

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center
Thursday, March 2, 2023
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *Beaufort County School District*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent: Bill Brown, *Military ex-officio*
Ronald Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
James Mack, *Northern Beaufort County*

Staff Members Present: Shannon Loper, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Heather Clint, *Senior Administrative Specialist, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Chuck Atkinson, *Assistant County Administrator*
Beaufort County Broadcast Services

Guests Present: None

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

An amendment to the agenda is proposed by **Shannon Loper**, who requests that “Summer Camp” is added to the Director’s Report, as well as adding that a vote is needed for the new Vice Chair. **There is a motion to accept the amended agenda. All are in favor. The motion passes and the agenda is approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Bruce Yeager provides a comment regarding page four of the January minutes, wherein there was a lengthy conversation regarding the possible rental of Buckwalter Recreation Center. He states that “based on the market value of the donations of the gym floor coverings” should be added to his sentence “...\$12,000 for the event is reasonable”.

Phil Kiser motions to approve the January minutes as amended and **Mark Rennix** seconds. **The motion passes.**

DISCUSSION

- **Bruce Yeager** recognizes **Will McCullough**, who resigned from the Parks and Recreation Board. He states that **Will McCullough** provided excellent service.
- **Bruce Yeager** announces that **Erac Priester** has left the Parks and Recreation Board after many years of excellent service. He welcomes **Mark Rennix**, who will be handling the remainder of **Erac Priester’s** term and will hopefully stay with the Parks and Recreation Board for a long time. **Mark Rennix** is a previous employee of Parks and Recreation.
- **Will McCullough** was Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board, and the position needs to be filled. **Bruce Yeager** asks for a motion on replacement or a volunteer for replacement. **Carlos Cave** nominates **Phil Kiser** for **Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board. There is a unanimous vote for Phil Kiser as Vice-Chairman of the Board.**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- **Seniors Program:**
 - Current Enrollment Numbers:
 - Bluffton: 66
 - Booker T: 49
 - Burton Wells: 48
 - Port Royal: 55
 - Scott Center: 23
 - St. Helena: 39
 - Two additional senior centers have been requested in the budget. One center at Lind Brown and another center at Dale.

Bruce Yeager asks for a synopsis on how the senior program is run and funded. **Shannon Loper** states that the centers are partially funded by LOCOG (Lowcountry Council of Governments). PAR has gone through the funding rapidly. Frozen meals are delivered on Fridays to seniors who are locked in at home. During the week, activities take place at the centers and a meal is provided. There are yoga classes, field trips, crafts, parties, and more.

- Valentine’s Event:
 - Pictures of seniors enjoying a senior Valentine event are shown. Over 120 seniors participated in the event.
- **Summer Camp 2023:**
 - **Current Registration Numbers:**
 - Bluffton Center: 23 (Capacity 40)
 - Booker T Center: 0 (Capacity 20)

- Broomfield Center: 0 (Capacity 25)
 - Burton Wells: 17 (Capacity 40)
 - Dale Center: 0 (Capacity 25)
 - Gloria Potts Center: 0 (Capacity 25)
 - Lind Brown Center: 35 (Capacity 50)
 - Port Royal Center: 12 (Capacity 30)
 - County employees had until February 26th to register for summer camp. Municipalities have until March 20th to register, and all spots that are left will be offered to the public on a lottery basis. The cost of the program is \$300 for the summer for first and second child, \$200 for the third, \$100 for the fourth, and any additional are free of charge.
- **Registration Numbers Youth:**
 - **Current Sports/Spring 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Baseball: 298 (up 25 - still registering)
 - Flag Football: 95 (down 10)
 - Soccer: 545 (up 74)
 - Softball: 48 (down 16)
 - Bluffton
 - Baseball: 524 (up 11 - still registering)
 - Flag Football: 342 (up 46)
 - Soccer: 1072 (up 182)
 - Softball: 202 (up 26)
- **Registration Numbers Adult:**
 - **Current Sports/Spring 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Baseball: still registering
 - Bluffton
 - Softball: still registering
 - Kickball: 82 (up 14)
 - Volleyball: 65 (up 8)
- **Tournaments:**
 - **Basketball:**
 - 8U Girls – Bluffton
 - 8U Boys – Beaufort
 - **State Dixie Boys 2023**
 - **World Series Dixie Boys 2024**
- **Reduce Fees Soccer:**
 - **Shannon Loper** received a request from a travel soccer program for a reduction in rental fees for using Parks and Recreation fields. Current fees are \$40 for 2 hours. **Bruce Yeager** states that fees are usually only reduced for one-time events or various fundraisers. The rental rates are fair, and reducing the fees may set a bad precedent. **Shannon Loper** states that Parks and Recreation does use the fields in question. **Bruce Yeager** suggests that someone put forward a motion. **Mark Rennix** abstains from this vote, as he is acquainted with the person in charge of the travel program. **Alan Arseneau motions that the request for reduction of fees is rejected. Phil Kiser seconds the motion. The motion passes. Bruce Yeager** adds the comment that we do not generally reduce fees, as the fees are reasonable, and the availability of our fields are based on use for Parks and Recreation programs first.

- **St. Helena Projects:**
 - At the previous Board meeting, **Will McCullough** asked that St. Helena projects be discussed by the Board. **Kenny Mack** has also requested this be discussed. **Shannon Loper** states that many projects will be determined by the Master Plan, once it is finalized, and there is a committee that handles Capital Improvement Projects for the County that makes decisions on these projects.
 - **Chuck Atkinson** goes over St. Helena locations, and improvements that have taken place within the last year. Over one million dollars has been put into Wesley Felix, including lighting, concessions, bathrooms, and refurbishing fields. Playgrounds are currently being replaced or scheduled for replacement. Parks and Recreation is in negotiation with the owners of Scott Center, which is leased by Beaufort County. The lease is within two years of needing renewal. Parks and Recreation has been doing maintenance on the building, roof, and rotting boards. There are other projects to be done, but the lease renewal needs to be taken care of prior to proceeding. At Gloria Potts, the entire building has been renovated. Through the American Rescue Plan/Covid Funds, three million dollars has been allocated for senior wellness programming. There is discussion of adding a senior wellness center onto the library on St. Helena. There is also discussion of taking ownership of the Lobeco Library, for renovation into another senior wellness center.

Bruce Yeager asks **Chuck Atkinson** if there are any updates on the Camp St. Mary land exchange. **Chuck Atkinson** states that the process is ongoing and there is nothing new to report.

- **Fire Department Event:**
 - Bluffton Township Fire District would like to do a Family Day for their fire department and would like a waiver of fees to use one of our facilities, Bluffton Center, Michael C. Riley, or Oscar Frazier. They would handle clean-up and provide insurance. **Mark Rennix motions that the fee be waived, provided that the fire department is responsible for cleanup, insurance, and no costs be incurred by Parks and Recreation. There is a second and the motion passes.**

AQUATICS

- **Program Updates:**
 - **Indoor Pools**
 - **Battery Creek:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-7:00PM
 - Saturday – Inflatables: 10:30AM-4:30 PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Tuesday and Thursday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Currently None
 - Patron Check In:
 - January: 628
 - February: 211
 - **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-7:00PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Water Aerobics Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 1:30PM-2:30PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - March 13
 - Patron Check In:
 - January: 321

- February: 321
- **Bluffton Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday - Friday: 1:00PM-7:00PM (due to school swim lessons)
 - Saturday: Inflatables from 10:30AM-4:30PM
 - BOGA Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 6:15PM-6:45PM
 - Water Aerobic Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 8:30AM-9:30AM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Until May
 - FINS:
 - Monday - Friday: 2:30PM-7:00PM
 - Lowcountry Autistic Foundation:
 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 5:30PM-7PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - January: 1792
 - February: 2491
- **Group and Private Swim:**
 - Year Round
- **Stroke Improvement:**
 - Year Round
- **CPR:**
 - By Appointment
- **Lifeguard Classes:**
 - March 3-10 – Beaufort Pool
 - April 1-6 – Beaufort Pool
 - April 8-13 – Bluffton Pool
 - April 29-May 6 – Bluffton Pool

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- **Admin:**
 - 1 Part Time Admin Clerk to Fill
- **Aquatics:**
 - Lifeguards:
 - 6 Full Time to Fill
 - 1 Assistant Aquatics Manager
- **Maintenance:**
 - 8 Positions to Fill
- **Rec Aides:**
 - 4 Positions to Fill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting is Thursday, May 4, 2023, in Beaufort. *(This meeting was subsequently canceled.)*

QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURN

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