that it is amended to allow a child to only move up one year. Such a move would be considered only through recommendations and evaluations by coaches or PALS staff only. Mr. Middleton asked Board members come to a resolution that would resolve all future problems.

Mr. Grayson stated that abolishment of rule would be punishment to children who possess higher playing skills. Mr. Grayson stated there would be a safety issue, if children were made to play on teams of lesser skill set. Mr. Grayson then made a motion for policy to remain with modification. Mr. Stern seconded. However, the Board deadlocked with 3-3, 1 undecided. Mr. Mobley made a motion to reword current policy to indicate one year increase. No one seconded. Mr. Mobley then made a motion to abolish current policy, emphasizing that all children will play in their designated age group. Mr. White seconded. Board members voted to abolish current policy with a 5 to 2 vote.

FORT FREMONT

Mr. Miller reported the next Fort Fremont Committee meeting will be held at Scott Center on March 21, 2005. At the February 28, 2005 meeting residents expressed their concern night-time beach access for immediate residents, a covered picnic pavilion and the addition of an administrative building for rangers. Committee members request copies of executed copy of covenant preserved. Committee members agreed that Phase I of Fort Fremont should be restoration of the fort. Mr. Miller advised Board members of four other beach accesses and discussions are underway to have those improved. Consensus of the residents is their desire to improve area. Residents are recommend a fee is charged to enter park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Northern Beaufort

- A. Stacie Hawkins – Has been recommended as Assistant to the Director
- B. Mink Point Air Conditioning- The work is still in process. The electrical work is complete. Awaiting duct installation
- C. Burton Wells Playground Equipment- April 8, 2005 is the shipping date. Installation complete by mid April.
- D. Police Sub-Stations- Agreements signed to place police substations at Mink Point and Greene Street. City of Beaufort had workers out looking at installation of fibers for their necessary equipment at Greene Street
- E. PARD- Approved at Delegation. PARD request will now go to Park Recreation and Tourism in Columbia, SC for review. Within 60 days we should receive notification to proceed. The County's allocation will be used for lights and bleacher at M.C. Riley and playground equipment at Shultz Park
- F. Lady's Island Park- Received copy of letter to authorize County to pursue property at the corner of Springfield Road and Marshall Drive. County has offered the appraised value of \$325,000 to Home State Realty Company. We are awaiting their decision or counteroffer.
- G. Lighting Project - Contract with Mr. Kubic to proceed with lighting project at Basil Green and Bluffton Center

Southern Beaufort

- H. Buckwalter Park - Phase I , 3 soccer fields and restrooms came in at 2.4 million estimate. We have 1.1 million. Phase I will be completed in phases to include 1 soccer field, parking, and irrigation, estimated at 1.3 million. Bid will go out April 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. White stated parents are concerned about officials. Parents are questioning the quality of the officials and suggest we are paying too much for the service. Mr. Miller advised Board Beaufort Official Association is the only organization in county. Mr. Penale will negotiate cost with officials to reduce fees.

Mr. Middleton questioned regulation for uniforms for teams. States there are players wearing multiple colors. Mr. Miller stated regulations are white t-shirts or none. Mr. Miller advised that staff will handle. Mr. White pointed out the amount of sagging demonstrated by players. Mr. Miller assured Board members PALS staff to address problems.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at Bluffton Center,

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM.

/srh