

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Buckwalter Recreation Center, Bluffton
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 2:30 PM

- Board Members Present:** Bruce Yeager, Chairman, *Southern Beaufort County*
Christian Kata, *Northern Beaufort County*
Mark Rennix, *Northern Beaufort County*
Phil Kiser, *Southern Beaufort County*
Alan Arseneau, *Southern Beaufort County*
- Board Members Absent:** Carlos Cave, *School District Administration ex-officio*
Ariel Perry, *Military ex-officio*
Jonnie Hayes, *Southern Beaufort County*
- Staff Members Present:** Eric Brown, *Director, Parks and Recreation*
Shane Stager, *Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation*
Heather Clint, *Administrative Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Antoinette Binette, *Aquatics Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Lindsey Epling, *Assistant Senior Program Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Marisa Freeman, *Senior Program Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Evan Christian, *Athletic Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Scott Schnee, *Assistant Athletic Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Darrell Ketola, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Robert Lamb, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Bob Rozek, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Roderick Sawyer, *Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation*
Brock Vaughn, *Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Faranica Reynolds, *Assistant Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation*
Brandon Whitener, *Recreation Coordinator, Parks and Recreation*
- Visitors:** Chris Montroy
Scott Whitehead

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Bruce Yeager**.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Introductions

Bruce Yeager stated **Buffy Computaro** has resigned from the Board.

Approval of Agenda

Bruce Yeager asked the board members to approve the agenda. **A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The agenda was approved.**

Public Comment

Bruce Yeager asked if there were comments from the public. No comments were made.

Review and Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2026

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

Fee Waiver/Reduction Request

Bruce Yeager stated the Board received a letter from The Complete Student School requesting a fee reduction to utilize the downtown tennis courts for 2 dates. Bruce stated the school has previously used the courts and paid the full fee. The Board has previously provided waivers in the past to Holy Trinity School. **Mark Rennix** asked what the usual fee is. Bruce stated it is \$300. **A motion was made to give The Complete Student School a 50% waiver for both events. The motion was seconded and approved.** Parks and Recreation will approve the number of courts the school is able to utilize.

Department Reports

- **Operations**

Heather Clint went over the footfall counts at each facility. Numbers for Burton Wells are not available because the counter device provides inaccurate numbers. Buckwalter's numbers were reduced by 30% to account for patrons exiting from the entry door.

Footfall Total:	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
Buckwalter	21,201	8,258
Burton Wells	N/A	N/A
Charles Lind Brown	N/A	N/A

Patron Check-In:	Jan 2026	Feb 2026
Buckwalter	3,689	3,633
Burton Wells	588	538
Charles Lind Brown	142	129

Heather Clint highlighted events that were hosted by other county departments in January and February.

Departments	Event	Facility Utilized
Human Resources	County Hiring Event	Burton Wells Recreation Center
Risk Management	County Employee Defensive Driving Class	Buckwalter Recreation Center
Veteran's Affairs	Department Meeting	Burton Wells Recreation Center

- **Athletics**

Evan Christian stated baseball and softball have their opening day on Saturday, March 11 at Oscar Frazier. Flag football practice begins the following week. Female flag football had enough sign-ups for the 11-13 age group. There were not enough sign-ups for the 13-16 age group; they were offered to play soccer or play with the 13-16 boys instead. Lacrosse practice has been ongoing, with games beginning this upcoming Saturday. Soccer practice begins this week as well.

- **Bluffton Current Leagues**

Spring Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Baseball	498	489	-9	Closed Feb 6
Softball	207	195	-12	Closed Feb 6
Flag Football	398	460	+62	Closed Feb 6
Female Flag Football	-	31	+31	Closed Feb 6
Lacrosse	72	74	-2	Closed Feb 6
Soccer	1045	944	-100	Closed Feb 6

Adult indoor volleyball begins next week with 14 teams.

Spring Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Volleyball	106	141	+35	Closed Feb 20

○ **Bluffton Upcoming Leagues**

Summer Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Basketball	455	-	-	Opens Apr 1
Diamond Softball (13-16)	37	12	-25	Ends Apr 3
Dixie Baseball (13-16)	41	11	-30	Ends Apr 3

Summer Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Softball – Senior	4 teams	4 teams	-	Closed
Softball – 4 divisions	30 teams	-	-	Opens Mar 1

Evan Christian then discussed the recent and upcoming youth basketball tournaments. Teams went to Orangeburg and Daniel’s Island for their district tournaments. The Bluffton 10u boys and 12u girls teams will be advancing to their respective state tournaments.

Scott Schnee is working on the Top Gun Softball tournament coming this fall. **Bruce Yeager** asked if the tournament is for girls; **Evan Christian** confirmed they are. The 12u and 15u girls softball state tournament will be held at Oscar Frazier. Approval has just been received for the Pitch Hit and Run tournament that will be held in July.

Brandon Whitener went over the statistics for Beaufort. Youth baseball had a slight increase, whereas softball went down slightly. There were enough younger girls switching over to baseball to create 2 tee ball teams. Last year was the first time there was a lacrosse league in Beaufort. There were not enough sign-ups this year to create a league; players have been moved to another sport.

○ **Beaufort Current Leagues**

Spring Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Baseball	312	318	+6	Closed Feb 6
Softball	111	104	-7	Closed Feb 6
Flag Football	158	212	+54	Closed Feb 6
Lacrosse	38	-	-	Cancelled
Soccer	570	594	+24	Closed Feb 6
Diamond Softball (13-16)	13	10	+3	Ends Mar 6
Dixie Baseball (13-16)	51	18	-33	Ends Apr 10

Spring Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Indoor Soccer	44	46	+2	Closed Jan 9

○ **Beaufort Upcoming Leagues**

Summer Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Basketball	129	-	-	Opens Apr 1

Summer Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Co-Ed Softball	159	-	-	Opens Apr 1
Baseball	105	-	-	Opens Apr 1
Kickball	76	-	-	Opens May 4

- **Senior Program**

Marisa Freeman discussed all the events that the seniors participated in, stating home delivered meals and group dining numbers have gone up. More referrals are coming in from LoCog.

Meals delivered and served for January and February

Home Delivered Meals: 3,410

Group Dining: 2,771

- **Aquatics**

- Group and Private Swim (children and adults): year-round 2:30-6:30pm
- Fins: Swim Team: Bluffton Pool Mon-Fri 5-8pm
- Infant Swim Resource: call Christian
- Scuba: call Ken
- Water Aerobics:
 - Battery Creek: Tues & Thurs 5:30-6:30pm
 - Beaufort: Mon, Wed, Fri 10-11:15am
 - Beaufort: 2:15-3:15 during school lessons
 - Bluffton: Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am
- School Swim Lessons: Pool closed Mon-Thurs 9:30am-2:00pm
 - Battery Creek: Currently ongoing
 - Beaufort: Resumes Mar 9
 - Bluffton: Currently ongoing

Check-Ins	January	February
Battery Creek	458	670
Beaufort	744	690
Bluffton	1626	1839

- **Recreation**

Brock Vaughn went over all the recent and upcoming programs between Bluffton and Beaufort. Summer and Spring Break Camp sign-ups have just opened. Robotics camp and chemical creations have been newly added this year.

Program/Classes	Max Participants	Total Participants	Registration Dates
Adapted Athletics	30	34	Jan 1 - Feb 14
Pickup Basketball	20	12	Jan 14 – Mar 19
Beginner Pickleball S2	14	14	Feb 1 – Mar 7
Pickleball Ladder League	16	14	Jan 14 – Mar 7
Game Night – Bluffton	20	20	Nov 24 – Jan 7
Game Night – Beaufort	5	20	Feb 6 – Mar 4
Book Club – Bluffton	18	20	Nov 24 – Jan 21
Floor Hockey	35	35	Nov 1 – Jan 11

Camp	Max Participants	Total Participants	Registration Dates
Spring Break – Bluffton	20	20	Feb 2 – Apr 4
Spring Break – Beaufort	10	20	Feb 2 – Apr 4
Robotics	14	7	Jan 5 – Apr 10
Chemical Creations	14	3	Jan 5 – Apr 10
Tormenta Spring Break	-		
Summer Camps	-	-	Opens Mar 2

Upcoming Programs
- Mini Murals – Bluffton
- Eggstravaganza – Bluffton
- Beginner Weightlifting – Beaufort
- Movie Nights – Bluffton, Beaufort, Broomfield
- Community Yard Sale – Beaufort
- Boxing Club – Beaufort
- Sports Clinics – St. Helena
- Step Out Together - All

70/30 Programs	
- Palmetto Karate	- Kokedama Planter
- Public Tennis Clinic	- Plant Care & Propagation
- Low Country Volleyball	- Sound Healing Meditation
- 1LoCo Basketball	- Unity Drum Circle
- 1LoCo Baseball	- Intro to Sewing
- AR Workshop – Bluffton	
- Country Line Dance	
- Schepper Tennis	

Director’s Report

Shane Stager addressed personnel staffing and the facility/CIP updates.

- Personnel Updates
 - Admin
 - Open: 1x PT Admin Specialist (offer pending)
 - Aquatics
 - Open: 2x PT WSI
 - Recent Hires: 1x FT WSI (internal)
 - Athletics
 - Open: 1x PT Recreation Leader (officials)
 - Recent Hires: 1x FT Asst Athletics Manager (internal); 1x FT Athletics Supervisor (onboarding)
 - Recreation
 - Open: 2x PT Recreation Aide
 - Grounds
 - Open: 1x FT Maintenance Tech
 - Recent Hires: 1x FT Maintenance Tech
 - Seniors
 - Open: 1x Recreation Leader II
- Facility/CIP Updates
 - BRACE (Buckwalter Recreation Athletic Complex Expansion)
 - Bids due Feb 24; multiple responses
 - Senior / Community Centers
 - Scott Center – bids due Feb 9; multiple responses
 - Bluffton Center – renovations started Dec 1, 2025
 - Agnes Major Center, Wesley Felix (new construction planning)
 - Construction meeting underway
 - Groundbreaking Jan 7, 2026 and Jan 9, 2026
 - Charles Lind Brown
 - Construction is mostly complete with new floors, bleachers, electric baskets, and paint

- Charles Lind Brown Awning / restroom improvements
 - Funding identified; work starts later this year
- Port Royal Playground Parking Upgrades
 - Construction underway
- Port Royal Playground Splashpad
 - Pre-construction underway
- Old Burton Wells Baseball and Restroom Improvements
 - GO bond project approved for FY26; initial assessment ongoing
- Training Updates
 - Nearly all (driving) personnel have received defensive driving training
 - Recreation attended the “Programming Summit” - Feb 19-20
 - Athletics Manager and Deputy Director attended FEMA MGT-467, Sport and Special Event Public Information and Emergency Notification with BCSD – Feb 12-13

Announcements

Bruce Yeager stated the next meeting will be on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at Beaufort County Council Chambers.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned.