

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, January 13, 2022
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chairman*,
Phil Kiser, *Bluffton*
William McCullough, *Beaufort*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration*
Ronald Campbell, *Beaufort*

Board Members Absent:

Erac Priester, *Bluffton*
Mike Manesiotis, *Hilton Head Island*
Bill Brown
James Mack, *Beaufort*

Staff Members Present:

Shannon Loper, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Matt Watts, *Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation*
Heather Clint, *Senior Administrative Specialist, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*

Guests Present:

Debbie Andreoni, *Citizen of Beaufort*

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by **Bruce Yeager**.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were completed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda is approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Andreoni states that she is in attendance to get an update on the Beaufort Downtown Tennis Courts. No further comment.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Bruce Yeager states that the footer on the minutes needs to be changed to reflect the September meeting date. Additionally, a notation should be made that a November meeting was not held. **Ronald Campbell** motions to approve August minutes with corrections. **Carlos Cave** seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shannon Loper:

- **Software Update-Rec Desk:** We have officially switched everything over to RecDesk and it is going well. Employees are responding well to it. There are minor issues with scheduling, but suggestions for future enhancements have been made to RecDesk.
- **Pickleball Update:** Bluffton pickleball courts are done and being utilized well. There were 20 people using them on Christmas Day.
- **Lind Brown Update:** Lind Brown is officially open. Hours are 11AM – 7PM, Monday-Friday. Workout equipment has been ordered. There is open basketball and pickleball. We will get some programming started. It is slow now but was just opened last week. We are expecting it to pick up after workout equipment is in place. **Bruce Yeager** asks if there has been further conversation with the gentleman who brought up having volleyball at the last meeting. **Shannon Loper** states we don't have volleyball set up yet, because we have open basketball and pickleball. A 70/30 program will be considered, and days need to be figured out.
- **Downtown Tennis Update:** There is a Public Facilities meeting on Monday. We received an email from a citizen informing Parks and Recreation would be liable for injuries on the dilapidated courts. In response, all but one court were shut down for repairs. There is funding from the PARD Grant and ATAX Grant, and County Council is making up the difference. The courts and fencing will be torn down and replaced. After the work starts, the project will take 8 to 10 months. The total cost is \$800,000.
- **Shell Point Park:** There have been some complaints from citizens about not being able to take their dogs to run at the park. There is an area in the middle of the park, that has some existing fencing, that has been surveyed for a dog park to be made. This should alleviate some of the citizen concerns.
- **Inflatable Update:** There was a \$5.00 temporary fee set for the inflatables at the last meeting. The fee has been working well. **There is a motion by Phil Kiser to maintain the fee at its existing \$5.00 rate that was approved at the last board meeting. Carlos Cave** seconds. **The motion passes.**
- **Jasper County Fee - POOL:** Some people have requested a Jasper County monthly pool membership. At the Rec Centers, a Beaufort County monthly resident membership is \$10.00, and a Jasper County monthly membership is \$25.00. At the pools, the monthly resident membership is \$25.00. The recommendation of **Shannon Loper** is to have the Jasper County monthly membership cost be \$50.00. This is for first come-first served open swim. **Carlos Cave**

motions to set the Jasper County monthly pool membership fee at \$50.00. **Ronald Campbell** seconds. The motion passes.

- **Discussion: Bruce Yeager** asks if we are allowing visitor passes. **Shannon Loper** says that we are allowing visitor passes. **Bruce Yeager** asks if we have a report from the pool consultant. **Shannon Loper** says that they are still touring, and we don't have the report yet. **Bruce Yeager** asks how the FINS team is working out. **Shannon Loper** says there have been no issues.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matt Watts:

- **Registration Numbers:** Bluffton Adult Softball: 42 teams (up from 32 teams in fall 2019). Bluffton Adult Volleyball: 6 teams (same as fall 2019). Beaufort Adult Baseball: 4 teams (same as previous seasons).
 - **SCAP Soccer State Champions:** Bluffton 8U Girls, Bluffton 10U Girls, Bluffton 12U Girls, Bluffton 12U Boys Runners up: Beaufort 8U Girls and Beaufort 10U Girls
- **Registration Numbers:** Winter Sports: Beaufort Youth Basketball: 268 (up 56 from 2019-20 season). Bluffton Youth Basketball: 708 (up 46 from 2019-20 season). Adult Kickball: 112.
 - **Discussion: Bruce Yeager** asks what kind of use we get out of baseball fields at Ulmer. **Matt Watts** says that the Ulmer fields are where kickball is taking place currently. Also, BYS uses those fields for practices.

AQUATICS

- **Program Updates:**
 - Battery Creek Pool is currently closed for resurfacing. Beaufort Indoor Pool hours (until Battery Creek is reopened): Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 12 PM/1 PM – 7 PM. Saturdays: Inflatables from 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM.
 - Classes (Beaufort): BOGA: Monday and Wednesday 6 PM – 6:30 PM. Water Aerobics: Monday and Wednesday 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM. Lifeguard Classes: January 7th through 14th.
 - Bluffton Pool hours: Monday through Thursday 8 AM – 9 AM/1 PM – 7 PM and Friday 8 AM – 12 PM/1 PM – 7 PM.
 - Classes (Bluffton): BOGA: Monday 5:30 PM – 6 PM and 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM. Water Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM. Lifeguard Classes: February 4th through February 11th. Teams: FINS: Monday through Friday 4 PM – 7 PM.
 - Group and private swim lessons: none due to staffing issues. School lessons: January 5th through January 24th 9 AM – 12 PM.

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- Openings: Assistant Aquatics Manager: 2. Lifeguard: Full Time: 5 and Part Time: 5. Maintenance: 7. Rec Aides: 4.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next board meeting is Thursday, March 3, 2022, in Beaufort.

QUESTIONS

Bruce Yeager verifies that we are advertising for open positions on social media and various outlets. **Shannon Loper** states that we are advertising on all platforms and at the colleges. Winter basketball is shut down until next week due to a Covid outbreak.

ADJOURN

Carlos Cave motions to adjourn. The motion is seconded. The meeting is adjourned.