

BEAUFORT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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

Board Members Present:	Bruce Yeager, Chairman, <i>Southern Beaufort County</i> Phil Kiser, <i>Southern Beaufort County</i> Alan Arseneau, <i>Southern Beaufort County</i> Christian Kata, <i>Northern Beaufort County</i> Phillip Mansker, <i>At-Large</i> Mark Rennix, <i>Northern Beaufort County</i>
Board Members Absent:	Ariel Perry, <i>Military ex-officio</i> Carlos Cave, <i>School District Administration ex-officio</i> Jonne Hayes, <i>Southern Beaufort County</i>
Staff Members Present:	Eric Brown, <i>Director, Parks and Recreation</i> Shane Stager, <i>Deputy Director, Parks and Recreation</i> Audra Antonnaci-Ogden, <i>Assistant County Administrator, Beaufort County</i> Heather Clint, <i>Administrative Manager, Parks and Recreation</i> Marisa Freeman, <i>Program Manager-Senior Program, Parks and Recreation</i> Evan Christian, <i>Athletic Manager, Parks and Recreation</i> Scott Schnee, <i>Assistant Athletic Manager, Parks and Recreation</i> Raymond Hines, <i>Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation</i> Faranica "Vedah" Reynolds, <i>Assistant Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation</i> Brandon Whitener, <i>Recreation Coordinator, Parks and Recreation</i> Natasha Dortch, <i>Fiscal Technician II, Parks and Recreation</i> Bob Rozek, <i>Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation</i> Brock Vaughn, <i>Recreation Manager, Parks and Recreation</i> Darrell Ketola, <i>Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation</i> Bob Lamb, <i>Athletics Supervisor, Parks and Recreation</i> Lindsey Epling, <i>Assistant Program Manager-Senior Program, Parks and Recreation</i> Jeremy Way, <i>Marketing Coordinator, Parks and Recreation</i>
Visitors:	Brian Fenlon, <i>Lowcountry Pickleball Leagues</i> Mrs. Fenlon

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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.**

Bruce Yeager asks Brian Fenlon to present next, as the Fenlons need to leave the meeting soon.

Fee Waiver/Reduction Request

Brian Fenlon of Lowcountry Pickleball Leagues reports the success of their last tournament that was held at the Burton Wells Pickleball Courts, for which this board had approved a fee waiver. A packet was provided to board members. He stated that all proceeds, minus 1% administration fees, went directly to local charities. \$8,500 was donated to Second Helpings, which provided over 823 holiday meals.

Brian Fenlon then requested the use of the Burton Wells Pickleball Courts for November 7th and 8th, 2026 to conduct their second annual turkey drive fundraiser. All proceeds, minus 1% administration fees, will go to Second Helpings again this year, so a fee waiver is requested.

A motion was made to approve the fee waiver for the November 7th and 8th pickleball tournament fundraiser, with the condition that **Brian Fenlon** reports back to the board with information regarding the tournament following the event. The motion was seconded. The fee waiver was approved.

Public Comment

Bruce Yeager asked if there was anyone present for public comment. No one was present for public comment.

Review and Approval of Minutes of May 07, 2026

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

Department Reports

- **Admin/Operations**

Heather Clint reported on administration and operations. All footfall numbers have been reduced by 30% to account for patrons who enter through the facility and later use the same entry door to exit. Issues with equipment malfunctions affecting the footfall counters are currently being addressed.

Patron check-ins include individuals entering the recreation center using a membership or participating in a class or program. Basketball spectators do not check in at the front desk. Summer camp participants also do not check in at the front desk; however, they are checked in at another location within the center by camp staff.

The Charles Lind Brown facility had closed again to finish construction items but reopened around June 15th. Patrons are excited about the new gym.

The administration team lost three full-time employees at the same time, due to promotion, transfer, and maternity leave. As a result, front desk staff at recreation centers have been working extra hours. Recently, new team members have been hired to help relieve staffing issues.

Footfall Total:	May 2026	June 2026
Buckwalter	10,094	N/A*
Burton Wells	N/A*	N/A*
Charles Lind Brown	N/A	N/A

*Equipment Malfunction

Patron Check-In:	May 2026	June 2026
Buckwalter	4,455	4,344
Burton Wells	764	440
Charles Lind Brown	73	53

- **Athletics**

Evan Christian reported current and upcoming registration numbers for youth and adult sports in Bluffton. **Bruce Yeager** asked whether soccer registration was expected to increase. **Evan** confirmed that the number will continue to grow, as the sport is still in its active registration period.

- **Bluffton Current Leagues**

Summer Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Basketball	455	443	-12	Season in progress

Summer Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Kickball	130	141	+11	Season begins 07/13
Volleyball (Outdoor)	81	57	-24	Season begins 07/14

- **Bluffton Upcoming Leagues**

Fall Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Baseball	270	119	-151	07/17, late reg. until 07/24
Softball	133	50	-83	07/17, late reg. until 07/24
Soccer	896	332	-564	07/17, late reg. until 07/24
Cheer	44	28	-16	07/17, late reg. until 07/24
Flag Football	368	184	-184	07/17, late reg. until 07/24
Flag Football (Female 11-14)	N/A – 5	10	+5	07/17, late reg. until 07/24

Fall Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Softball	39 Teams	N/A	N/A	Senior Softball opens 07/15, all others 08/01

Evan Christian provided information on upcoming tournaments. There will be a Top Gun Travel Softball Tournament in Beaufort/Bluffton on 08/15, 09/19, 10/17, and 11/14. 8U Softball and AA Baseball went to the World Series in Mississippi. There was a 12U and 16U Girls Softball State Tournament on June 20 through June 24. Our first youth recreation league basketball game took place at the newly renovated Charles Lind Brown Center gym on July 6.

Brandon Whitener reported that there was a Dixie Boys Tournament at Burton Wells Park two weeks ago. He also reported that the patrons are very pleased with the new gym at the Charles Lind Brown Recreation Center. He then reported current and upcoming registration numbers for youth and adult sports in Beaufort. **Bruce Yeager** asked how many teams we had in adult baseball. **Brandon** responded there are five teams in adult baseball, eight teams in adult coed softball, and seven teams in kickball.

- **Beaufort Current Leagues**

Summer Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Season Start/End
Baseball	128	192	+64	Started 06/29

Summer Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Season Start/End
Coed Softball	159	142	-17	Started 06/30 (Player registration still open)
Baseball	105	93	-12	Started 05/27
Kickball	76	93	+13	Started 07/16

- **Beaufort Upcoming Leagues**

Fall Youth Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Baseball	181	69	-111	Registration: 06/01 – 07/17
Softball	87	42	-45	Registration: 06/01 – 07/17
Soccer	519	208	-311	Registration: 06/01 – 07/17
Flag Football	136	61	-75	Registration: 06/01 – 07/17
Cheer	44	21	-23	Registration: 06/01 – 07/17

Fall Adult Sports	2025	2026	Margin	Registration Start/End
Baseball	99			Registration: 08/01 – 08/31

- **Senior Program**

Marisa Freeman went over the Senior Program highlights from May and June. There were field trips that included peach picking in Kline, SC, trips to the beach, and Juneteenth celebrations.

Meals delivered and served for March and April:

Home Delivered Meals: 4,190

Group Dining: 3,431

- **Recreation**

Brock Vaughn went over the Recreation updates. On June 13, Parks and Recreation hosted the 3rd annual Unity in the Community event with community partners. The City of Beaufort Police served hot dogs and hamburgers, Black Top Ballers hosted a free 3v3 youth basketball tournament, and there were games, inflatables, and other fun activities. The event was attended by 250 citizens. **Bruce Yeager** about the USCB basketball camp. **Brock** explained that the assistant coach from USCB does a half-day basketball camp during the last week of the summer. **Brock** also explained that our Parks and Recreation summer camps are full day.

Community Partners
Beaufort County Police
City of Beaufort Police
Beaufort County Library
All Aboard Beaufort
Black Top Ballers Basketball
Heartland Community School

Camp	Max Participants	Total Participants	Registration
Volleyball Clinic	48	42	Closed
Challenger Soccer	-	45	Closed
USCB Basketball	50	-	Open
Summer Camp – Bluffton	90	90	Full – wait list at 70
Summer Camp - Beaufort	60	40	On-going

Other Program Highlights
- Youth Dodgeball - Beginner Weightlifting - Play Like a Girl - Pickleball - Book Club - Adaptive Athletics - Soccer - Tormenta Soccer Camps - Low Country Volleyball Training

70/30 Programs	
- Palmetto Karate - Public Tennis Clinic - Low Country Volleyball - Tormenta Soccer - Sweat Like a Mom - Challenger Soccer - Country Line Dance	- Kokedama Planter - Schepper Tennis - Plant Care & Propagation - Sound Healing Meditation - Unity Drum Circle - Crochet - Soccer Shots

- **Aquatics**

Shane Stager went over the updates for aquatics.

- Group and Private Swim (children and adults): year-round 2:30-6:30pm
- Fins: Swim Team: Bluffton Pool Mon-Fri 5-8pm
- Water Aerobics:
 - Battery Creek: Tues & Thurs 5:30-6:30pm
 - Beaufort: Wed 10:00-11:15am
- School Swim Lessons: Ended in May; starts again in August 2026
- High School Swim Teams: August 2026-October 2026

Check-Ins	May	June
Alvin Settles	721	3,460
Battery Creek	547	908*
Beaufort	1,222	595
Bluffton	1,300	1,553

*Battery Creek closed weekends for the summer

Alvin Settles Outdoor Pool:

Hours:

- Tues – Sat: 11am-7pm
- Sun: 1pm-7pm
- Mon: closed
- Holidays: 11am-5pm

There was a Shark Day event at the Alvin Settles Pool in May, with 116 registrations. The Alvin Settles Pool was closed June 20-23 due to pump challenges.

Director Report

Eric Brown gave a report on personnel and facility/CIP updates.

- Personnel Updates
- FY27 New Positions: Rec Aide X2 (Recreation), Athletic Supervisor (Athletics North), Lifeguard, WSI X3
 - Admin
 - Open: PT Admin Specialist
 - Recently filled: 2X FT Admin Specialists
 - Aquatics
 - Open: 2x PT WSI; 1x FT WSI

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- Athletics
 - Open: 1x Athletic Manager (North); 1X PT Recreation Leader (Officials); 4X PT Recreation Aides
- Recreation
 - Open: 1X Recreation Coordinator; 2X PT Recreation Aide
- Grounds
 - None – all positions currently filled
- Seniors
 - Open: 1x Recreation Aide; 1x Bus Driver
- Facility/CIP Updates
 - BRACE (Buckwalter Recreation Athletic Complex Expansion)
 - Groundbreaking: June 30th
 - Senior / Community Centers
 - Scott Center – Initial Construction Meeting in July
 - Bluffton Center – Mostly complete; Elevator outstanding
 - Estimated completion: late summer 2026
 - Agnes Major Center, Wesley Felix
 - Construction underway – still targeting Q4 completion
 - Charles Lind Brown: Construction complete!
 - Charles Lind Brown Awning / restroom improvements
 - Funding identified; work to start later this year
 - Old Burton Wells Baseball and Restroom Improvements
 - GO bond project approved for FY26; initial assessment ongoing
 - Initial focus on restrooms and drainage improvements
 - Port Royal Playground Parking Splashpad
 - Construction complete!
 - Town of Port Royal ribbon cutting held on July 1st
- Training & Partnership Updates
 - Annual RISE retreat held in May
 - Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace
 - Management attended “Point of Distribution (POD)” training in May
 - BCSD MOU updated for St. Helena Elementary usage for summer camps
 - BCSD MOA update in progress for 2026/2027 swim lessons
- Discussion of Proposed Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule Updates
 - **Eric Brown** explained that the ordinance governing fee schedules has been amended. Previously, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was responsible for establishing fee schedules; however, fee schedules will now be established at the Beaufort County Council level. He noted that the Advisory Board may continue to make recommendations, but final approval of fee changes will be determined by the County’s elected officials. **Bruce Yeager** acknowledged the change in the ordinance and commented that staff who manage the day-to-day operations are better positioned to recommend and establish appropriate fees than the Advisory Board.
 - There was discussion regarding the increasing costs associated with programs and services and noted that fees have remained unchanged since at least 2012. There was general agreement that, given the increased costs and length of time since the last adjustment, updating the fee schedule would be reasonable.

Announcements

Bruce Yeager stated the next meeting will be on Thursday, September 3rd, in Beaufort.

Adjourn

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