

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, March 3, 2022
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chairman, Southern Beaufort County*
William McCullough, *Northern Beaufort County*
Ronald Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Bill Brown, *Military – ex-officio*
James Mack, *Northern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent:

Philip Kiser, *At-Large*
Michael Manesiotis, *Southern Beaufort County*
Eric Priester, *Southern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration – ex-officio*

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*
Chuck Atkinson, *ACA for Development and Recreation, Beaufort County*

Guests Present:

George Bush, *Program Director, Michael C. Riley Alumni Association*
Susan Boyd, *Resident and Pickleball Player*
Shay Jones, *Beaufort County Resident*
Elly Levin, *Resident and Pickleball Player*
Scott Whitehead, *Pickleball Player*
Arthur Levin, *Resident and Pickleball Player*

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

Elly Levin states that she is impressed with the meetings taking place and with Wooden Partners and Pros Consulting. She also states appreciation for the support of Shannon Loper. **Shay Jones** and **George Bush** each state that they are in attendance regarding fee waivers and are included on the agenda.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Bruce Yeager states the agenda needs to be corrected to reflect that we are reviewing January minutes, not August minutes. **William McCullough** motions to approve January minutes with the agenda correction that they are January 2022 minutes as opposed to August 2021. **Bill Brown** seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shannon Loper:

- **Lind Brown Update:** Lind Brown is open, and business is picking up in the afternoons. Work out equipment delivery is expected the week of March 14th. There are some pickleball players utilizing the facility in the mornings.
- **Downtown Tennis Update:** March 14th is the third reading of approval. Project to start by the end of March. Work is expected to take nine to twelve months. **Bruce Yeager** asks if this is fully funded. **Shannon Loper** states that yes, it is; and that the balance will be paid with the sale of Bob Jones money, per approval on the 14th reading. **Bruce Yeager** asks about the naming of the tennis courts. **Shannon Loper** states that the Board voted for Arthur Middleton. There is a rule that we must wait five years after date of death.
- **Bathrooms Updates:** Beaufort Design Build and engineering have been working with Parks and Rec to come up with plans for a bathroom building that can be used at each of the parks. Beaufort Design Build will finalize the drawing and the Invitation for Bid will be posted beginning March 18th. Then construction will begin at Old Burton Wells and Bruce Edgerly, hopefully by early May. This will be the bathroom design for most parks. They include a men's and women's restroom, a storage closet, and a drinking fountain.
- **Bluffton Pool Updates:** Bluffton Pool was closed. An engineering firm, upon accessing the pool, recommended closure due to safety concerns. A second engineering firm determined the same. The pool needs emergency repairs, including removing portions of the roof and the beams. The roof may or may not be immediately rebuilt. **William McCullough** asks if the safety concerns include rust falling into the pool and possible collapse of the roof. **Shannon Loper** states that it is both. **Bruce Yeager** asks if we have money set aside for these repairs. **Shannon Loper** states that we had money set aside for all three pools, but the cost of resurfacing was over \$100,000 per pool, so there is not much money left. **Chuck Atkinson** explains the history of the pools and the need for repairs. He states we have funds from different areas to pay for the emergency repairs. He explains that there are different price point options that need to be decided on for the future.
- **Buckwalter Expansion Update:** Must be approved through the Town of Bluffton. Master Plan needs to be reapproved due to wetland taking over original plan sites. There are plans for additional parking, two additional soccer fields for youth sports, and then two additional adult soccer fields. There is a proposed large tennis complex and center, with additional meeting rooms to accommodate the growing number of classes and rentals.
- **Master Plan Update:** Master Plan meetings with the public are underway. Buckwalter went well, and there were people in attendance for pickleball, swim and soccer questions. Burton Wells went well and there were people in attendance for pickleball, tennis, and baseball. Dale Community Center went well, and there were people in attendance

for senior programs. The Scott meeting was heated, and many of their concerns are already being addressed. The Master Plan website is up and running: playbeaufortcounty.com. A survey company will randomly mail surveys to a sample of the population. Additionally, there is an online survey. The mail in survey will be more heavily weighted than the online survey. There is a Parks and Recreation Board meeting (via Zoom) with the consultants on March 16th at 1:00 PM.

- **Fees Waived – M.C. Riley and Church**
 - **George Bush** for M.C. Riley Alumni Association:

There is a commemorative wall and garden at the site of the former Michael C. Riley High School. The Alumni Association is in the process of revitalizing the entire area. This revitalization will enhance the site and the park. Permits have been obtained from Beaufort County as well as the Town of Bluffton. There are two events planned at the site. There is a telethon on May 28th, and a class reunion on Labor Day (September 5th). Mr. Bush asks the Board if the \$500 fee per event can be waived in this case. **Bill Brown** asks if Shannon Loper and grounds staff has been privy to the plans, so that the staff is able to appropriately maintain the plants. **Shannon Loper** states that Mr. Bush has been in contact with the grounds supervisor. **William McCullough** asks if there will be any associated costs to Beaufort County. **George Bush** states that his organization will do trash removal and **Shannon Loper** states that maintenance staff will clean the bathrooms as per usual. **George Bush** states that the for the telethon, only the use of the basketball courts and restrooms will be needed. For the reunion, the entire site is needed. He understands that the Alumni Association (which is a 501 will need to obtain insurance to cover these events. **William McCullough motions that subject to this entity providing proof of insurance to the staff, that the fees for these two specific events and for this specific entity be waived, with the understanding that any future comparable reduction or elimination of fees must be brought to the Board for approval. James Mack seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.**

- **Shay Jones** for Cross Community Church:

The church is breaking ground on a new facility and there is a groundbreaking service scheduled for March 6. Parking may be an issue for parishioners on that day. The church is requesting a waiver of the \$500 parking lot rental fee for this event, from approximately 3:30 until 4:30 on March 6 for parking only. **Bruce Yeager** verifies that the request by the church is for one hour of public parking for a groundbreaking ceremony. **Shay Jones** answers in the affirmative. **William McCullough** asks if there are any logistical concerns from Parks and Rec staff. **Shannon Loper** states that there are no issues. **Ron Campbell motions that the parking lot be made available for use on the discussed date and time frame. James Mack seconds. William McCullough amends motion to state that the parking lot be used free of charge for this specific event. Bill Brown seconds. Motion passes.**

- **Board Update – Mike Manesiotis:** Mike Manesiotis has joined the Town of Hilton Head Recreation Commission and is stepping down from the Parks and Recreation Board after 21 years of service. **Bruce Yeager** states that Mike Manesiotis will be difficult to replace, and he will be continuing his work for the betterment of the community. Although Mike was unable to attend today's meeting, Bruce asked that he attend the next meeting, so that he can be recognized. **Shannon Loper** has stated that Alan Arseno was asked to apply for the position of replacing the seat of Mike Manesiotis and has accepted. He will be able to attend the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting in May.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matt Watts:

- **2022 SCAP Basketball District Tournament:** 8U Girls – Beaufort and Bluffton and 8U – Bluffton advance to play for the state championship on Saturday, March 5.
- **Registration Numbers:**
 - **SPRING**
 - **Beaufort:** Youth Baseball: 280 – Youth Flag Football: 100 – Youth Soccer: 475 – Youth Softball: 64 – Total increase from 2021: 192
 - **Bluffton:** Youth Baseball: 535 – Youth Flag Football: 294 – Youth Lacrosse: 79 – Youth Soccer: 874 – Youth Softball – 176 – Total increase from 2021: 307
 - **CURRENT**
 - **Beaufort:** Youth Dixie Boys Baseball – For ages 13-15 (Ends April 8th) / Youth Tennis – For ages 6-14 (Ends March 17th)
 - **Bluffton:** Youth Dixie Boys Baseball – For ages 13-15 (Ends April 8th) / Youth Tennis – For ages 6-14 (Ends March 17th) / Adult Softball – For ages 18 & up (Ends March 31st) / Adult Volleyball – For ages 18 & up (Ends March 4th)

AQUATICS

- **Program Updates:**
 - **Indoor Pools**
 - **Battery Creek:**
 - Pool Hours (until Bluffton Pool is reopened): Monday-Friday: 8AM-12PM / 1PM-7PM
Saturday: Inflatables from 10:30 AM-4:30 PM
 - Boga Classes: Tuesday and Thursday: 6PM-6:30 PM
 - FINS: Everyday: 4:30PM-7:30PM
 - **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours: Monday-Friday: 8AM-12PM / 1PM-7PM
 - Boga Classes: Monday and Wednesday: 6PM-6:30PM
 - Water Aerobics Classes: Monday and Wednesday: 1:30PM-2:30PM
 - Lifeguard Classes: March 4th – March 11th
 - **Swim Lessons:**
 - Group Swim and Private Swim Lessons: None at the moment due to staffing issues.
 - School Lessons:
 - Battery Creek: Currently until March 31st
 - Beaufort: March 7 – 31 and May 9 - 19

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- **Aquatics:**
 - Assistant Aquatics Managers: 1 position open
 - Lifeguards: 5 full time open / 6 part time open
- **Maintenance:**
 - 5 positions open
- **Rec Aides:**
 - 4 positions open

Bruce Yeager suggests reaching out to find out the pricing and information for the new Rec Center in Hardeeville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next board meeting is Thursday, May 5, 2022, in Bluffton.

QUESTIONS

No questions.

ADJOURN

There is a motion to adjourn. The motion is seconded. The meeting is adjourned.