

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

County Council Chambers
Thursday, September 07, 2023
2:30 PM

Board Members Present: Bruce Yeager, *Chair, Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County*
Ron Campbell, *Northern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*

Board Members Absent: Bill Brown, *Military ex-officio*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Robert Schoch, *Southern 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*
Hank Amundson, *Assistant County Administrator*
Lindsey Epling, *Parks and Recreation*

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

There is a motion to approve the agenda. All are in favor. The motion passes and the agenda is approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Phil Kiser motions to approve the March minutes and Ron Campbell seconds. The motion passes.

DISCUSSION

- **Jonne Hayes** asks if there is a way to commend employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. **Bruce Yeager** states that can be discussed at the end of the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Seniors Program:**
 - Current Enrollment Numbers:
 - Bluffton: 75
 - Booker T: 49
 - Burton Wells: 69
 - Port Royal: 43
 - Scott Center: 31
 - St. Helena: 49
 - Dale: 0 (New Center)
 - Lind Brown: 4
 - Ms. Rivers passed away today at the age of 104.
 - The Dale Center and Lind Brown Center are new centers. Lind Brown Center will be geared toward men's programming. There will be pool table, card table, Super Bowl Sunday activities and more. Terry Dortch will be running the Lind Brown Senior Center.

Bruce Yeager asks if the enrollment numbers are general attendance. **Shannon Loper** responds that these are general attendance numbers. She states that the center must have attendance of a minimum of 25 seniors to qualify for LOCOG (Lowcountry Council of Government) meals. **Bruce Yeager** asks what facility is being used for the Saint Helena program. **Shannon Loper** states that we rent a facility next to the Saint Helena Library. Scott Center is also located in Saint Helena. **Bruce Yeager** asks where the senior program is being run at Lind Brown Center. **Shannon Loper** states that Lind Brown Center has undergone some remodeling, and the senior program is being run in a large room, a game room, and kitchen.

- **Current Registration Numbers:**
- **Registration Numbers Youth:**
 - **Sports Spring 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Baseball: 298 (up 16)
 - Flag Football: 95 (down 9)
 - Soccer: 552 (up 80)
 - Softball: 48 (down 16)
 - Tennis: 24 (up 20)
 - Bluffton
 - Baseball: 489 (down 52)
 - Flag Football: 346 (up 50)
 - Soccer: 1076 (up 182)

- Softball: 203 (up 27)
 - Lacrosse: 67 (down 12)
- **Sports Summer 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Basketball: 148 (down 12)
 - Bluffton
 - Basketball: 457 (up 74)
- **Sports Fall 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Baseball: 198 (up 73)
 - Cheer: 44 (up 11)
 - Flag Football: 100 (up 5)
 - Soccer: 470 (up 53) with 41 on wait list
 - Bluffton
 - Baseball: 336 (up 39)
 - Cheer: 48 (down 5)
 - Flag Football: 283 (up 1)
 - Soccer: 972 (up 152)
 - Softball: 165 (up 16)
- Youth Winter Registration began September 1.
- **Registration Numbers Adult:**
 - **Sports Spring 2023**
 - Bluffton
 - Softball: (down 3 teams)
 - Bronze: 16 teams – 267 players
 - Silver: 10 teams – 169 players
 - Gold: 5 teams – 81 players
 - Co-Ed: 3 teams – 68 players
 - Seniors: 7 teams – 152 players
 - **Sports Summer 2023**
 - Beaufort
 - Baseball: 7 teams – 83 players (up 4)
 - Softball: 7 teams – 152 (up 3 teams and 35 players)
 - Bluffton
 - Kickball: 100 (up 4)
 - Volleyball: (outdoor): 4 teams
 - **Sports Fall 2023**
 - Bluffton
 - Adult Softball
 - Gold: 6 teams – 49 players
 - Silver: 11 teams – 149 players
 - Bronze: 16 teams – 195 players
 - Co-Ed: 5 teams – 59 players
 - Seniors: 5 teams – 116 players
 - Volleyball: 7 teams (up 3 teams)

- **Tournaments:**
 - **State Tournament**
 - **World Series Dixie Boys 2024**
 - Many rainouts during the tournament and staff were working many hours to keep games running. Longtime Parks and Rec employee Candido “Monty” Montanez was murdered after leaving work one evening after working on the fields for the tournament. He served 25 years of employment with Beaufort County. Parks and Recreation held a candlelight vigil at Burton Wells field #2 was named after Monty to honor his life and service to the County.
 - **State Champions**
 - Bluffton 8U Girls State Champions
 - Beaufort County Dixie Jr. Boys
 - Dixie Boys State Champions

- **Summer Camp 2023:**
 - Bluffton Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 28
 - Municipality Employees: 3
 - Public Lottery: 21
 - Waitlist: 114
 - Broomfield Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 0
 - Municipality Employees: 0
 - Public Lottery: 27
 - Waitlist: 1
 - Burton Wells Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 18
 - Municipality Employees: 0
 - Public Lottery: 24
 - Waitlist: 58
 - Gloria Potts Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 0
 - Municipality Employees: 0
 - Public Lottery: 27
 - Waitlist: 0
 - Lind Brown Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 28
 - Municipality Employees: 2
 - Public Lottery: 21
 - Waitlist: 13
 - Port Royal Center Enrollment:
 - County Employees: 19
 - Municipality Employees: 0
 - Public Lottery: 18
 - Waitlist: 23

- Going forward, we will discontinue allowing 11–13-year-olds. Any issues that occurred were with the children that were over 10 years old.

- **Holy Trinity Tennis:**
 - Holy Trinity Tennis has requested a free or reduced rate for utilizing the Beaufort Downtown Tennis Courts. They would like to have two courts, four days a week, and for fourteen weeks.
 - **Current Rates:**
 - 2 Courts X \$50 = \$100 per day
 - 4 Days X \$100 = \$400 per week
 - 14 Weeks = \$5600
 - **Bruce Yeager** states that setting facility rental fees is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Board. He also states that our resources, availability, and allocation change over time,

so it is difficult to set a precedent for discounting fees. **Shannon Loper** states that schools should stop starting programs without facilities. **Bruce Yeager** suggests that he would entertain a motion on reducing the rate by 25% on a one-time basis and should be reviewed each year. This would provide the school a bridge to operate while finding a more permanent solution for their program. **Jonne Hays** motions that the fee be reduced by 25% for 14 weeks. **Alan Arseneau** seconds. The motion passes.

- **Projects:**
 - Bruce Ederly Bathrooms
 - Men's and Women's bathrooms and some storage.
 - Lind Brown
 - The kitchen has been remodeled.
 - Burton Wells Pickleball
 - Pickleball courts are being completed. Canopies and benches are on backorder. There will be a grand opening/ribbon cutting. Parks and Rec funding and ATAX funds were used to complete this project.
 - Playgrounds
 - Shell Point, Gloria Potts, and Wesley Felix all have new playgrounds.
 - Ninja courses have been installed at Buckwalter and Burton Wells.
 - Playgrounds at Bluffton Center, Lind Brown, and Agnes are in process.
- **Shannon Loper** asks to add an agenda item, which is a request from a travel baseball team.
- **Bruce Yeager** would also like to address the Southside pickleball project and the Woodin Partners master plan. **Shannon Loper** has provided the preliminary findings to the board members. She also states that Southside pickleball is out for a request for bid. There will be an addition of 4 pickleball courts, for a total of 6 courts, and a half basketball court.
- **Hank Amundson** states that he received an email from a travel ball team, the Bluffton Waves, requesting to utilize Oscar Frazier Park, three fields, for a two-day fundraiser for a sick child. They are also requesting that the County pay for officials, maintenance, and lighting. **Bruce Yeager** states that even if the board agrees to waive the fee for the fields, the travel ball team should cover trash removal, officials, and field maintenance. **Alan Arseneau** motions that the original proposal is declined, but that Parks and Recreation can possibly accommodate a Sunday event, pending availability, which would include free use of the facility (Oscar Frazier), and not to include maintenance, trash removal, and officials. 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
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Starts Monday September 11th – 9:00AM – 12:00PM
 - Swim Teams:
 - High School – Tuesday and Thursday: 4:00PM – 6:00PM
 - FINS – Tuesday and Thursday: 4:00PM – 6:30PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - May: 538
 - June: 653
 - July: 552
 - August: 460
 - **Beaufort Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00AM - 12:00PM and 1:00PM - 7:00PM
 - Water Aerobics Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 1:30PM - 2:30PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Starts Monday September 11th: 9:00AM – 12:00PM
 - Swim Teams:
 - High School – Monday-Friday: 4:00PM – 6:00PM
 - FINS – Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 4:00PM – 6:30PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - May: 660
 - June: 677
 - July: 563
 - August: 672
 - **Bluffton Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday - Friday: from 8:00AM – 12:00PM and 1:00PM - 7:00PM
 - Saturday: Inflatables from 10:30AM–4:30PM
 - Water Aerobic Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 2:00PM – 2:45PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Starting in October
 - Swim Teams:
 - High School: Monday – Friday: 6:00AM – 7:30AM
 - FINS: Monday – Friday: 2:30PM – 7:00PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - May: 1970
 - June: 731
 - July: 951
 - August: 1225
 - 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
- **Bruce Yeager** asks if check ins include the swim teams. **Anny Binette** answers that the swim teams are included in check in numbers.

- **Bluffton Pool:**
 - Pool Hours:
 - Monday - Friday: from 8:00AM – 12:00PM and 1:00PM - 7:00PM
 - Saturday: Inflatables from 10:30AM–4:30PM
 - Water Aerobic Classes:
 - Monday and Wednesday: 2:00PM – 2:45PM
 - Youth School Swim Lessons:
 - Starting in October
 - Swim Teams:
 - High School: Monday – Friday: 6:00AM – 7:30AM
 - FINS: Monday – Friday: 2:30PM – 7:00PM

- Patron Check In:
 - May: 1970
 - June: 731
 - July: 951
 - August: 1225
 - **Outdoor Pools**
 - **Alvin Settles Pool**
 - Pool hours:
 - Last Day was Labor Day
 - Dog Day:
 - Saturday, September 9th: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - Patron Check In:
 - May: 137
 - June: 1924
 - July: 2462
 - August 996
 - **Classes**
 - **Group and Private Swim**
 - Year Round
 - **Stroke Improvement**
 - Year Round
 - **CPR**
 - By Appointment
 - **Lifeguard Classes**
 - By Appointment
 - **Jonne Hays** asks for an explanation of funding sources that are utilized by Parks and Recreation. **Shannon Loper** states that there is CIP (Capital Improvement Project) funding, impact fees, which must be spent within the area they are collected (by law), and PARD grants.

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

- **Deputy Director**
- **Athletics:**
 - 1 Athletic Supervisor open
- **Aquatics:**
 - Lifeguards:
 - 7 Full Time Open
 - 3 Part Time Open
- **Maintenance:**
 - 1 Crew Leader Open
 - 3 Maintenance Tech Open
- **Rec Aides:**
 - 5 Positions Open
- **Programs:**
 - 1 Assistant Program Manager Open
 - 1 Program Supervisor Open

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next board meeting is Thursday, November 2, 2023, in Bluffton.

Jonee Hayes recognizes **Marshall Moona** and **Vincent Leon**. They are Parks and Recreation lifeguard employees and made the kids feel welcomed at the pool and are very engaging, and I did a great job looking over everyone at the pool. He states that that he would like great employees to be recognized. **Bruce Yeager** states that there should be a way for Parks and Recreation

to recognize outstanding employees. **Shannon Loper** states that she will think of a way to do that, and that these things are noted in employees' evaluations.

QUESTIONS

None.

ADJOURN

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