

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
July 16, 2012

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

Absent: Faye Little, Commissioner William Pickrum, and Bryan Williams.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES

At 6:04 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

A motion was made by Mr. Packard, seconded by Mrs. Karns, and approved by a majority of the board to approve the minutes of the May meeting, with amendments.

II. CLOSED SESSION

At 6:06 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Karns, seconded by Mrs. Butler, and carried unanimously to go into closed session to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State in accordance with State Government Article, Sections 10.508 (a) (4) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Bernadette Van Pelt, Director of Tourism and Economic Development, and prospective business owner were in attendance.

Topic to be discussed: A business plan considered proprietary by the business owner for a proposed business to locate in Kent County.

At 7:02 p.m. Ms. Van Pelt and the prospective business owner left.

In closed session, a majority of the board approved to recommend to the Board of Kent County Commissioners that the County further pursue the proposal of the prospective business owner.

At 7:03 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Karns, seconded by Ms. Bookwalter and carried unanimously to adjourn the closed session and resume the open session.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation

i. Summer 2012 Program Updates

a. Ms. Butler provided the following averages for 2012 Summer program participation:

- Kiddie Camp- 16-18 participants/day
- Day Camp- 70 or more participants/day
- Youth In Action- 25 participants/day
- Leaders Club- 25 participants/day
- Youth Swim Lessons Session I- 30 participants
- Youth Swim Lessons Session II- 25 participants
- Youth Swim Lessons Session III- 50% full to date
- Aqua Fitness- 5 consistent participants/class
- Co-Ed Softball-18 teams have registered
- AM Zumba- Averages 10-15 participants/class

- Toning- Averages 8-10 participants/class
 - Ping Pong- Averages 4-6 participants/session
 - ii. Computer Lab Partnership with Public Library
 - a. A memorandum of understanding has been executed between the Kent County Public Library and Kent County Parks and Recreation whereby the Community Center Computer Lab will fall under the jurisdiction of the library. Ms. Butler participated in a photo opportunity with the Director of the library on July 9 for the Kent County Newspaper as well as a formal announcement to the Board of Kent County Commissioners on July 10.
 - Patrons utilizing the computer lab will not be required to purchase a Facility Access Card or a library card. However, they will be required to sign out a guest pass if they do not have one or the other.
 - There are plans to offer Kent County Public Library programming in the lab in the future. There may also be laptops obtained that can be signed out for use on site.
 - iii. Spring Pool Maintenance/Updates
 - a. Bayside Landing
 - At the request of the Commissioners, and despite the recommendation for the pool to remain closed for the 2012 pool season, Bayside Pool opened to the public on June 9.
 - b. Community Center
 - It was discovered in June that the ball bearings on the motor of the pool were no longer functioning and would require that the motor be replaced. In addition to the replacement of the motor, the pool's impeller was also in need of repair. The total cost of repairs was approximately \$3,000. Fortunately, revenue for the pool has exceeded projections and these items were able to be funded from the excess revenue. As a result of the needed repairs, the pool was closed on June 10-11.
 - iv. Transportation to the Community Center
 - a. Delmarva Community Transit (DCT) has partnered with Kent County Parks and Recreation to offer bus routes to the Community Center from Chestertown and Rock Hall through the 2012 summer season, concluding on August 24.
 - Once the summer season has concluded, future 2013 bus routes to the Community Center will be assessed.
 - The Town of Chestertown will also be providing up to \$600 exclusively for Chestertown children to ride the DCT bus to the Community Center.
 - DCT will keep a log of the children riding the bus from Chestertown, and Ms. Butler will monitor the log to be sure that all of the children riders are actually from Chestertown.
- B. Parks**
- i. Worton Park Green-Up Improvement Day
 - a. This event was held on June 24, and included a group of 8-10 people planting flowers, cleaning debris from the tennis courts, and painting ball walls. Local artist Zane Carter plans to work with other local artists to paint murals on the ball walls.

- b. The Public Works Department trimmed bushes and hedges around the park and removed dirt piles to make the park more attractive.
- c. Other Park Improvement Days are in the works. The Public Works Department is continuing efforts to clean up county parks, as they are currently working on Betterton Beach and Edesville Park.
- ii. Solar Panel Project
 - a. The panels are up and running and providing power to the Kent County High School radio tower, Worton Elementary School, Kent County High School, and a portion of the Public Works facility in Chestertown. Aggregate metering allows the panels to provide power to remote facilities. This solar panel site is said to be the largest on the Eastern Shore.
- C. Other
 - i. Ball Field Improvements
 - a. The Public Works Department is working on replacing the Worton Park dugouts in addition to improvements to Edesville Park and Betterton Beach.
 - ii. Summer Camp Sessions
 - a. Ms. Cannon commented that many parents have expressed a desire for Summer Camp programs to run from the very end of the school year through the start of the next school year.
 - Ms. Butler responded that time has to be allowed to train summer camp staff at the conclusion of the school year and train after school staff prior to the start of the next school year. Additional summer camp weeks would also require additional budget dollars.
 - Although there are no guarantees that Parks and Recreation will be able to offer these additional weeks, Ms. Butler agreed to revisit this item.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation

- i. Program Cancellations
 - a. Teen and Adult Swim Lessons for the 2012 season were cancelled as no one registered for the lessons.
 - b. Only one person registered for the Jr. Golf program, which caused this program to be cancelled as well.
 - Parks and Recreation was awarded a grant from the MRPA for this program. Ms. Butler will look into whether or not this grant funding can somehow be used somehow to offer Jr. Golf to Summer Camp participants.
- ii. Fall 2012 Program Preparation
 - a. As of now, the Adult Co-ed Basketball program will not be offered by Parks and Recreation for 2012 because of the low number of participants in 2011. Kent School offers their program until 11 pm, whereas the Parks and Recreation program was only open until 9:15 p.m.
 - b. The Jr. Wrestling program is being reviewed and may potentially be cut for 2012 as a result of low participation in 2011. The program averages eight participants and the revenues being brought in are not enough to justify the program expenses.
 - In order to offer the program for 2012, 12 participants will be required to register.
 - c. Advisory Board members were provided a draft copy of the 2012 Fall-Winter Newsletter for their information.

- iii.** Employee Recognition: Antoninette Campbell
 - a.** Ms. Campbell was recognized by the Department of Social Services on June 20 as Community Partner of the Year. Ms. Campbell works with the Department of Social Services Job Training program and is passionate about her role in the program.

B. Parks

- i.** Program Open Space FY13 Annual Plan
 - a.** The FY13 Annual Plan will be submitted this work. The plan will include the addition of three multi-purpose fields and installation of pool lifts for individuals with disabilities.
 - Once the plan has been approved, individual applications for funding can be submitted.
 - Ms. Butler anticipates a 3-6 month timeframe for approval of plan.
- ii.** Betterton Beach Water Study
 - a.** The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) is conducting a Title Dispersion of the water at Betterton Beach from July 30-31. Signs have been posted at the beach and residents have been mailed notices.
 - Mr. Packard informed of an individual he knows who was allegedly made sick by the Betterton Beach water. Mr. Packard questioned whether or not notifications are provided to residents regarding illnesses such of these that may have resulted from an environmental factor. Ms. Butler will look into this.

C. Other

- i.** Student Board Members
 - a.** Correspondence has been forwarded to the principals of Kent County High School and the Christian Academy requesting recommendations for student members to serve on the Advisory Board. Principals will be requested to provide any interested students with a copy of the vacancy announcement and interest form.
 - Ms. Butler plans to look into whether or not student Advisory Board members would be qualified to earn Service Learning hours for serving on the Board.
- ii.** Summer Staff Appreciation
 - a.** This year's event will be held on August 8 at the Community Center Pool. The event will be on a smaller scale in line with past employee appreciation events held.
 - b.** Ms. Butler hopes to hold a larger scale event for 2013.
- iii.** Chesertown Spy Article
 - Ms. Bookwalter brought to light a recent Chestertown Spy article in which an individual expressed concern over the seemingly low number of minorities he saw utilizing the Community Center Pool during his visits to the pool. Ms. Butler disagreed with the position held in the article relating to the number of minorities utilizing the pool. Ms. Bookwalter plans to respond to the article and request that the writer provide his own suggestions or means in which to encourage more minority use of the pool.

V. REPORTS

Turner's Creek:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Worton Park:	<i>No Report.</i>
Bayside/Ingleside:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Betterton Beach:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Millington Pool:	<i>Ms. Cannon reported that the pool was in good condition at her last visit. Ms. Butler informed that the main drain at the pool has been repaired.</i>
Edesville Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Toal Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
High School:	<i>No Report.</i>
County Commissioner:	<i>No Report.</i>
Board of Education:	<i>No Report.</i>

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:06 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Butler, seconded by Ms. Bookwalter, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha C. Brown, Office Manager