

**BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

County Council Chambers
Thursday, January 9, 2020
2:30 PM

- Board Members Present:** Bruce Yeager, Phil Kaiser, Will McCullaugh , Erac Priester , Carlos Cave, Ron Campbell
- Board Members Absent:** Mike Manesiotis, Bill Brown
- Staff Present:** Phil Foot (Director of Public Safety), Shannon Loper (Parks and Recreation Director), Matt Watts (Parks and Recreation Deputy Director), Eva Golis (Senior Administrative Assistant), Vincent Leon (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager), Antoinette Binette (Parks and Recreation Pool Manager)
- Guests Present:** No guest present
- Call to Order:** Bruce Yeager called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all that were present. Introductions were made around the room. Mr. McCullaugh motioned to approve the agenda as written. Ms. Loper asked if a request from the Yoga instructor be added to her portion of the meeting. All agreed. Mr. Campbell second the motion. No one opposed, the motion was passed.
- Public Comment:** No public comment
- Review:** Review and approve the minutes from the November 7, 2019 meeting. Mr. Yeager stated that he had a comment on the minutes from that meeting. In the pool presentation, last paragraph, where it said "Mr. Yeager stated that being there is 6 more years with the school district, he is not happy about that amount of money." Mr. Yeager would like that stricken from the minutes because he does not believe he said that. He was just liking for the proper allocation of the resources and asking if a pool could be built at the Buckwalter location. Ms. Loper replied that we do not have the land for a pool at Buckwalter. Mr. Yeager would like to have that portion stricken from the minutes. Mr. McCallugh made a motion for the approval of the minutes as written with the exception of striking the text as described by the chair. Mr. Kiser second the motion. No one opposed the motion to approve the minutes passed.

New Business:

Passing of Arthur Middleton and Bill Evans:

Ms. Loper received some requests that the passing of Mr. Middleton and Mr. Evans be mentioned at the Board meeting for all their contributions and effortless work with the county. Mr. Evans just recently passed away. He served on the PALS board from September 2006 through 2009. He was the representative for the school district.

Arthur Middleton, started in May of 1999 until his recent passing. It was asked by some about doing something for Mr. Middleton. Ms. Loper said that she would bring it to the board. Mr. Yeager noted that Mr. Middleton was the Chairman of the board for as long as Mr. Yeager has been a member. He asked if there were any suggestions. Shannon said that she could bring it up at the next meeting. Mr. Manesiotis had mentioned prior to this meeting that it would be nice if we could name a room or something like that after Mr. Middleton. Mr. Yeager asked if this should be tabled until the next meeting so that recommendations could be brought up. Mr. Yeager asked if Shannon would get in touch with Mike Manesiotis and she stated that she would. They would discuss what would be an appropriate tribute to Mr. Middleton. Mr. Yeager asked for all the members to also think about ideas as well for the next meeting. Mr. Preister mentioned that something north of the board would be best. All agreed. Mr. Manesiotis mentioned to Shannon that maybe naming one of the rooms at Burton Wells after him. Mr. Foot stated that the ordinance speaks to naming a building after someone, then County Council would have to approve. Ms. Loper is going to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

Mr. Yeager is Vice Chairman with Mr. Middleton as Chair. With the passing of Mr. Middleton, Mr. Yeager is the interim Chairman. A vote needs to be taken to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Yeager asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Preister nominated Mr. Yeager. Mr. McCullaugh second the motion. No one opposed. The motion passed. Nominations for Vice Chairman were requested by Mr. Yeager. Mr. Campbell nominated Mr. Manesiotis. Mr. McCullaugh volunteered for the position as he has served as the chair for the Athletic Commission for 5 years. Mr. Preister motioned that Mr. McCullaugh be Vice Chair, it was second by Mr. Yeager. No one opposed. The motion was passed. The new Chairman is Mr. Yeager and Vice Chair is Mr. McCullaugh.

Downtown Tennis Court Name:

Mr. Foot stated that at the last meeting one of the items mentioned was replacing the sign at the court. When looking into it he realized that the only sign that was currently there is the historical districts sign that just happens to be in the front of the tennis court. There is no actual sign there. Typically all Parks and Recreation facilities have signage. Also there is no true name for the location. When they were the City of Beaufort's there was no name. Mr. Foot researched all the way back to the deed for a name. Now that it is time for the sign Mr. Foot is looking to the Board for their input for a name. Would the board like it to stay as it is known,

Beaufort Downtown Tennis Courts or is there another name that they would like. Mr. Prokoff with the City of Beaufort was invited to the Board meeting. Mr. Foot would also like the City's input as we acquired it from the city. Mr. Priester stated that it could be call the "Arthur Middleton Downtown Tennis Courts". Ms. Loper replied The Arthur Middleton Downtown Tennis Complex which Mr. Priester liked better. Mr. Yeager asked if this is the tennis courts with the drainage issues that has been discussed at other board meetings. Mr. Foot said that it is. Mr. Yeager also asked if this was the one that the \$20,000.00 grant was for. Ms. Loper said yes and that the name on the grant is The Bladen Street Tennis Courts to which she and Mr. Foot replied they had never heard it referred to by that name. Ms. Loper said she would get all the grant information to Mr. Yeager. Mr. Foot would like to reach out to the City of Beaufort again and tell them the Board's recommendation as well as seeing if they have any suggestions or recommendations so it can be brought to County Council. Mr. Priester again made the motion to name it: **The Arthur Middleton Downtown Tennis Complex**. Mr. Campbell second the motion. All agreed no one opposed.

Island Recreation Update: No one came

Director's Report:

Grant Update:

Land and water grant: Amount applied for was \$ 430,886.25. This money will pay for the Pickleball courts and Downtown Tennis Courts.

PARD Grant: Amount applied for was \$ 95,754.59. Which was all that was available in their fund. The application should be finished by January 9th. It just needs to have a few pictures attached.

As of now the signs installed, they are looking at the drainage problem. That work will hopefully begin in March. The trees are being trimmed around the lighting on Wednesday January 15th. We needed to wait on the permit and an arborist to come and look at the live Oak that needs to be trimmed. The lights have been replaced and the pickets of the fence are being painted. Mr. Campbell noted that he has noticed the signage when passing the courts and that there has been updates happening at the courts. Mr. Yeager asked if all the work was being done out of the "Wetlands Funding". Ms. Loper said that it was not to date facility maintenance and grounds maintenance has done the work, the sign was paid out of the current PAR budget. Mr. Yeager asked what sign she was talking about. Ms. Loper said it was a new "NO LOITERING" sign that was needed to replace the one that was stolen. Also, a professional backboard was being ordered to replace the man made one that is currently there. Mr. Yeager inquired out of the \$ 430,886.25 grant what the breakdown was between Pickleball and the tennis courts. Ms. Loper stated that if both grants were received the county would only be out of pocket \$100,000.00 for both to be completed. That would raise the courts approximately 6 inches. Mr. Foot interjected that the storm water drainage is being done in house. Mr. Kiser asked who the administrative agency for the land and water grant was. Ms. Loper replied that the state was over all the grants. We will know in October of 2020 if we are receiving the Land and Water Grant and the PARD grant has to go to the legislative

delegation first. The question was asked by Mr. Yeager if we tend to receive grant funding. At one time Mr. Foot had applied for the PARD grant for the Lind Brown Pool

And the Downtown Tennis Courts. At the same time the City of Beaufort was try to finish the Washington Street Park with bathrooms. So they gave us the money for the pool and the City the money to complete the bathrooms at Washington Street Park. Mr. Yeager asked if the group that was at the November 7th meeting was still in contact with us. Shannon stated that emails and such were going back and forth. To date they seem pleased with what is being done. Ms. Loper is meeting with someone to see what the cost will be to patch up the holes in the concrete. Court one was closed today and will remain that way until the meeting on Tuesday, January 14th.

Buckwalter Court Update: On or about the 15th of December a sprinkler head in Court 3 at Buckwalter malfunctioned. Thankfully there was basketball practice still going on and there were people there to minimize the damage that occurred. Gym 4 was saved. It did significant damage to the floor. It took roughly 4 weeks for the floor to completely dry. This effected the cardio and the track as well. There was drying equipment on the track down to the courts. So that area was unavailable to the patrons as well. Basketball had to use the Bluffton Center for practices and games which made it somewhat difficult for some parents that had children at both locations. Final inspection of the floor is tomorrow, 1/10/2020. The cardio and the track opened first because the floor was sanded down, repainted and varnished. Mr. Campbell asked what the cost was for the repair and if it was being looked into with the insurance company. Ms. Loper said that the insurance claim was filed and that the repair was at an estimated \$100,000.00. Not all the bills have come in as of yet and the insurance deductible was \$ 25,000.00. None of the floor boards needed to be replaced, it did buckle slightly. Mr. Yeager asked if there was any talk of taking legal action against the sprinkler company. The insurance company was handling all that. They are not 100% sure of the cause. Their thought is that it was over tightened when it was put in. Each piece in a sprinkler head is numbered and tagged. So they are looking into that, maybe it was tightened just a little too much.

Dual Membership: Currently when a patron pays for an annual membership at the rec center and the pool they receive a \$ 5.00 discount. There are not a lot of people that have dual memberships but the ones that do would like to see if there is any way that the discount be increased. Mr. Yeager asked if this discount is a onetime only or is it \$5.00 every month. Ms. Binnette said that it is a one time a year discount. Mr. McCullaugh motioned that a \$60.00 discount be applied when someone gets an annual pool membership as well as annual center membership. Mr. Priester second the motion. No one opposed. The motion was passed.

Time Change for Buckwalter: At the last meeting we reported that the center at Buckwalter was going to open at 7am and see how the patrons like the earlier hour as they were the ones to suggest it. Due to the breaking of the sprinkler head in gym 3, the track and the cardio was unusable for a period of time. All the drying equipment was on the track and it would have been a safety hazard. This being said we would like to continue with the early time but at 7:30 not 7:00.

Swim Lesson Change. Update – currently our swim lessons are 6 for \$60.00. \$10.00 per lesson. The employee's was to make it just the \$10.00 per lesson and not 6 for \$60.00. This would elevate when a patron cancels after the 6th time. Mr. McCullaugh asked is this from a logistic issue. Mrs. Binnette replied, somewhat, that in order to schedule the next lesson it will need to be paid for. Currently the lessons are being paid for and 6 are being scheduled. When parents are cancelling they are taking up a spot for another lesson. Also it causes a back log of lessons. Mr. McCullaugh also asked if the change would have a negative impact financially. Mrs. Binnette replied that she does not think that it will. Lifeguards do recommend the 6 lessons to begin with. Mr. McCullaugh asked what Mrs. Binnette feels is a better option. In which she replied the \$10.00 per lesson. Mr. Kiser made a motion for the rate to be 6 for \$60.00 and \$10.00 per lesson thereafter. Upon further discussion the motion would be rescinded if the staff thought it better at the \$10.00 per lesson flat fee. Mr. McCullaugh then motioned to change the swim lesson charge for 6 for \$60.00 to the flat \$10.00 per lesson. Mr. Preiser second the motion. No one opposed, the motion was passed.

Ameer Frazier Presentation: Ameer Frazier was a little boy that tragically lost his life at the end of the 2019 Christmas Parade in Bluffton. Ameer was registered with us for basketball that was about to begin. We had his jersey put into a shadow box which was presented to his family at the beginning of the season along with a moment of silence in his honor/

Buckwalter Master Plan: The Master Plan for Buckwalter is officially done. It just needs to be approved by the board. Tennis is going to stay where it was originally planned. That area was not affected by the wetlands. Due to the wetlands parking was lost be the original 6 soccer fields. Mr. Preister inquired about the participation between baseball and soccer. Currently there is more soccer than baseball. But baseball is steadily growing. Mr. Yeager ask if with the wetland there was a determination that it would not be cost effective to build on. Ms. Loper stated that the wetlands could not be built upon. Mr. Preister asked if the construction delay caused the wetlands. Ms. Loper stated that we were probably the last to pull permits, and the other construction pushed the water into us. Mr. Yeager asked what the practical aspect of the tennis at the end is. Ms. Loper stated that she feels the tennis will have nothing but a positive impact on the area. Tennis will; have its own parking as well as green space. There are 17 courts. Mr. Yeager asked if there was any discussion of Pickleball / Tennis combo. We did try and go back in for that but that was not an option. Right now the best place for it seems to be at the Bluffton Center. Upon being asked how far out this was with the current impact fees, it was said about 5-10 years. As of now we are ready to move on with the current impact fees. Mr. Yeager asked if we feel tennis has more of a need than baseball. Ms. Loper replied that baseball would not fit at any of the current locations on the Buckwalter master plan. Mr. Yeager voiced his concern with the tennis and no Pickleball. Ms. Loper said that the new tennis complex will have championship courts where there is room for the grandstand to be brought in. When the tennis plan is completed the direction is going to be take the tennis courts that are currently at the Bluffton Center and convert it all to Pickleball, also looking over at Oscar Frazier. The town is looking into it as well. Mr. Preister made a motion to go ahead with the Buckwalter Master Plan. Mr. Campbell second the motion. No one opposed and the motion was past.

Pool Parties: Ms. Loper and Mrs. Binnette were trying to think of ways to increase revenue at the pools. The thought was that maybe trying to allow parties to be held at the pool. The

thought being they would get a lane by the number of people 2 tables and chairs along with a trash can. Pricing would be 1-20 \$50.00; 21-40 \$ 100.00; and over 40 \$150.00. These parties would be in conjunction with any other current or planned activity at the pool. The only charge would be for the people that are going to get into the water. They can also stay and swim if they would like after the party. The pools would ask that there be advanced notice of all parties for thing to be prepared. Mr. Yeager inquired about the insurance liability of holding a party at the pool. All guests that plan of being in the water will have to sign the waiver.

As far as the outdoor pool. Instead of lane rental they will be able to reserve a canopy that we are currently working on replacing and purchasing others. These will be permanently installed. The cost for the rental of the awning would be \$15.00 per hour with a 2hr. min. It was discussed by the members of the board that \$15.00 would be too low for the rental of the awning and \$25.00 an hour with a 2 hr. min. be better. Mr. Yeager asked if the money for the canopy will come out of the budget. Ms. Loper responded that it would come out of the \$5.00 fund. Mr. Campbell made a motion that the pool party recommendation be approved. Mr. McCullaugh 2nd the motion with the clarification of the indoor party has a 2hr. max and the outdoor canopy is \$25.00 per hour with a 2 hour min. No one opposed. The motion was passed.

Ms. Loper told the board that our Athletic department had won the **Athletic Department of the Year Award** for class 4. In order to win the award you need to apply and then it is voted on. Mr. Kiser recommended that Ms. Loper apply for the Gold Medal this year. He feels with our variety of classes, activities we should qualify.

Yoga Teacher Request:

Adam Weatherford who is our yoga instructor works with the Low Country Autism Foundation on Mondays at 10am. They have been displaced from the location that they are currently using and would like to know if we could let them use the classroom until he can find another location. He will have the insurance and the only people participating will be those with that foundation. Mr. McCullaugh made a motion that will allow Mr. Weatherford use a room for the period of 2 months only with the Low Country Autism Foundation.

Deputy Director's Report:

Athletics:

Basketball is currently going on now. It has been challenging with the closing of gym 3. We have been using Bluffton Center for both practices and games. Staffing is hard because we are short on Rec Aides, but the Athletic staff has stepped up and are doing a good job of keeping everything orderly.

Winter Youth Basketball Registration

Beaufort – 213 (+1)

Bluffton – 677 (+39)

Upcoming Tournaments & Bid Opportunities

South Carolina vs. Georgia Basketball

12U Boys Division I and Division II

12U Girls

Buckwalter Recreation Center – Saturday, March 21st

Spring Sport Registration:

Spring Sport registration began on January 1, 2020 for the following sports:

Baseball

Flag Football

Lacrosse (only in Bluffton)

Soccer

Softball

Mr. Preister asked what the age range was for Lacrosse. Mr. Watts responded that the age is 7-14. In some cases 6 year olds can play but it is on a case by case basis. The Organization helping us this year feels that we may have 2 teams in one age division.

Update on Tournament Update:

At the State Athletics Board meeting, Georgia Institute had a few directors come to the meeting to speak about having a Georgia vs South Carolina Basketball Tournament at the end of our season. Both Georgia and South Carolina's all Star season end at the same time.

South Carolina Vs Georgia Basketball

12U Boys Div. I and II

12U Girls

Saturday March 21st at the Buckwalter Recreation Center

Safety Training

Jack Fripp and Matt Watts attended POSH training in Charlotte on December 16th – 19th. It was a lot of information that dealt with more the risk management side. They had a lot of good ideas that could be implemented

Aquatics:

Anny Binette presented programs for Battery Creek and Beaufort pools. Vinnie Leon presented programs for the Bluffton Pool. Programs include BOGA, swimming lessons, water aerobics, school lessons and lifeguard training. All pools have seen an increase in use.

Beaufort

BOGA Classes

Monday and Wednesday – 8:30am & 6pm

Saturday – 8:30am & 9:15am

Water Aerobics - Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:15pm

Group and Private Lessons – Year round

School Lessons – February 24

Stroke Improvement – Year round

LCAC – Monday - Friday 4pm (3 lanes)

Kids Swim Club: Session 3 begins February 3

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 4pm

Bluffton

BOGA Classes

Tuesday and Thursday –3:30pm

Saturday – 12pm

Water Aerobics - Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30am

Group and Private Lessons – Year round

Stroke Improvement – Year round

Fins Swim Team –

Monday through Friday 6am and 4:45pm (4 lanes)

Saturday 7am (4 lanes)

Therapy Program – Wednesday 4pm (1 lane)

Battery Creek

BOGA Classes

Monday and Wednesday – 5:30pm

Saturday – 8:30am and 9:15am

Water Aerobics are Tuesday, Thursday 5:45pm

Group and Private Lessons – Year round

School Lessons – Begin soon

Lifeguard Class

Pre Course is January 6

Class is January 13

Stroke Improvement – Year round

CPR – 1st Saturday of each month at 9am

Employee Update Athletic Supervisor

Two Athletic Supervisor positions to fill

One candidate chosen if approved

Maintenance –

Requested approval from County Administrator on change of position

Questions: No questions.

Announcements: Next meeting – March 5, 2020 in Bluffton.

Adjourned: Mr. Preister made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Campbell second. No one opposed. Motion passed

The Board of Directors of Beaufort County Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the results of the 2019-2020 Advisory Board Meeting. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the results of the 2019-2020 Advisory Board Meeting. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the results of the 2019-2020 Advisory Board Meeting.

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