

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Burton Wells Recreation Center
Thursday, September 4, 2025
2:30 PM

Board Members Present:

Bruce Yeager, Chairman *Southern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County (via Zoom)*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*
Elizabeth "Buffy" Camputaro, *Northern Beaufort County (via Zoom)*

Board Members Absent:

Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Jonne Hayes Sr., *Northern Beaufort County*

Staff Members Present:

Heather Clint, *Administrative Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Shane Stager, *Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation*
Darrell Ketola, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Brandon Whitner, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Evan Christian, *Athletics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Robert Rozek, *Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Rodrick Sawyer, *Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Faranica Reynolds, *Assistant Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Eric Brown, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Jeremy Way, *Marketing Coordinator, Parks and Recreation*
Natasha Dortch, *Fiscal Technician, Parks and Recreation*
Scott Schnee, *Athletic Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Gavin Jones, *Facility Maintenance Technician, Parks and Recreation*

Guests Present:

Christian Kata
Brian Fenlon

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. **Bruce Yeager** introduced **Christian Kata**. **Christian Kata** was a past member of the PAR Board and is coming back. He is just waiting for confirmation from the County Council. **Bruce Yeager** also stated that **Ariel Perry** was also going to be joining the PAR Board on behalf of the military. She is also waiting for confirmation from County Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bruce Yeager asked for a motion to approve the agenda. **A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded, and the agenda was approved.**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2025, MINUTES

Bruce Yeager asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. **A motion was made. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Fenlan, Commissioner of the Low Country Pickleball League, thanked the PAR Board for their charitable assistance with their annual tournament. The tournament was held November 16th through the 18th with over 200 participants. Over the three days the tournament raised \$12,687, which was donated to Second Helpings. These funds are going to help with their November Turkey Drive. After having a meeting with Amy Collins, the Executive Director of Second Helping, they had a request for 146 turkeys and were only able to give out 48. Low Country Pickleball made a commitment to help donate however many turkeys are needed for this upcoming Thanksgiving. Low Country Pickleball are also committed to helping fill their truck with food at all upcoming tournaments. Last year Low Country Pickleball donated 3,000 pounds of food. To date approximately 5,000 pounds of food have been donated and approximately \$40,000 in cash raised for local charities. The next tournament will be in the fall. The first goal would be to hit the \$100,000 mark and the second would be to exceed that. **Brian Fenlan** asked if Parks and Recreation would allow them to hold this upcoming tournament at the Burton Wells location. **Bruce Yeager** asked if they had specific dates in mind. **Brian Fenlan** stated that at this time they did not. Low Country Pickleball is in the process of rebuilding the league with a sports management program, a new website and another platform for rating players. They are looking to hold the tournament in early November. **Bruce Yeager** stated that our next meeting was in November. **Bruce Yeager** asked if the tournament would be held like the previous ones with 100% of the profit going to local charities. **Brian Fenlan** said that the only cost that was incurred was food and beverages and awards. **Bruce Yeager** also asked about trash removal and insurance for the event. **Brian Fenlan** stated that we handled the trash removal and they in fact acquired the insurance with Parks and Recreation named second on the policy. **Bruce Yeager** asked if anyone had any questions. **Alan Arseneau** thanked **Brian Fenlan** for coming in and giving a report on the past tournament. **Phil Kiser** asked how many courts are left open for the public. **Brian Fenlan** stated that all the courts are used during the tournament. **Bruce Yeager** asked for a motion to be made since the next meeting is the 6th of November. A motion was made to accept the pending date with approval from the department. **Bruce Yeager** stated that he could not make a motion but would consider restating the motion to indicate they will work with the county to hold the 3-day tournament, and it will be in the same form as last year's event. **The motion was seconded and approved.** **Brian Fenlan** also stated that the staff were easy to work with, professional and very accommodating. **Brian Fenlan** will also come back to the board with a report on this tournament.

PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DATES -2026

Bruce Yeager asked if everyone had a chance to look over the proposed dates and if there are any conflicts.

Beaufort County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

2026 Proposed Meeting Dates and Locations

Thursday, January 08, 2026 - 2:30 PM – Burton Wells Recreation Center

Thursday, March 05, 2026 – 2:30 PM – Buckwalter Recreation Center

Thursday, May 07, 2026 - 2:30 PM – Burton Wells Recreation Center

Thursday, July 09, 2026 - 2:30 PM – Buckwalter Recreation Center

Thursday, September 03, 2026 - 2:30 PM - Burton Wells Recreation Center

Thursday, November 05, 2026 - 2:30 PM – Buckwalter Recreation Center

Notes: To prevent scheduling conflicts with holidays, the January and July meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. If construction of the County Council chambers is complete in 2026, we will request to relocate the meetings in Burton Wells to the County Council chambers.

Bruce Yeager stated that it looks good, he did not see any conflicts. **Bruce Yeager** asked for a motion to approve the meeting dates and locations for the 2026 meetings. **Alan Arseneau** made a motion to approve the dates for the 2026 meetings. **The motion was seconded. The motion was passed.**

DEPARTMENT REPORT

• **Operations**

○ Patron Check-Ins:

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Buckwalter	Check in	Footfall Count
July 2024	4554	N/A
July 2025	4804	9,374 (7/18 – 7/31)
August 2024	3973	N/A
August 2025	4884	9,853 (8/01 – 8/31)

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Burton Wells	Check in	Footfall Count
July 2024	479	N/A
July 2025	504	10,019 (7/1 -8/31)
August 2024	440	N/A
August 2025	557	

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Charles Lind Brown	Check in	Footfall Count
July 2024	407	N/A
July 2025	475	N/A
August 2024	275	N/A
August 2025	216	N/A

Heather Clint stated that we had new numbers to go along with the check-in numbers. Buckwalter and Burton Wells had footfall counter installed. This is to track the number of people entering the facilities and not necessarily checking in. The example given was, during basketball season when we have practices, we have hundreds of people coming in. The original number was taken and 30% was subtracted. 30% was taken off for the people that go out of the entrance door. **Bruce Yeager** asked if these numbers reflect people leaving the facility. **Heather Clint** replied that the numbers were from people entering the facility. **Bruce Yeager** stated that he felt 30% would be a significant reduction and asked how that figure was reached. **Shane Stager** replied that that was a good starting point. **Heather Clint** also mentioned that there are two exit doors and only one enter door. She also commented that not all the patrons pay attention to the posting on the door and exit through the entrance. **Shane Stager** stated that this was the testing phase. **Bruce Yeager** asked if we are testing the numbers for check-in versus the number of people that enter the facility. **Shane Stager's** reply was inaudible. **Bruce Yeager** questioned if everyone had to check-in. He understood that players and spectators did not check-in for the basketball games and practices. **Bruce Yeager** did ask who was required to check in. **Heather Clint** replied that anyone that is using the facility aside from rentals. She noted that with a rental, 50 people may come into the facility to go into a classroom and not use the facility. We just make sure they are going into the classroom only. She also stated that anyone wishing to use the weight room, racquetball courts, cardio or the batting cages needed to be checked in. **Shane Stager's** reply was inaudible. **Heather Clint** also informed the Board that due to the construction at the Charles Lind Brown Center, the footfall counter has not been installed. It will be once the construction is complete. **Heather Clint** went on to explain the footfall numbers. The Buckwalter location started on the 18th of July. These numbers included our Basketball season which ended around the second week of August. For the Burton Wells location, this also included the same time for the Basketball season. The reason for only one number is that the counter was not reset for August, so the number includes all of July and August. **Bruce Yeager** asked if we are seeing an increase in utilization with all the new developments. **Heather Clint** responded that Buckwalter was not always steady at the 4,000 mark and now it is.

- **Athletics**

- **Current League**

- **Fall Beaufort Youth**

Baseball	2024: 228	2025: 180	-48	Games start 9/8
Softball	2024: 87	2025: 87	0	Games start 9/10
Flag Football	2024: 110	2025: 135	+25	Games start 9/8
Soccer	2024: 494	2025: 516	+22	Games start 9/6
Cheer	2024: 37	2025: 44	+ 7	Games start 9/8

- **Summer Beaufort Adult**

Co-Ed Softball	2024: 164	2025: 157	- 7 (Same # of Teams)	League ending 9/16
Baseball	2024: 71	2025: 105	+34 (+1 team)	League ending 9/8
Kickball	2024: 58	2025: 76	+18 (+1 team)	League ending 9/25

- **Upcoming Fall Sports**

- **Fall Beaufort Adult**

Baseball	2024: 68	2025: 2	-66	Registration 9/1 – 9/26
Basketball	2024: 36	2025: -	-	Registration 9/22 – 10/17

- **Winter Beaufort Youth**

Basketball	2024: 258	2025: 4	-254	Registration 9/1 – 10/10
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Brandon Whitener went over our current numbers for Beaufort. Every number went up except baseball. Softball stayed the same as in 2024. Adult summer sports will end shortly. **Bruce Yeager** commented that the numbers in baseball went down. **Brandon Whitener** replied that he has noticed with baseball in the area and that in the past year and a half there are 7 travel teams starting as well as 4 travel softball teams. **Brandon** feels that this is affecting our numbers. **Brandon Whitener** stated that he feels those kids will return in the spring. **Bruce Yeager** asked where the travel teams are practicing if they are renting fields from us. **Brandon Whitener** replied that they are renting the fields from us as they do not have their own fields. They are also using a new facility that opened in Beaufort, Hitters University, they are using them as well. **Bruce Yeager** asked if we have enough field for our leagues. **Brandon Whitener** replied that we did. All schedules for practice and games went to our leagues first and any open field were then available for the travel teams to rent. **Bruce Yeager** also commented on the softball league's numbers staying where they were at from the previous year. **Brandon Whitener** stated that our program has gone up 40 – 50 participants, especially in the spring.

Current League – Summer

- Fall Bluffton Youth

Baseball	2024: 278	2025: 268	-10	Games start 9/13
Softball	2024: 155	2025: 133	-22	Games start 9/13
Flag Football	2024: 310	2025: 367	+57	Games start 9/6
Soccer	2024: 939	2025: 896	-43	Games start 9/6
Cheer	2024: 65	2025: 44	-21	Games start 9/6

- Summer Bluffton Adult

Kickball	2024: 82	2025: 130	+52	Season ends week of 9/8
Volleyball (outdoor)	2024: 42	2025: 81	+39	Season ends week of 9/8

Upcoming Fall Sports

- Winter Bluffton Youth

Basketball	2024: 932	2025: 26	-	Registration ends 10/17
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- Fall Bluffton Adult

Adult Softball - Bronze	2024: 16 teams	2025: 16 teams	-	Player registration ends 10/5
Adult Softball - Silver	2024: 9 teams	2025: 10 teams	+1	Player registration ends 10/5
Adult Softball - Gold	2024: 5 teams	2025: 5 Teams	-	Player registration ends 10/5
Adult Softball – Co-Ed	2024: 4 teams	2025: 4 teams	-	Player registration ends 10/5
Adult Softball - Senior	2024: N/A	2025: 4 teams	-	Player registration ends 10/5
Adult Volleyball	2024: 71	2025: 122	+51	

Evan Christian went over the numbers for Bluffton. Flag football, soccer, and cheer are starting this weekend. Baseball and softball will be starting next weekend. We did have a small decrease in the numbers for baseball, softball, soccer and cheer. The numbers for flag football went up. **Evan Christian** stated that he felt that some of the participants of baseball and soccer went to flag football. **Evan Christian** also feels that travel ball is hurting us especially in the fall when kids are not playing on the weekends. **Evan Christian** went on to explain how the adult sports take over Oscar Frazier and MC Riley Monday through Thursday; the youth baseball and softball have Friday and Saturday in the fall. Adult kickball went up 52 participants and volleyball went up 39. **Phil Arseneau** commented on how the field usage in Bluffton is the exact opposite of Beaufort's field usage. **Evan Christian** went on to present our winter programs. Basketball just opened, registration goes until the 17th of October. We have the same divisions for adult softball. The adult senior league has returned. Volleyball numbers have increased for both indoor and outdoor. **Bruce Yeager** asked about the adult senior seague. **Evan Christian** stated that they had gone to play on Hilton Head. They were providing everything, umpires, balls, they were lining their own fields. **Bruce Yeager** asked if they felt that was a little harder than just showing up and playing. **Evan Christian** did reply that the ones that started the league are not back with us, this is a whole different group. **Bruce Yeager** asked if they could play on Wednesday afternoon on one field. **Evan Christian** stated that they would be using 2 fields as there are 4 teams.

New Programming, Tournaments Updates, Misc. Data

- MLB Pitch, Hit and Run
 - Oscar Frazier Park July 19th
- Top Gun Softball Tournament
 - 9/13 at Oscar Frazier
 - 11/22 at Oscar Frazier and Burton Wells
- Summer adult sports showed significant growth YoY compared to Summer 2024
 - Beaufort Kickball (+20%)
 - Beaufort Baseball (+45%)
 - Bluffton Kickball (+60%)
 - Bluffton Beach Volleyball (+90%)

Evan Christian stated the following results from the above Tournament update: We held the MLB Pitch, Hit and Run at Oscar Frazier of the 19th of July. There were approximately 150 participants that signed up. No one advanced to the next level, but the tournament was a success. We held the Top Gun Softball Tournament in August. There is another one coming up on the 13th at Oscar Frazier and another one on the 22nd of November also at Oscar Frazier as well as Burton Wells. The last tournament they had was also at both Oscar and Burton Wells and it was a great turnout. **Bruce Yeager** asked if they were rentals at the usual rates. **Evan Christian** stated that they are. **Phil Kiser** asked how many teams they had. **Evan Christian** replied that they had 10 in one age group and 4 in the other that played in Bluffton, and he was unsure about the numbers in Beaufort. **Brandon Whitener** replied that there were 12 that played in Beaufort. **Evan Christian** went on to explain the growth in the Summer Adult Sports. **Bruce Yeager** asked if that was attributed to better social media? **Evan Christian** responded that he believed that did help some. He also stated that they are trying new things such as outdoor volleyball, having umpires at the kickball games helped as well. **Bruce Yeager** asked if there is trouble finding kickball umpires. **Evan Christian** stated that we do not. **Ken Tensley** has been working hard at finding all the umpires and referees. **Bruce Yeager** asked what some of the complaints we were hearing. **Evan Christian** stated that most of the complaints have been from parents, not being able to practice on the assigned night and wanting to switch teams. This makes it difficult for the staff, once rosters are put together, uniforms are ordered, so moving people around is the biggest complaint. We do let people know that we cannot guarantee what teams they will be on or what their practice time will be.

- **Senior Program Update**
 - Centers
 - Bluffton Center
 - Booker T Washington
 - Burton Wells Center
 - Dale Center
 - Lind Brown Center
 - Port Royal Center
 - Scott Center
 - St. Helena Center

August 21st was National Senior Day. The Seniors of the Beaufort County 60 & Better Program partnered with Sprenger Health Care and celebrated with a Hawaiian-themed Luau at Burton Wells.

Construction at Booker T. is complete with minor punch list items being addressed. The participants are excited to enjoy the new upgrades.

Construction at Scott Center is imminent and the participants have been relocated to the Gloria Potts Center.

Highlighted field trips from the past two months: Trips to our local Nursing Homes. Beach Days and Water Festival.

- Meals served and delivered for July & August
 - Home Delivered Meals (HDM): 2,940
 - Group Dining: 2,715

Shane Stager reported on the Senior Program. He stated that for National Senior Day all the centers came to Burton Wells for a Luau co-hosted with Sprenger Health Care. Booker T. construction, the inside has been completely redone, new flooring, painting and ADA accessible. The seniors are excited to be moving back in. Scott Center construction is imminent; the seniors have been moved to Gloria Potts. They had some fun field trips. The meals served for July and August are as follows: Home Delivered 2,2940 and Group Dining: 2,175.

- **Aquatics**

- **Battery Creek:**

- New Pool Hours: as of September 2
 - Monday – Thursday: 1pm – 7pm
 - Friday: 8am – 12pm / 1pm -7pm
 - Saturday: Closed
 - School Swim Lessons: as of September 2
 - Monday – Thursday: 9:30am – 11:30am
 - Water Aerobics: as of September 2
 - Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30pm – 6:30pm
 - Patron Check Ins:
 - July: 457
 - Aug: 287

- **Beaufort Pool:**

- New Pool Hours: Starting September 8
 - Monday – Thursday: 8am – 9:30am / 1pm – 7pm
 - Friday: 8am – 12pm / 1pm – 7 pm
 - Saturday: 8am – 1pm (lap swim)
 - 1st Saturday of the month Inflatables 11am – 4:30Pm
 - School Swim Lessons: Started September
 - Monday – Thursday: 9:30am – 11:30am
 - Programs:
 - Water Aerobics: Finished in July, restarts in October
 - Scuba: call to schedule – Ken McCracken
 - School Swim Team:
 - BHS: Monday – Friday: 4:15pm – 6pm
 - Patron Check Ins:
 - July: 968
 - August: 1083

- **Bluffton Pool:**

- New Pool Hours:
 - Monday – Thursday: 8am – 9: / 2pm – 7pm
 - Friday: 8am – 1pm / 2pm – 7pm
 - Saturday: 8am – 1pm (lap swim)
 - 1st. Saturday of the month inflatables: 1pm – 4:30pm
 - School Swim Lessons: Starting September 8

- Monday - Thursday: 9:30am – 12:30pm
- Programs:
 - Physical Therapy: Friday 8:15am – 9:15am
 - FINS Swim Team: Monday – Friday: 5pm – 8pm
 - School Swim Teams:
 - BHS: Monday – Friday: 6pm – 8pm
 - MRHS: Monday – Friday: 6pm – 8pm
- Patron Check Ins:
 - July: 1,282
 - August: 907

Alvin Settles Pool:

- Pool Hours:
 - Closed for the season
- Patron Check Ins:
 - July: 3,213
 - August: 507
- Events Coming Up:
 - Doggy Day: September 6
 - 10am – 11:30am: small dogs up to 50lbs.
 - 11:45am – 1:15pm: big dogs over 50lbs.
 - The Great Pumpkin Splash:
 - October 17th (BLF Pool) 6pm – 8pm
 - October 24th (AS Pool) 6pm – 8pm

Anny Binette began with the Battery Creek Pool.: the hours have changed. This is because there are school swim lessons at the pool Monday through Thursday from 9:30 -11:30. Water Aerobics has started, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Patron check ins for July were 457 and August 287. **Bruce Yeager** asked if that number included Fins. **Anny Binette** stated that it does not, nor did it include any swim teams. For Beaufort Pool: the hours are changing there as well. Monday – Thursday: 8am – 9:30am and 1pm -7pm. Friday is 8am – 12pm and 1pm -7pm. Lap swim on Saturday is 8am – 1pm except for the 1st Saturday of the month when the inflatables are from 11:30 – 4:30pm. Water Aerobics ended in July and will resume in October. Scuba was there as well. School swim team practice is Monday – Friday from 4:15pm – 6pm. Patron check in for July was 968 and August was 1,083. **Bruce Yeager** asked why Battery Creek patron check in decreased and Beaufort pool went up? **Anny Binette** replied that she believed it was because of the hours, and Beaufort pool also has a high school swim team. For the Bluffton pool: the hours are changing there as well: Monday 8:30am -9:30am, and 2pm – 7pm. Friday is 8am – 1pm and 2pm – 7pm. Saturday is 8am – 1pm except for the first Saturday of the month when it is the inflatables from 11am – 4:30pm. The school swim lessons are Monday – Thursday from 9:30am – 12:30pm. There is now a Physical Therapy Program only on Fridays from 8:15am – 9:15am. Fins swim team is Monday – Friday, 5pm – 8pm. Bluffton High and May River High have their practice Monday – Friday from 6pm – 8pm. Patron check in for July 1,282 and August 907. For the Alvin Settles Pool: it has officially closed for the season. For check in: July was 3,213 and for August was 507. This did go down due to school opening earlier this year. Events that are coming up are: Doggy Day, that is September 6th, 1am – 11:30 for dogs up to 50lbs and 11:45 – 1:15pm for dogs over 50lbs. We are hosting a Great Pumpkin Splash, that will be at the Bluffton Pool and the Alvin Settles pool. **Bruce Yeager** asked if we signed another commitment with the schools for the swim lessons. **Eric Brown** stated that it was renewed.

- **Recreation**
 - **Events:**
 - Past:
 - Back to School Bash Recap

- Upcoming:
 - Pumpkin Splash at Bluffton Pool – October 17th
 - Trunk or Treat at Buckwalter – October 18th
 - Pumpkin Splash at Alvin Settles – October 24th
 - Trunk or Treat at Charles Lind Brown – October 25th

- **Camps & Clinics:**
 - New:
 - Low Country Volleyball Clinic

 - Upcoming:
 - Rebels Fall Lacrosse Clinic

- **Programs:**
 - New:
 - Chair Exercises with Seniors at Charles Lind Brown
 - Flex & Flow at Charles Lind Brown

 - Current:
 - Tone it Thursday at Charles Lind Brown
 - Bridge at Charles Lind Brown
 - Lind Dancing at Charles Lind Brown
 - Karate at Buckwalter
 - Country Line Dancing at Buckwalter
 - Zumba at Buckwalter
 - Chair Yoga at Buckwalter
 - Jungle Body at Buckwalter
 - Gentle Yoga at Buckwalter
 - Table Tennis Club at Burton Wells
 - Table Tennis Club at Burton Wells

 - Completed:
 - 2025 Summer Camps
 - Altitude Academy at Charles Lind Brown
 - Bull Shark Wrestling Club at Burton Wells

Faranica Reynolds gave the following update: We held our first Back to School event on August 8th. It was a successful event. We partnered with some community organizations and handed out school supplies. We look forward to doing it again. For some of the upcoming events, we teamed up with **Anny Binette** and are having Pumpkin Splash as well as Trunk or Treat. This year the Trunk or Treat will be at Buckwalter as well as Charles Lind Brown. **Bruce Yeager** asked how someone would participate in the Trunk or Treat. **Faranica Reynolds** replied that we are reaching out to different departments within the County, to participate by decorating a truck and passing out candy. **Bruce Yeager** asked if someone wants to participate all they would have to do is decorate a trunk and pass out candy? **Faranica Reynolds** stated that it is not open to the public as far as bringing a vehicle, the public is just to come out and enjoy themselves. We are partnering with the Great Grand Foundation as well as the Beaufort City Police. There are 2 new clinics that we are hosting, Lowcountry Volleyball, which has already started and in October we are having Fall Lacrosse Clinic. We have launched 3 new programs, all of which are held at Charles Lind Brown. We started chair exercises with seniors. This program is with our Senior Program. One Wednesday a month they will come to the center and participate in that program. We have the Flex and Flow Program that will begin this Friday. **Bruce Yeager** asked what the Flex and Flow would be. **Faranica Reynolds** replied that Flex and Flow will be a stretch and mobility fitness class. Tone it Tuesday is a step aerobics class. We still have ongoing programs at the Buckwalter, Burton Wells and Charles Lind Brown Centers. **Bruce Yeager** asked if we had an estimate of the people coming to these programs. **Faranica Reynolds** stated that she did not but would have them next time. We hired a Recreation Coordinator for Bluffton Center and are looking forward to having programming there as well. Programs that have ended are our Summer Camps, the Bull Sharks Wrestling ended last week. The Altitude Academy ended 2 weeks ago. We look forward to doing something with them in the future.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

- **Partnership & Facility Updates**
 - **Misc. Updates**
 - Staff completed annual evaluations in August
 - Managers were assigned 3 overarching goals
 - Foster and Facilitate Innovation and Quality Assurance
 - Customer surveys, process improvements, etc.
 - Incorporate Strategic Planning
 - 1 - & 3 – year department outlook
 - Strengthen Employee Development & Retention
 - Employee recognition and training
 - Representatives from several departments will be attending NRPA in mid-September
 - Grounds and Facility Maintenance staff went through all-day safety training in late August
 - Multiple staff members attended defensive driving course in late August
 - **Facility Updates:**
 - Bluffton Pool
 - New pump installed late August to minimize closure impact
 - Oscar Frazier
 - Field 1 barrier netting in progress
 - Public Works trouble shooting field drainage on OF1 / OF2
 - Buckwalter / Burton Wells
 - Basketball and racquetball courts re-coated late August
 - Buckwalter gym lighting soliciting quotes
 - Agnes Major Center, Wesley Felix (new construction planning)
 - Pre-construction meeting underway
 - Senior / Community Center
 - Booker T. Washington Center – renovations complete; moving back in
 - Scott Center – renovations nearing start, working through contractor challenges
 - Bluffton Center - renovations nearing start, working through elevator design challenges
 - Charles Lind Brown
 - Construction underway; existing flooring removed backboards and curtain replaced
 - FY26 CIP Projects
 - Final project list not yet available

Shane Stager gave the following update: August was a busy month for all our managers and employees. Parks and Recreation have a little over 100 employees throughout the organization, and we were doing evaluations all last month. All managers were assigned 3 overarching goals. One is to foster and facilitate innovation and quality assurance. We will be looking at customer surveys, and process improvements. We are looking to take all our programs to the next level and do things more efficiently. We will get feedback from the customers so that we can improve our leagues and recreation programs. We will incorporate strategic

planning, and we will be looking at a 1- and 3-year outlook for each of our groups, aquatics, seniors, recreation and athletics, coming up with what the groups need to move forward for the next several years. The third goal is to strengthen employee development and retention. We will develop employee recognition programs and additional training to improve the department. Several of us will be attending NRPA in September. Our grounds facility maintenance went through all day safety training in August. We also had some staff go through defensive driver's course. **Bruce Yeager** asked if evaluations were always done in August. **Shane Stager** stated that they are in August, but if you were transferred into a new position after January 1st, you did not get an evaluation this year, you would get one the following August. **Bruce Yeager** asked, when giving the evaluations, you are asking if they are satisfied with their job as well. **Shane Stager** replied that while they are not explicitly asked, all employees could do a self-evaluation. **Shane Stager** mentioned that he believed the county was going toward a 360-evaluation model. That is where the employees could evaluate their manager as well, but nothing is in stone to that yet. **Bruce Yeager** commented that retaining people is difficult but by looking around the room we are retaining people well. He also asked if morale is better. **Shane Stager** responded that it is. We are working on lifeguard retention. **Shane Stager** went on to give a facility update: Bluffton pool had the pool pump replaced. We have been in the process of installing a new barrier at Oscar Frazier field 1 and the football field. That is about 40-45% complete. Public Works is troubleshooting some drainage issues on field 1 and 2. Buckwalter and Burton Wells had the floors polyurethane applied about a week and a half ago including all the basketball courts and racquetball courts. We are in the process of getting quotes for new lighting, specifically gyms 1 & 2 at Buckwalter. Agnes Major and Wesley Felix facilities are in pre-construction meetings. That will hopefully be starting very soon. Booker T is complete; Scott and Bluffton Centers are next to be started. Bluffton Center is having elevator design challenges. At Charles Lind Brown, they have started working on the gym. The floor has been completely removed. They replaced the curtain and the baskets. They are working on replacing the flooring. For our FY26 Capital Improvement Projects, we are still working through some budget challenges and what that will look like for FY26. **Eric Brown** spoke about Agnes Major and Wesley Felix; it is about 85% complete on permitting. We are excited about those projects starting in the next month or so. **Eric Brown** stated that soon it could be in a month or so. **Bruce Yeager** asked if the Board had any questions or comments. **Phil Kiser** replied, stating that he had heard **Eric Brown** gave a very nice presentation at the Kiwanis Club meeting last night. He also stated that **Eric Brown** represented the department very well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Yeager mentioned the next meeting will be Thursday November 6th, 2025, at 2:30, at Buckwalter Recreation Center, 905 Buckwalter Parkway, Bluffton.

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.