

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Conference Room
Beaufort Industrial Park, Building 102
Thursday, December 3, 2009
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Arthur Middleton, Chairman
Allan Stern, Vice Chairman
Robert Anderson
Ronald Campbell
Terry Dingle
Michael Manesiotis
Norman Varnes

Board Members Absent: William Brown
Bill Evans
William Grayson

Staff Present: Bryan Hill, Deputy County Administrator
Morris Campbell, Director of Community Services
Cristina Roberson, Director of PALS
Joe Penale, Deputy Director
Sherry Jones, Assistant to Directors
Billie Lindsay, Planning Department

Guests Present: Janice Johnson
Steve Marbut
Justin Newman
Fanni Simmons
Mike Vaughn

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Middleton at 2:32 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2009 MINUTES

It was motioned by Michael Manesiotis and seconded by Robert Anderson to approve the November 5, 2009 minutes. The motion was moved and passed unanimously.

Mr. Middleton welcomed Mr. Terry Dingle to the PALS Advisory Board as a replacement for Mr. Bill Evans as Beaufort County School District Representative.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Middleton explained the procedures of public comment. The Board will hear the person or organization's concerns for discussion at a later time and will contact the persons involved with the Board's actions. Mr. Mike Vaughn addressed the Board on behalf of the Hilton Head Island Rugby Club as advised by Mr. Penale. Mr. Vaughn explained that the HHI Rugby Club has been paying \$3,500 per year for use of Barker Expansion Field and asked if the Board would consider waiving or reducing usage fees to allow the Rugby Club to continue and compete on the National Level for HHI. The Club has been around since 1974. The Rugby Club has been using the fields for the past three to four years and has experienced field usage issues such as sharing fields, lighting issues, and scheduling conflicts. Mr.

Vaughn explained that the Club does not feel that they are not entitled to anything but given some priority since they do pay for usage. The Club practices Tuesdays and Thursdays, year-round, and only hosts a total of five home games a year. Mr. Stern asked Mr. Vaughn if the HHI Rugby Club is a 501c3 non-profit. Mr. Vaughn explained that the organization is currently in the application process for such status. Mr. Stern asked if the Rugby Club is affiliated with any national organizations that allow a flow down of its 501c3 non-profit status for its state and local affiliates. Mr. Vaughn explained that he will check but he is confident that the group's officers have explored those avenues because they are affiliated with USA Rugby South. Mr. Vaughn thanked the Board for allowing him to address them.

Ms. Janice Johnson addressed the Board on behalf of Shepherd White Tennis Academy. Ms. Johnson explained that she is a volunteer with the Academy and feels it is a great asset to the community and youth. The Tennis Academy uses the Bladen Street Tennis Courts for its programs and she would like to partner with PALS to create a proposal that can be used to assist with funding for a tennis program. Although the children pay for lessons, the young men, whom provide services for the Academy, also use their personal finances for the upkeep of the courts and restrooms. Ms. Johnson introduced Ms. Fanni Simmons who also volunteers with the Tennis Academy. Ms. Simmons introduced herself and expressed her interest in assisting Ms. Johnson with a proposal to present to the Board for assistance for a tennis program. Ms. Simmons also sponsors children at the Academy. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Simmons thanked the Board for allowing them to speak.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. PALS Participation and Programs Update – Ms. Roberson reported on the participation numbers for PALS Athletics. The numbers compared 2008, 2009, and basketball for 2010. She explained that current 2010 basketball numbers are before refunds and discounts. Basketball sign-up this season are higher than previous years at 737. PALS had a very successful Fall All-Star Soccer and All-Star Football Season. The Beaufort All-Star Soccer 12 and under and 10 and under won the Southern District Championships in Orangeburg, SC and qualified for the State Championships in Charleston, SC on December 5, 2009. The Beaufort and Bluffton All-Star Football Teams will be competing in the State Championships in Columbia, SC on December 5, 2009.
- B. Baseball Youth Sports Agreements Update – The Board was forwarded a copy of the agreement in their packets for review. The agreement has gone through the County's Legal Department. Ms. Roberson asked the Board for questions and input. Mr. Varnes asked Ms. Roberson if the organized districts offer equality for children and is not causing past conflicts of Northern and Southern PALS. Ms. Roberson explained that the PALS had to organize the youth into four athletic districts in order for teams to be formed. She clarified that the past conflicts of Northern and Southern PALS are over and districts compete against each other. Ms. Roberson explained that the Agreement will proceed up the chain of command for approval and will be disseminated to various youth groups for signature.
- C. Concessions RFP Update – Ms. Roberson reported that the Concessions RFP is ready to go out for bid. The bid will be for seven locations and currently there are two vendors interested. The closing date is January 28th for contracts to be in place by beginning of Baseball/Softball Season.
- D. Buckwalter Community Center & Skate Park Update – Mr. Penale reported that the CO should be received within the next two days. Staff will begin to move in on December 7th and landscaping is near completion. The County is in the process of working on a Grand Opening date and ceremony, in which the Board will be notified once a date is set. Mr. Penale concluded with photos of the facility. Mr. Penale explained the Buckwalter Skate Park is under construction which is on the parking lot side of the Community Center. The tentative completion date for the Skate Park is February 28, 2010. Mr. Manesiotis asked if staff will be permanently housed at Buckwalter Community Center. Mr. Penale explained that the Athletic Staff will be staffed there.
- E. Burton Wells Phase II – Ms. Roberson reported on Burton Wells Phase II. The three conceptual plans have been consolidated into one plan. The Architects hope to be finished and will tentatively present the Conceptual Plan to the PALS Board at the next Board Meeting.
- F. Lady's Island Park – Ms. Roberson reported on Lady's Island Park. The Planning Department received a response from The Army Corp of Engineers regarding wetland delineation approval. Approval should be received by the end of December.
- G. South Carolina/North Carolina Parks and Recreation Conference Update – Ms. Roberson reported on the SC/NC Parks and Recreation Conference. Staff attended the conference and participated in activities. Next year, South Carolina Parks and Recreation will host the State's Conference locally in Hilton Head Island, SC.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Program Committee – Discussion of Director's Recommendations
Ms. Roberson explained that she was directed by the Program Committee at the October 26, 2009 meeting to provide the Board with recommendations for changes to the fee schedules. Since the Board was provided the recommendation as part of the Board Packet, Ms. Roberson directed the Board Members to notice the changes. She explained that her most significant recommendation is the fees for field usage. She recommends not charging youth sports groups for field usage. She continued to explain that although PALS will not charge youth groups, all field usage will be scheduled by PALS. She

asked the Board for questions and input. Mr. Anderson asked if she considered what the Program Committee discussed referencing payment for use of lights on fields. Ms. Roberson clarified that she recommends no charge for lights for youth groups either since PALS will be in charge of field scheduling, lighting will be coordinated with the process. Mr. Varnes asked Ms. Roberson how will not charging fees for field usage and the discounts of youth activities (afterschool/athletic sliding fee scale) affect utility costs for programs if no revenues are collected. Ms. Roberson explained that the usages will not affect the utility costs or budgets in any way. Mr. Varnes asked if there is a travel team that wishes to go beyond the usage of the fields to hold tournaments and such, how will PALS compensate for usage since it will be beyond normal use. Ms. Roberson asked the Program Committee Members to elaborate. Mr. Manesiotis and Mr. Anderson explained the Committee's perception is that a parent has to come up with at least \$400 - \$500 for a child to participate in a travel team. For the sake of being fair, the Committee does not feel that parents of children in travel sports should be penalized because they want their child to participate in a higher level of competitive sport. PALS offers sports for recreation while travel teams are more competitive for children that require a challenge. Mr. Manesiotis asked if the organization is noticing and increase in revenue now that collection points have been consolidated to just two sites, Burton Wells and Bluffton. Ms. Roberson explained that she could not answer that question until she could evaluate funds.

Mr. Manesiotis asked if the Board could start back receiving monthly expenditure reports for the organization to keep the Board updated. Mr. Varnes asked if the Board could receive a listing of PALS accounts and/or line items of how fees are distributed within the organization's budget. Mr. Hill explained that although revenues come in, they are not equivalent to services rendered or paid. All revenues go into the County general fund. The only dedicated special fund that PALS has is the \$5.00 Fee Special Account. Mr. Hill offered to print a report for the \$5 Fee Account for the Board. Mr. Hill explained that in the past, he has presented an expenditure report for the Board to review and would show staff how to generate such report.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Anderson motioned that the Board approve all recommended PALS Fee changes by Ms. Roberson for the PALS Fee Schedule. It was moved and passed unanimously.

Mr. Anderson asked that the Board present or send Mr. Evans a commemorative plaque or certificate in recognition of his services on the PALS Board representing the Beaufort County School District. Mr. Middleton concurred.

Mr. Middleton asked if there were any other comments before the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Stern expressed his concern of how the Buckwalter Community Center was constructed. He asked that the Board take on a more active roll in PALS projects to ensure that projects are carried out in the manner that the Board endorsed. Mr. Stern suggested that a Board Member is assigned based on expertise on perspective projects as they are created such as Concessions, Gyms, Fields, etc. The advantage of allowing the Board being active is that it allows representation for follow-up with co-members.

Mr. Hill explained that he would take Mr. Stern's comments in advisement. Buckwalter Community Center is the first athletic facility the County has built in the Bluffton community. He confirmed that in the future, he will ensure that the Board will be kept abreast with all future projects. He thanked the Board for its services and staff its persistence to complete Buckwalter Community Center. Mr. Middleton added the Advisory Board's duty is to advise on matters concerning PALS. Mr. Manesiotis agreed that the PALS Board members should get more involved with PALS projects.

MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Middleton thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 2:30 PM at the Beaufort Industrial Village, Bldg. 2 in Beaufort, South Carolina.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM.