

# BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center  
Thursday, February 7, 2019  
2:30 PM

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**Board Members Present:** Erac Priester, Bruce Yeager, Stan Ganshow, Ron Campbell, Mike Manesiotis, Arthur Middleton, Carlos Cave

**Staff Present:** Shannon Loper (Parks and Recreation Director), Matt Watts (Parks and Recreation Deputy Director), Phil Foot (Director of Public Safety), Vincent Leon (Parks and Recreation Pool Manger), Antoinette Binette (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Jennifer Williamsen (Administrative Assistant to Director), Bob Lamb (Athletic Supervisor), Lidia Delhomme (Administrative Assistant Public Works), Steve Barco (Parks and Recreation Grounds Assistant Superintendent)

**Guest Present:** Wayne Lilley – Public Tennis

**Call to Order:** Arthur Middleton called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance said by all present. Introductions were made around the room. Carlos Cave representing Beaufort County School District was welcomed.

**Public Comment:** Mike Manesiotis thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for attending the ribbon cutting at Island Rec Center last week and suggested all come down and take a look at the new facility.

**Review:** Board approved the minutes for October 2018. Arthur Middleton made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mike Manesiotis seconded the motion. All approved.

## **New Business:**

**Chairman/Vice Chairman Elect:** Phil Foot explained that the floor would be open for nominations and a vote. Mike Manesoitis nominated Arthur Middleton for Chairman. Vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Middleton's election. Mike Manesiotis nominated Bruce Yeager and Bruce Yeager nominated Erac Priester for Vice Chairman. A vote was taken in favor of Bruce Yeager.

**Clean Up Fee:** Shannon Loper requested adding the \$50.00 clean up fee into the new rental agreement. This was the same amount that we have had in the past. Shannon explained that it covers the cost to replenish paper goods and clean the center after it is used. Bruce Yeager questioned if the fee should be the same for all centers. Shannon responded that the \$50.00 fee has worked for us in the past and covered the expense. Arthur Middleton motioned to approve the fee, Mike Manesiotis seconded the motion, all approved.

**Visitation Fee:** Shannon Loper asked that a visitation fee that was suggested in a memo many years ago but was never voted upon be voted upon today involving reducing the out of state fee from \$10.00 per person to \$5.00 per person for grandchildren that are here visiting and want to use the center with the grandparents. The fee would cover children 17 and under visiting Beaufort County residents that are members of the Recreation Center and would be called and Out of State Kids Fee. Erac Priester made a motion to approve the fee change, Mike Manesiotis seconded the motion, all approved.

**Removal of December Meeting:** Shannon Loper recommended removing the December meeting due to the last two years it being canceled or rescheduled. Rob Cambell questioned having a gap from October to February with no meeting. Bruce Yeager suggested keeping bi-monthly meetings but begin in January of next year instead of February. This would keep bi-monthly meetings, but eliminate December and not have a gap. All voted to approve the motion.

**Land Donation:** Shannon Loper updated the council on land that we are in the process of acquiring from the Reed Group. They offered it at no charge. One is 55 acres and located near River Ridge Academy and the other is 70 acres and is located behind Parkers. They approached the Town of Bluffton who sent them to us. We lost a lot of land on Buckwalter to wetlands. These two pieces of land would be a big bonus. They will be developed into a baseball and tennis complex that was lost at Buckwalter. The master plan for Buckwalter is on hold at the moment.

**Public Tennis:** Wayne Lilley spoke about how technology in equipment has made teaching the sport better and faster. People tend to stick with the sport if they can learn it quickly. He spoke about the Public Tennis program and how important it is to get kids involved. He explained all the programs that Public Tennis offers. He explained that it takes a community and volunteers to make the program successful. He talked about utilizing the facilities we currently have and seeing a need for new facilities.

## **Director's Report**

**Name/Ordinance Change:** Shannon Loper reported that the name change for Parks and Leisure to Parks and Recreation became official.

**Burton Wells Master Plan:** Shannon Loper and Matt Watts handed out and went over the Burton Wells Master plan and what they are proposing for that area including adding a new gym, welcome center, pickle ball court, disk golf, nature trail, BMX bike area, splash pad, RV park, concession area, mini golf and zip line. Cost has not been finalized while changes are being made. The RV park will pay for itself and draw people in.

**Pickle Ball:** In response to public comment at the last meeting, we are thinking about using the single court at the downtown courts to be used for pickle ball. The racquetball courts at Burton Wells have also been offered to use for pickle ball. Possible once Lind Brown is done being painted that can be used as well.

## **Deputy Director Report**

**Maintenance:** It has been about 8 months since we took over our own maintenance. It has gone really well so far. We have gotten a lot of compliments on how our fields look. We are waiting on the arrival a few new trucks.

**Athletics:** Bluffton numbers for teams are booming. Numbers in Beaufort are up too. Bluffton ended up with 86 Basketball teams and Beaufort had 25 teams. Question was asked on what age group is the highest numbers. Matt responded that 11 – 16 is the most popular. We would like to get a 16 and up league but the numbers are not there since they have other activities going on. Mr.Cave asked why the numbers are different in Bluffton and Beaufort. Matt explained that there is a lot more competition North of the Broad in terms of the YMCA, travel issues etc. Shannon

Loper explained that it would be important for the school district and Parks and Rec to sit down and come up with a plan to truly work together to get those numbers up north of the Broad. Spring registration is taking place now.

**Programs:** Hoping to start a Lacrosse clinic called Scoops. We are working on that now. Trying to bring wrestling to North of the Broad. Tennis clinic numbers are up for both Bluffton and NOB. Matt also explained our adult sports programs.

**Tournaments:** Three teams won the state championship in soccer. The 11-12-year-old girls, 8U boys and 10U boys. We will host the Ozone Tournament July 12 – 17. We will host the Dixie Boys tournament July 19 – 24. Both will be at Oscar Frazier Park.

**Aquatics:** Anny Binette presented the Battery Creek programs. Then she presented the information for Beaufort pool. Vinny Leon presented Bluffton pools programs.

**Employee Update:** Two PT Admin clerk positions have been filled. Marketing position has been filled. Athletic Manager ad will begin tomorrow. Athletic supervisors have been filled. Need to fill two more Maintenance positions.

Shannon Loper passed out the Annual Report.

**Executive Session:** No Executive Session

**Questions:** No questions.

**7. Announcements:**

**A. Next Meeting-April 4, 2019 Beaufort**

**Adjourned at 3:49 PM**