

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, May 26, 2022
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, *Chairman, Southern Beaufort County*
Ronald Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Bill Brown, *Military – ex-officio*
James Mack, *Northern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration – ex-officio*
Eric Priester, *Southern Beaufort County*
Philip Kiser, *At-Large*
Alan Arsano, *Southern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent:

William McCullough, *Northern Beaufort County*
Michael Manesiotis, *Southern Beaufort County*

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:

Ryan Stefonick, *Bluffton BMX*

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

Ryan Stefonick represents an advocacy group called Bluffton BMX. The goal of the group is to establish biking opportunities for all ages in the greater Bluffton and Beaufort area. There are very few places that citizens can ride bikes safely. The group is proposing the installation of a bicycle pump track, which is low maintenance, compact, and affordable. Pump tracks are accessible for all ages and abilities and require no on-site staff. Bluffton BMX is available to help fundraise and grow community support for this cause. **Bruce Yeager** asks for the definition of a pump track. **Ryan Stefonick** states that it is a compact track that contains rollers, and the user uses their own momentum to move around the track. **Bruce Yeager** asks what a pump track costs. **Ryan Stefonick** answers that it varies widely, depending on size and materials. The closest existing pump track is in Jacksonville, Florida.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Bruce Yeager notes that the March minutes contains requested information about the Hardeeville Recreation Center. **Ron Campbell** motions to approve the March minutes and **Carols Cave** seconds. The motion passes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Shannon Loper:

- **Lind Brown Update:** The weight room equipment has arrived, and people are trickling in.
- **Downtown Tennis Update:** The tennis courts and fencing have been torn down. The only thing left are the lights and bathrooms. Progress is happening rapidly. **Bruce Yeager** asks if this the project that we had the grant for drainage, etc. **Shannon Loper** answers that the funding is a mixture of things, including PARD Funding, HTAX, and others; and the project is costing close to \$700,000. This location will be strictly tennis.
- **Bathrooms Updates:** PAR is working on carrying over the funding to next year, so that the project will hopefully be underway sometime after July 1st.
- **Bluffton Pool Updates:** Materials are supposed to begin arriving today, and the work on the roof will begin. They will replace the roof in 8' X 8' sections. Hopefully the pool will be back up and running by the end of August. There is funding in place to replace the HVAC at all three pools, as well as the roofs at the other two pools. After the Bluffton Pool is completed, work will begin on the other two pools. DHEC had previously asked us to open doors and run fans because of Covid. DHEC has asked us as of yesterday to shut the doors. **Chuck Atkinson** states that what we are doing is keeping the pools running, with closure times as short as possible. There are additional conversations happening regarding pools and the Master Plan for long term planning and additional pool space.
- **Summer Camp/Seniors:**
 - **Seniors:** We were awarded the RFP with Lowcog, to take over the Senior Program throughout Beaufort County. Lowcountry Council on Aging was running Burton Wells, St. Helena, and Bluffton. Love House was running others. We will have six sites: Scott, St. Helena, Bluffton, Booker T, Port Royal and Burton Wells. This begins on July 1st. We will also be doing the home delivery meals and transportation. It is a Monday

through Friday program. We are getting a positive response from the existing seniors. We will be reimbursed for meals and transportation, assuming a minimum of 25 participants per site. The seniors are asked to pay what they can to help with costs. We are getting the word out via Facebook, through Chris Ophart, and word of mouth between the seniors. We have space to expand and service more than 25 persons per location. The food service is contracted through Locog and we must utilize that company.

- **Summer Camp:** County Administration tasked us with supplying summer camp for children and grandchildren of employees. We have 60 kids registered in Beaufort (Lind Brown Center) and 50 in Bluffton (Bluffton Recreation Center). We will be up and running the week after next.
- **Master Plan Update:** Survey will go out next week, both online and random mail survey. We are on schedule.
- **Fees:** It is suggested by **Shannon Loper** that the fees for sports registration be increased, due to rising costs. The suggestion is for an increase of \$5.00 for several of the sports. There has also been a struggle in receiving uniforms and uniform pieces on time from vendors. **Matt Watts** verifies that parents are returning lacrosse equipment. **Eric Priester** suggests that all the sports registration fees be the same. **Shannon Loper** explains that different sports have different costs, and some sports have more equipment included with the registration fees than others. There are several minutes of discussion. **Eric Priester motions that all youth sports, with the exception of cheerleading, be raised to a registration fee of \$70.00, and cheerleading be raised to a registration fee of \$50.00. The motion was seconded. The motion passes.**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Matt Watts:

- **Registration Numbers:**
 - **SPRING YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION**
 - **Beaufort:** Youth DB Baseball: 21 – Youth Tennis: 4
 - **Bluffton:** Youth DB Baseball: 34 – Youth Tennis: 16 – Adult Softball: 694 – Adult Co-Ed Volleyball: 57
 - **CURRENT SPORTS REGISTRATION-SUMMER 2022**
 - **Beaufort:** Youth Summer Basketball: 152 – Adult Baseball: 54 – Adult Church Softball: Ends May 31st
 - **Bluffton:** Youth Summer Basketball: 343 – Adult Co-Ed Dodgeball: Starts June 1st – Adult Co-Ed Kickball: Starts June 1st
 - **FALL SPORTS REGISTRATION**
 - Begins June 1st
- **Tournaments:**
 - **2022 DYB Ozone District Tournamen**
 - June 10 – 13
 - Hosting at Burton Wells
 - **2022 Dixie Junior Boys and Boys State Tournament**
 - July 8 – 14
 - Hosting at Oscar Frazier

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: 6:15PM-6:45 PM
 - FINS: Everyday: 4:30PM-7:30PM
 - **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8AM-12PM / 1PM-7PM
 - Boga Classes: Monday and Wednesday: 6:15PM-6:45PM

Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2022

- Water Aerobics Classes: Monday and Wednesday: 1:30PM-2:30PM
- Lifeguard Classes: March 4th – March 11th
- **Swim Lessons:**
 - Group Swim: Year Round
 - School Swim Lessons: Just Finished
 - Stroke Improvement: Year Round
 - CPR: By Appointment
 - Lifeguard Classes: Battery Creek – May 6 - 13

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- **Admin:**
 - Will be changing soon. Will be hiring two more full time and open on Saturdays and Sundays.
- **Athletics:**
 - Athletic Supervisor: 1 – Will soon have 3 open positions.
- **Aquatics:**
 - Lifeguards: 5 full time open / 4 part time open
- **Maintenance:**
 - 5 positions open
- **Rec Aides:**
 - 5 positions open
- **Programs:**
 - 3 – 4 positions open

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next board meeting is Monday, July 18, 2022, in Beaufort.*

Shannon Loper states that we still have not given **Mike Maneisotis** his plaque, due to his absence from the last two meetings. **Bill Brown** is retiring, and there is a replacement in mind.

QUESTIONS

No questions.

ADJOURN

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

*July 7 Board meeting was canceled and rescheduled for Monday, July 18, 2022.