

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Conference Room
Beaufort Industrial Park, Building 102
Thursday, July 2, 2009
10:00 AM

Board Members Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Robert Anderson
Ronald Campbell
William Grayson
Norman Varnes

Board Members Absent: Allan Stern, Vice Chairman
William Brown
Bill Evans
Michael Manesiotis

Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Deputy County Administrator
Morris Campbell, Director of Community Services
John Miller, Director of Northern Beaufort PALS
Joseph Penale, Director of Southern Beaufort PALS
Stephanie Morton, Administrative Technician

Guest Present: Glenn Stanford, President of Conservation Consultant Co.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Middleton at 10:00 AM.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2, 2009 AGENDA

Mr. Middleton motioned to amend the agenda to include an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. It was motioned by Ronald Campbell and seconded by William Grayson to approve the July 2, 2009 amended agenda. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2009 MINUTES

It was motioned by William Grayson and seconded by Robert Anderson to approve the June 4, 2009 minutes. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Robert Anderson recommended deferring the June 18th Program Committee report until the next Board meeting.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Northern Beaufort – John Miller, Jr. reporting

- A. Fort Fremont – Has been meeting with Fort Fremont Project Team for the past year to map out a plan for completing the Fort Fremont Project. Have discussed Phase I Initiative in which the Team has applied for a Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Association to restore native maritime plants and create an interpretive

nature trail. The status of the grant application will not be known until early November. The group has also been meeting with Glenn Stanford, President of Conservation Consultant Company, who has been asked to come address the PALS Board on partnerships and initiatives on Fort Fremont Park.

Mr. Stanford thanked Mr. Miller and explained to the Board that he worked with Trust for Public Lands (TPL) in the past. Since TPL has discontinued its assistance with the County, Mr. Stanford has organized his own non-profit and has been working on contract with the County in similar capacity. Mr. Stanford explained to the Board that historically as part of seeking acquisitions, the County has sought gifts back from land owners. The direct taxpayer funds that the County generates can only be used for acquisitions of properties and closing costs. The funds cannot be used for park development or maintenance. If the County ever moves toward a bond issue, Mr. Stanford explained that he will recommend the funds to be used for, in addition to acquisition, maintenance and development of properties as well.

The gift monies that the County received in connection of acquisition of Fort Fremont purchases has been used for improvements made in the previous years. There are little funds left, however Mr. Stanford and Mr. Miller has been meeting with the Friends of Fort Fremont whom have developed some very ambitious plans and hopes. In connection with financial gifts, some are designated to particular projects and some are not but must remain in the Rural and Critical Lands Program.

Mr. Stanford explained that he is very impressed with the vision of Fort Fremont and just wanted to report the progress of the partnership to the PALS Board. His next step is to address Natural Resources Committee to seek their authorization to acquire bids and quotes to implement costs of improvements required for Fort Fremont out of a portion of the undesignated gifts. Mr. Miller suggested that he, Mr. Stanford, present the ideas to the PALS Advisory Board first for comments, suggestions, and approval to proceed to the Natural Resources Committee. There may be some federal funds available to be acquired. Mr. Stanford asked the Board for a resolution to proceed to the Natural Resources Committee to pursue a Cost Study for development of improvements at Fort Fremont, to use as many partnering sources as possible but if necessary drawing on undesignated gift funds.

Mr. Stanford feels that Fort Fremont is a special project and location for the County and asked the Board's recommendation to continue the vision of the project. Mr. Grayson asked Mr. Stanford if this partnership is in conjunction with the recommendations of Mr. Cullen Chambers who previously addressed the Board. Mr. Miller explained that it is in conjunction with Mr. Chambers' recommendations to the Board. The Fort Fremont Project Team has discussed and intends on seeking out members to join the Friends of Fort Fremont. Once established, the Friends of Fort Fremont will obtain a non-profit status and seek out funding to implement Mr. Chambers' Preservation Plan's recommendations.

Mr. Middleton asked for a motion from the Board on the recommendation requested.

It was motioned by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Anderson for Mr. Glenn Stanford to proceed to the Beaufort County Council's Natural Resources Committee to pursue a Cost Study for development of improvements at Fort Fremont. It was motioned and moved unanimously.

Mr. Miller thanked the Board for its support in the Fort Fremont Project venture.

- B. Burton Wells Phase II – Burton Wells Phase II Planning Committee met on June 9th and decided on two dates to host Community Public Input Forums for citizens to come and cast their votes on a list of amenities comprised by the committee. Both forums will be held at 4:00 – 8:00 PM. The forums will be on July 30th at Burton Wells Recreation Center and July 31st at County Council Chambers at the County Administration Building. Mr. Middleton explained and clarified to the Board that anyone from the Beaufort County Community should attend the forums. Burton Wells County Park is not an isolated park just for Burton area but it is there for all Beaufort County Citizens.
- C. Lady's Island Park – The County purchased 25 acres off of Springfield road in Lady's Island. Have been meeting with Judy Timmer, Development Review Manager, and David Coleman, CIP Manager, to work on Phase I which will consist of practice fields ready by March 2010 for next baseball season. This is an aggressive approach to accomplish project. July 8th is the next meeting. In the meantime, the Engineering department is conducting surveys concurrently to expedite the process.

Mr. Middleton asked if there are any landmarks to identify this property. Mr. Miller explained that traveling on Sam's Point Road toward Coosaw, take a left onto Springfield road, the first driveway, 60 foot easement dirt road, leads back to property. Mr. Anderson asked if this project will provide space for middle school baseball and softball teams to play since Lady's Island school used Beaufort fields. Mr. Miller clarified that this park will be for

the community. Lady's Island Phase I will include irrigation and practice fields. Future phases will include playing fields.

- D. Recreation Celebration – To commemorate Recreation and Parks Month, PALS will hold its 2nd Annual Recreation Celebration on July 25th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Burton Wells County Park. Mr. Grayson asked if this is the first event. Mr. Miller explained that this is the second year for the event. Last year, Recreation Celebration was held during other events such as Bluff Fest. This year, the date was changed to avoid scheduling conflicts with other events.
- E. Summer Camp Update – Currently, Summer Camp is being held at six locations (Bluffton, Burton Wells, Dale, Lind Brown, Port Royal, and St. Helena Centers) with 399 registered participants. Activities include field trips such as movies, pools, African Village, Hunting Island, etc. Participants also participate in arts and crafts as well activities such as the Fire Department coming to various sites to spray the children. Summer Camp ends July 31st. In the past, extended camp has been offered in lieu of year round school year. Since the school district has adopted one calendar for all schools, the PALS Administrators will discuss offering the same extended camp services for this year.

Southern Beaufort – Joe Penale reporting

- A. Bluff Fest Report – 2nd Annual Bluff Fest was held on June 27th in which 5000-6000 people attended. As the event evolves, PALS will strive to improve operations such as moving across the street to the Buckwalter Soccer Complex and incorporate activities at the New Buckwalter Community Center as well as increasing revenues.
 - B. Buckwalter Community Center – Construction is underway with administrative area, exterior wood work, gym slab, slab sheeting, electric, plumbing, HVAC roofing, metal framing and fire sprinkler are being installed. The iron work has started for the lobby and offices. The building is beginning to take form.
 - C. Buckwalter Skate Park – The Skate Park is being fast tracked. Mr. Penale distributed preliminary sketches of the skate park. The area is about 500 feet away from Buckwalter Community Center and is one acre in size. There is a swell that has to be increased and built up. Currently the cost to build up the swell is \$30 - \$40 per square foot and there will be about 10,000 square feet to develop which will run about \$350,000 - \$400,000. The development will not include restrooms since restrooms will be located at the Community Center and fields. Mr. Penale asked the Board for an approval on the conceptual plan to allow PALS to present this plan to the Public Facilities Committee for approval. Mr. Grayson asked where the funds are coming from to pay for the skate park. Mr. Penale explained that the funds appropriated for Buckwalter Community Center was \$5.2 million. The bid to complete the center was \$3.9 million. The skate park will be built using the remainder of funds that were appropriated for the Buckwalter Community Center project. Mr. Campbell asked what the source of the funds to develop the Buckwalter project. Mr. Hill explained the funds are coming from impact fees.
- Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Penale if there will be any security or supervision provided at the skate park. Mr. Penale explained that there will be no security or supervision. He continued to explain that the County currently maintains the skate park on Hilton Head and does not provide any security or supervision with no problems. He has discussed security with the County's Risk Manager whom has explained that as long as staff is not collecting fees or supervising the skate park, PALS will not be held liable for any physical damage that may occur as long as rules are posted on property. Mr. Anderson asked if there will be cameras. Mr. Penale explained that there will be no lights. The skate park will be open from Dawn to Dusk.

The skate park will have three sections for beginners, intermediate and experienced skaters. The plan will also incorporate the use of bicycles. Mr. Grayson asked if the skate park will be governed as other parks with groups of ten or more. Mr. Penale explained that the park will not be governed as other parks whereas groups of ten or more will have to pay usage fees.

It was motioned by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the Buckwalter Skate Park Conceptual Plan. It was motioned and moved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Participation Numbers Report – Mr. Miller explained the participation numbers for Athletic, Afterschool, Aquatics, and Summer Camp.
 - a. Athletic Numbers – Fall numbers have declined for soccer, football, cheerleading, and basketball. Baseball/Softball numbers for 2009 are only for Northern Beaufort County Area since ABBS has taken over Baseball/Softball for Southern Beaufort County. There has been an increase in all other sports.

- b. Afterschool – All programs has an increase in participants except Seaside Center. The numbers for Seaside has decreased due to the discontinuation of the program at that site. Mr. Grayson asked why there were no numbers provided for Bluffton Center. Mr. Miller explained that due to preparation for the Bluff Fest, staff was unable to provide those numbers.
- c. Aquatics – There is a decline in water aerobics. Intercession will no longer be offered since school district has moved from a year-round calendar to a traditional school year. Lap Swim and Rec Swims have increased as patrons are becoming more aware of the public pools. Swim teams have decreased and staff is preparing to create a Summer Swim Team program. Mr. Grayson asked if the numbers provided were visits or person actually coming in. Mr. Miller clarified that the numbers are visits not persons. Mr. Middleton asked what the qualifying age for lifeguards in order to take lifeguard classes. Mr. Miller explained that the age is 16 years old. Mr. Anderson explained that at Bluffton High School, there are 30 swimmers, what is the process of any of those swimmers becoming lifeguards. Mr. Anderson also asked if PALS is meeting its demands for lifeguards through the lifeguarding classes that are offered. Mr. Miller explained that PALS is not meeting demands and staff will actively try to recruit within the schools. Mr. Miller also clarified that school age young adults do attend the PALS Lifeguarding classes but most opt not to stay on with PALS for lifeguard positions. Mr. Grayson asked if there is a fee for lifeguarding classes. Mr. Miller explained that there is. Mr. Grayson recommended offering free courses for persons interested in working for PALS. Mr. Middleton asked if Mr. Brown still has a pool of lifeguards to partner with PALS as mentioned in a previous meeting. Mr. Miller explained that he was unsure but will talk with Mr. Brown.
- d. Summer Camp – The numbers for Summer Camp have increased at all sites in Beaufort due to the closing of Mink Point Gym. Bluffton's numbers have doubled. Mr. Middleton asked if there is a possibility to increase the Summer Camp registrations. Mr. Hill explained that the shortage is due to lack of facilities and space to house additional children.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was motioned by Mr. Grayson and seconded by Mr. Anderson to move into Executive Session. It was motioned and moved unanimously. The Board adjourned from Executive Session and returned to regular session.

MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Middleton asked if the Board Meetings can be scheduled for 10:00 AM instead of 2:30 PM. He asked members present for their input. Mr. Anderson recommended rotating the meetings times every other month. Mr. Hill explained that he would check with Broadcasting and staff to see if this could be managed.

Chairman Middleton thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at 2:30 PM at the Beaufort Industrial Village, Bldg. 2 in Beaufort, South Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.