

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
May 21, 2012

Present: Melinda Bookwalter, Laura Karns, Melissa Cannon, Penny Usilton, Joyce Moody, Harry Packard, Brittany Bentley, Jim Wright, and Myra Butler.

Absent: Faye Little, Commissioner William Pickrum

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Karns, seconded by Ms. Usilton, and passed by a majority of the Board to approve the minutes of the March meeting, with amendments.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation

- i.** Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF)
 - a.** Kent County Parks and Recreation has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from MSCF to be used towards scholarships for summer youth programs. Ms. Butler will be traveling to the MSCF offices in Easton tomorrow for a photo opportunity relating to grant acceptance.
- ii.** Horizons Summer Camp Program
 - a.** Parks and Recreation will accommodate the Horizons Summer Camp Program again this year, based on last year's schedule. Session II of the youth swim sessions will now be held at the Millington Pool. The Horizons Program Director will be made aware that the schedule will be reviewed again next year if complaints are again received from Parks and Recreation swim lesson patrons.
- iii.** Spring Pool Maintenance/Updates
 - a.** The Community Center Pool passed inspection on May 16.
 - b.** Millington Pool is scheduled for inspection on May 25.
 - c.** Both Pools are expected to open on Memorial Day weekend with weekend hours only until schools dismiss on June 8, at which time they will open daily. Millington Pool will be closed on Mondays.
 - d.** Bayside Pool will not be open this year due a low volume of use as compared to operational costs (i.e. salaries and maintenance).
 - In response to a question raised by Ms. Usilton, Ms. Butler informed that the Playground program has been cut from the FY13 budget request as well, as the average for both the Chestertown and Rock Hall programs has been only 8 children for the past two years. Cutting this program will save the county \$8,000-\$9,000.
 - e.** In response to a question raised by Mr. Packard, Ms. Butler informed that Betterton Beach is a "Swim at your own Risk" location, and lifeguards will not be on duty.
 - Mr. Packard informed that there are signs in place at the beach reflecting that there is guarded swimming. Mr. Wright will look into this.

B. Parks

- i.** Worton Park Green-Up/Improvement

- a. This event has been rescheduled from May 15 to June 24, and will potentially include painting ball walls, painting baseball back stops, trash pick up, and the addition of exercise equipment along the walking trail.
 - In response to a question raised by Mrs. Cannon, Ms. Butler informed that exercise equipment will be placed in locations along the walking trail that make the most sense, and not necessarily at specific distances along the trail.
 - Mr. Wright informed that the Worton Park site plan has been updated to include the walking trail, which should assist with planning locations for exercise equipment.
 - Ms. Bookwalter commented that she would like to see a Green-up event held at all of the county parks.
- ii. Betterton Beach Clean-Up
 - a. A total of 80 volunteers participated in this event, which took place on April 21. Volunteers focused on mulching and weeding.
- iii. Grounds Maintenance
 - a. Mr. Wright informed that there are currently two lawn mowers out of commission. Additionally, there has been only one Community Assistance Program worker to assist the Grounds Maintenance Department with maintaining the county grounds. As a result, it has recently become a struggle to keep up with grass cutting and field lining, but the department is making its best effort.
- iv. Solar Panel Project
 - a. Mr. Wright informed that this project is moving along. With an anticipated on line date in June, and a ribbon cutting ceremony planned for July.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation

- i. Computer Lab Partnership
 - a. Ms. Butler reviewed a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Kent County Public Library (KCPL) and Kent County Parks and Recreation whereby the two entities will partner to provide a computer facility at the Kent County Community Center. However, the computer facility will be designated a KCPL facility.
 - b. This partnership was put into place as a result of a previous verbal agreement whereby Parks and Recreation was permitted to use computer licensing software owned by KCPL. The new KCPL Executive Director called this verbal agreement into question. As a result, in order for Parks and Recreation to continue use of the KCPL licensing software, ownership of the Computers and hardware had to be transferred to the Eastern Shore Library group. An effective date for this transition is to be determined.
 - As KCPL recycles computers out of circulation, these computers will be transferred to the Community Center computer lab. Additionally, the KCPL Information Technology Department will be fully responsible for all issues of repair, trouble shooting, etc. involving the computers.

- In the future, an Early Learning Center computer may be placed in the Kid's Room. There are also future plans for three laptops for the Computer Lab.
 - Ms. Butler noted that although Facility Access Cards are required for patrons to utilize the Community Center, cards will not be required for the KCPL Computer Lab. Additionally, computer users will not be given a 30 minute time limit as is the case at KCPL.
- ii. MRPA Grant
- a. Parks and Recreation has been awarded a \$500 grant from MRPA to be used for the Junior Golf Program, which will be offered this summer.
- The Junior Golf program, with the assistance of Kent County High School Golf Coach, Tom Luhn, will provide the fundamentals of golf to children ages 5-17.
 - Children will potentially participate in a 9-hole game at the Country Club at the conclusion of the program.
- iii. KCHS Post Prom
- a. A total of 78 students attended the 2012 Post Prom event, which was a decrease from the 2011 event.
- Activities included laser tag, Zumba, line dancing, and an outdoor movie. Students won door prizes as well as auction prizes at the end of the event. Each student was also given a Post Prom beach towel and sling-back back pack.
 - A thank you station was established for students to pen thank you notes to event sponsors. A total of \$4,000 was received in cash donations. Any sponsor who donated in excess of \$250 will receive a CD with pictures from the event. Sponsor posters were also hung at each activity area.
- B. Parks
- i. Program Open Space (POS)
- a. Mr. Wright plans to work with Ms. Butler to prepare applications for Program Open Space (POS) funding to build three new multi-purpose fields and to install mandated pool lifts for accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

IV. REPORTS

Turner's Creek:	<i>Ms. Bookwalter informed that she recently assisted Wayne Gilchrest with a youth canoeing program at Turner's Creek.</i>
Worton Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i> <i>Ms. Cannon informed that during a recent visit to Worton Park she observed large pieces of trash (i.e. mattresses) in the woods behind AA diamond. Mr. Wright will have this taken care of.</i>
Bayside/Ingleside:	<i>Ms. Usilton informed that this area looked favorable.</i>
Betterton Beach:	<i>No Report.</i>
Millington Pool:	<i>Ms. Cannon reiterated that she had observed high grass at the Pool, which Mr. Wright explained as being a result of a shortage in man power and lawn mowers.</i>

Edesville Park: *Nothing to Report. Mr. Wright informed that Edesville Park was mowed earlier today.*

Toal Park: *Nothing to Report.*

High School: *Ms. Bentley, who was attending her final meeting with the PRAB, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board. Ms. Bentley plans to hang posters around the High School in order to garner interest in student PRAB membership.*

County Commissioner: *No Report.*

Board of Education: *No Report.*

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Mrs. Karns, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha C. Brown, Office Manager