

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Kent County Community Center * 11041 Worton Rd., Worton * MD 21678

June 17, 2019 Meeting Report

In lieu of an in-person meeting, a written report with updates from Parks & Recreation (Myra Butler, Director) and Public Works' Parks/Grounds Division (Jim Wright, County Engineer) are provided below.

I. Recreation

1. Full Time Staff Changes Lead Facility Monitor – Chris Bove has been transferred/promoted to HR Specialist with the Office of Human Resources. The transfer took place in late April, however, Mr. Bove will continue managing concession stand operations through the summer season to ensure operations go smoothly for the current season. The Lead Facility Monitor vacancy is currently advertised as open until filled. The job announcement is included. We are hopeful to begin interviews as early as July 8.

2. Recreation Program Coordinator (Sports & Aquatics) – Devon Standard separated from the County in late May after 18 months with the department. The vacancy is currently advertised as open until filled. The job announcement is included. We are hopeful to begin interviews as early as July 8.

B. Budget Update

1. FY19 Year End Capital Purchases – Capital items requested in the FY20 budget were approved to be purchased in FY19 if able to be absorbed in the current budget. Items purchased: (2) replacement sunshades for the KCCC Pool; (2) arcade game units; Point of Sale system (initially for concessions sales but to be implemented department wide in FY20); computers and hardware for concessions sales; new treadmill; new recumbent elliptical (replaced stepper unit); Additional module in ActiveNet to support online registration for summer camps and after school programs. The total cost of all purchases was 33K. An additional 2K was approved to purchase a washer/dryer unit, however, a delay in stocking the item may force the purchase to be made in FY20. The purchase can likely be absorbed in the F20 budget without asking for additional funding.

2. FY20 Approved Budget – The budget request for the upcoming year was flat with no increase to the overall budget.

a. A new Betterton Beach Supervisor position was requested and approved to help remedy the ongoing overcapacity issues and policy enforcement that is desperately needed. The new position was possible without an increase to the overall budget due to reductions in other areas.

b. Capital items include new fencing (10K) and a pool cover (4.5K) for Bayside Pool.

C. Special Events Updates

1. Betterton Beach Clean Up – The event was not held this year due to inclement weather, however, grounds maintenance staff were able to clean the beach in advance of Memorial Day weekend.

2. KCHS Post Prom – The Adolescent Substance Abuse Coalition opted not to host the event due to declining participation over the past two years. The event was cancelled in 2018 due to low ticket sales.

3. Annual Youth Fishing Day – The event was held in partnership with Friends of Eastern Neck Island National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, June 8. There were 81 youth and an additional 50-60 adults in attendance.

4. Movie in The Park Series – The first of four movies to be held this year was on Friday, June 21. Approximately 30 people attended the event, which was preceded by a meet and greet that allowed our Camp Staff to interact/mingle with our registered campers and their parents. Three additional dates are scheduled, with the next event scheduled at the KCCC Pool during Night Swim on July 19. The flyer is included.

D. Summer 2019 Update

1. Seasonal Staff Hiring – 65 seasonal staff have been hired for the summer season. Hires include positions for lifeguards, pool cashiers, concessions' attendants, camp directors, camp counselors, and facility monitors. Although there could be additional hiring for the facility monitor position which is ongoing year round, hiring for summer positions has concluded.

2. Summer Camps

- a. Leaders Club Program Change – We were unable to secure qualified staff for the program, therefore the program will not be offered this summer. The staff we were expecting to hire were unable to successfully meet pre-employment requirements (favorable urinalysis screening). Staff must be at least 21 years of age, have experience working with middle school age youth, have a clean driving record and experience driving a fifteen passenger van. Recruitment efforts were not successful, but we hope to be able to offer the program next summer.
- b. Kiddie Camp, Day Camp, and Youth in Action camps are all full for all sessions. Camps begin on Monday, June 24 and will run through mid-August. Youth in Action ends one week before Kiddie and Day Camp.
- c. Summer Rec. Club will be held the last two weeks of August, running Monday – Thursday, and will be limited to 30 participants. Registration for the program will be accepted beginning the first week in August. A flyer is included.

3. Aquatics

- a. Pools – Bayside, Millington and KCCC pools are all up and running for the season. The first three weekends of weekend only operations before schools let out for the summer, is exceeding 2018's attendance numbers.
- b. Betterton Beach – A new sign with park use regulations has been installed at the Beach. Enforcement of policies and more regular cleaning of bathrooms and grounds will be by the Beach Supervisor position once filled. Advertising to fill the position is underway. The job announcement is included.
- c. A summary of general aquatics information (pool rules and beach rules and swim attire info) is included for your information.
- d. Aqua Fitness, Adult Swim Lessons, Night Swim and Lap Lane Swim flyers/info are included for your information.

4. Concession Stand – Concession sales have been extremely successful. The stand is open when the KCCC Pool is open and offers a fantastic variety of eats and treats. A menu is included for your information.

5. Annual Employee Appreciation Event – Instead of a week-long schedule of activities (1-2 hour activity each day), a “Summer Staff Splash” event at the KCCC Pool will be held on July 31. The event will be from 7-9 pm and include swimming, games/activities and food. Give-a-ways will include a visor and sunglasses with Kent County Parks & Recreation inscribed on the items. Board members are welcome to attend. Information about the event will be forthcoming in the next week or two.

6. Adult Programs/Activities

- a. Zumba has steady participation, averaging 6-7 participants per session.
- b. Ping Pong has steady participation averaging 6-8 participants per session.
- c. Platform Tennis continues to have regular play in the morning and evening hours. Participation is not tracked, however, there are 25-30 participants who register to play each year.
- d. Drop-In Soccer will resume in the Fall during our Fall/Winter hours when the building is open later in the evening until 9 pm.

e. Pickleball averages 20-25 participants per session and will have an increased schedule in the upcoming program year. Challenges with requests for all open time on the schedule, along with requests to schedule existing programs such as Zumba and Ping Pong in other time slots due to their participation not being as high as Pickleball was an ongoing matter for several months, however, the spokesperson for the group seems to now be satisfied with the new schedule. The program schedule information is included.

(a) It was proposed that the KCCC be open for two evenings per week during the summer to accommodate Pickleball (no evening schedule May-October since the building closes at 6 pm). This will be an item for discussion at the next in-person Board meeting.

f. Information related to adult activities is included for your review.

E. Surveillance Camera Project Update – The project is complete. Surveillance cameras are installed at Bayside (5), Millington (5) and KCCC Pool (and inside the building for a total of 23 at the KCCC).

II. Parks – Please see the written report from Jim Wright following the Recreation report.

III. Other

A. Youth Sports Equipment Grant

a. Shore Sticks Field Hockey Request – The Board approved the request for funding through an electronic poll. The award was granted in the amount of 3.4K. Award notification was sent to the league on June 21.

B. By-Laws Revisions Update – During the March meeting the Board approved revisions to the by-laws. Additional revisions to ensure wording was consistent with the Kent County Code of Public Laws was required. The revisions included matching the order of the articles to the same order listed in Chapter 42 of the Code.

a. The by-laws require one change to the number of Board members to be approved by the Kent County Commissioners (scheduled for some time in the Fall when all County Code changes will be addressed). A revised copy of the by-laws is included. The amendment date will be the date the County Commissioners approve the change to the number of Board members. The revised document (to be approved by the County Commissioners) is included.

C. Future Agenda Items – The County is under scrutiny by some citizens regarding the amount of funding allocated to Kent County Public Schools each year, along with the County's responsibility to generate additional revenue whether it be by raising taxes or other fees (boat slip fees, building permits, recreation/program fees, etc.). Two areas for discussion and review related to this matter will involve a review of Parks and Recreation's fees and scholarship awards by the Board. The discussion will also include how to address long term challenges at Betterton Beach regarding overcapacity with parking and out of county park/beach users (should fees be assessed?).



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

COUNTY ENGINEER

709 Morgnec Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-778-2600

Fax 410-778-7424

Michael S. Moulds, P.E.
Director
mmoulds@kentgov.org

James M. Wright, Jr., P.E.
County Engineer
jwright@kentgov.org

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Parks Items 6/17/19

Worton Park

1. 60 additional parking spaces have been installed by County Roads along with a driveway to the Morton storage building. Curbs stops were placed on those parking spaces located along the walking trail near the new multi-purpose fields.
2. The new lighting controls have been installed on Orem Field. The system has an on/off switch with a time clock override, to ensure lights are not left on.
3. A platform tennis court was damaged by falling limbs over the Memorial Day weekend. One side of one court was pushed in. The grounds crew was able to repair the damage.
4. Engineered wood fiber material has been purchased to upgrade the existing material in the playground area to keep it in compliance with safety standards.

Betterton Beach

1. The new rules sign was fabricated by Chris Nicholson and installed by the grounds crew prior to Memorial Day. The old sign has been removed.
2. The commissioners approved consultant design services to rehabilitate the pavilion stairway. Jay Silcox has been retained to perform the design services.
3. The commissioners approved replacement of the bathhouse this year. Torchio Architects have been contacted to review the existing plans and specifications for compliance with any code updates. It is planned to advertise the project this summer with construction starting in October.

Millington Pool

1. The picnic area has had the mulch area refurbished and washed pea gravel has been added around the picnic tables and along the tennis courts near the pool.
2. The commissioners approved replacement of the pool fence this year. That work will be performed after the pool season.

Toal Park

1. Engineered wood fiber material has been purchased and placed in the playground area to keep it in compliance with safety standards.

Miscellaneous

1. The commissioners approved purchase of the following items:
 - a. Zero Turn Mower
 - b. Paint Striper

Next Meeting: Monday, August 19, 2019