

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005
Bluffton Recreation Center
2:30 P.M.**

Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Orethia White, Vice Chair
Corinne Hagood
William Grayson
Allan Stern

Absent: Calvin White
William Brown
Thomas Mobley
Michael Manesiotis

Staff: John Miller, Jr., Director, Northern Beaufort County PALS
Joe Penale, Director, Southern Beaufort County PALS
Stacie Hawkins, Assistant to the Directors

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Middleton called meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF December 1, 2005 AGENDA

Mrs. White motioned for approval.

Mr. Stern seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF November 3, 2005 MINUTES

Mr. Stern motioned for approval.

Mrs. White seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SHELL POINT PARK LIGHTING

Mr. John Miller, Jr. reported to the Board reference letters sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Carey and Kristin Bonsee from Mr. Middleton, responding to their request for lighting the walking path at Shell Point Park. There has not been a response to the letters. PALS considers the issue resolved. Mr. Middleton asked if there will be a gate installed. Mr. Miller reported PALS is still working on the gate. Mr. Miller will obtain an estimate from Graybar Fence Company and proceed.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Northern Beaufort County PALS- John Miller, Jr. reporting

- A. Fort Fremont Park – The Trust for Public Lands, headed by Russ Marane, and JK Tiller Associates will use existing gift money to complete the enclosure of the Park, installation of decorative gates and the entrances to the park. There was \$335,000 left from the gift of \$400,000, which will be used for the completion of Fort Fremont Park Phase I. Ian Hill is looking into the cost to renovate and clean the fort, itself.
- B. Crystal Lake Park – There will be a meeting held Friday, December 2, 2005 with Truitt Rabon (Land Planners Inc.), Paul Andres (CIP Manager), and other County Staff to determine a timeline for the design of Crystal Lake Park. This will also include conversations with Community Preservation District from Lady’s Island. Colin Kenton, Beaufort County Traffic Planner will attend that meeting to discuss a proposed by-pass that will intercept SC 802. The exact location of the by-pass connection will be discussed.
- C. Youth Football – Football season is almost over. The Beaufort All-Stars 8-10 year boys won the District Tournament and will play the Darlington All-Stars of Darlington, SC Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 2 p.m. in the Lower State District Championship. The winner of this game will travel to Mt. Pleasant to participate in the State Championship for 8-10 year old football.
- D. Youth Basketball – Coaches have begun to pick up their packages and practices will begin Monday, December 5, 2005.
- E. Storm Water Video – There are two groups working on packets to go out to the public explaining the storm water program. It may or may not be a video, but there is a media packet going out.
- F. PALS Department Christmas Party – An open invitation was extended to Board members to attend the PALS Department Christmas Party to be held Friday, December 9, 2005 at Burton Wells Recreation Center.

Southern Beaufort County PALS- Joe Penale reporting

A. Facility Rental fees – PALS current policy on facility rentals allows for:

- \$50 Ballfields for 3 hrs.
- \$35 Meeting Rooms for 3 hrs
- \$75 Community Centers for 3 hrs.
- \$100 Gymnasiums for 3 hrs.
- \$10 Each additional hour

Bluffton gymnasium is the largest rental space in Bluffton and the most used. Rental fees have not been reviewed in at least six years. Mr. Penale proposed that the rental fee for the Bluffton Gymnasium is increased to \$300 for an entire day., eliminating the additional \$10/additional hour. This increase would only apply to Southern Beaufort County. Mr. Grayson asked why the difference in rentals fees with the County. Mr. Miller reported that PALS has begun to review the rental policy. Mr. Miller is allowing Staff to review their sites individually, as this has not been reviewed in years. Mr. Penale reported that the cleanup of the facility is costing more than the rentals. The other option offered to renters in the area is Hilton Head Beach and Tennis, whose rate is \$1500. Mr. Grayson expressed his concern that County facilities should be available to all. Mrs. White stated she understood the need to increase fees in order to simply maintain the facility. Mr. Stern stated his agreement to increase the deposit, however, suggesting that PALS limits rental to organizations and not individuals. It is Mr. Stern's belief that organizations will be repeat customers, as individuals may not. Mrs. White reminded Board members to keep in mind the taxpayers and consideration for all citizens. Mrs. Hagood suggested that contract indicate the Renters responsibility of cleanup. Mr. Penale reported that PALS current rental agreement does indicate such. Mr. Stern asked if the additional \$5 collected during program registrations can be used to help maintain floors, as Mrs. White reminded Board members of the wear and tear of the floors from these rentals. Mr. Miller informed the Board that the expense of floor replacement/repairs could cost as much as \$40,000. Such funding should be included in CIP plans.

Mrs. White motioned to increase facility rental fee for the Bluffton Gymnasium to \$300 and increase the security deposit to \$200.

Mrs. Hagood seconded.

Motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Grayson abstaining from the vote.

- B. Registration Fees – Registrations fees are currently \$55/per child per sports. A parent came in with six children wishing to register all of his children. There is currently no policy that allows for a discount for the registration of multiple children in one family. Mr. Penale proposed such a policy is put in place. Mr. Miller stated that as Directors, he and Mr. Penale has the authority to make that decision on an individual basis. Mr. Miller and Mr. Penale will get together to discuss the proposition for a policy to address such cases where there are three or more children involved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. County Christmas Party – The Beaufort County Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 7 p.m. at Parris Island at the Lyceum. Mr. Miller advised PALS Board members that he would be looking into whether or not other Boards and Commissions have been invited so that PALS Board Members will also be included in the future.
- B. Attendance – Mr. Middleton asked Mr. Miller if there had been any communications with Calvin White concerning attendance. Mr. Miller advised the Board that there is also a concern with William Brown and attendance. Mr. Miller reported that in terms of School Board and Military representation, the rules are out of the window as far as attendance goes. In the past, PALS has had to write a letter to the perspective entity to report their representative is not attending the required number of meetings. Mr. Middleton will make contact with Mr. White to verify his intentions.
- C. Ft. Fremont – Mrs. White asked what work will be done at Fort Fremont Park with the \$335,000 gift monies mentioned early on in the meeting. Mr. Miller reported the fencing will be completed (installing decorative fencing in the gaps that were left), parking, entryways and paved trails to the beach. There will not be any work done to the fort itself.
- D. Update CIP Plan – Mr. Stern inquired to scheduling the meeting for the Finance Committee. Meeting will be scheduled prior to the February meeting.
- E. Camp St. Mary – Mrs. White asked if there is anything currently happening at Camp St. Mary. Mr. Penale reported the funds (\$400,000) allocated for Camp St. Mary were being used for Buckwalters Park. Demolition is the only thing scheduled for Camp St. Mary. PALS will try to include in the next CIP.
- F. Burton Wells Phase II – Mrs. White asked when will Phase II begin. Mr. Miller reported there is \$1.6 million proposed for Burton Wells and Buckwalters Parks in CIP.
- G. Saturation – Mr. Stern asked based on exploding population, are we reaching saturation? Mr. Miller reported that saturation has been discussed in the past and recreation leaders will have to come together to decide how it will be addressed. As it stands with the number of facilities PALS has, PALS can only accommodate six Dixie Youth teams. Using Atlanta, Georgia as an example, Mr. Miller some areas allow a certain number of children to participate. Once those numbers are reached registration is closed. Mr. Miller suggested that PALS may want to consider decreasing registration period to two weeks, instead of one month.
Mr. Stern motioned to have administration examine problems of over participation to:
 - a. Determine how big the problem is.
 - b. What does the future predict.
 - c. Possible solutions.

Mrs. Hagood seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

- H. Participation Numbers – Mr. Gray stated he requested participation numbers some time ago. Mr. Middleton assured him, participation numbers are reported after each registration period in Mr. Miller’s report.
- I. Proposed School Redistricting – Mr. Grayson asked, with the proposed school redistricting, is it going to affect the boundaries of PALS. Mr. Miller advised the Board that this has been an ongoing problem for years. Mr. Grayson suggested that children participate in the area in which they live and attend school. Mr. Miller explained that Dixie Youth districting doesn’t allow for it. PALS uses Dixie Youth rules because it is based on population. However, PALS can take a look at possibly redistricting.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is **Thursday, January 5, 2006** at 2:30 p.m. at Burton Wells Recreation Center, 1 Middleton Recreation Drive, Burton, South Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.