

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
September 16, 2013

Present: Joyce Moody, Faye Little, Jim Wright, Harry Packard, Danielle Blake, Michael Foreman, Melissa Cannon, Laura Karns, and Myra Butler

Absent: Penny Usilton, Melinda Bookwalter, Bryan Williams, and Commissioner William Pickrum

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

A motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Little, and approved by a majority of the board to approve the minutes of the March meeting.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation

1. Summer 2013 Recap

a) Programs

- i. The Kiddie Camp program was filled with 18 participants, and a daily attendance average of 14-15 children. Activities for the campers included nutritional education from the Kent County Extension Office, and a Safe House tour.
- ii. The Day Camp program had over 130 registered participants, with an average daily attendance of 60-70 children. Activities for the campers included the Safe House tour, and Junior Golf.
- iii. The Youth In Action Program had 26 participants registered, with an average daily attendance of 20-21 children. Activities included nutritional lessons from the Kent County Extension Office.
- iv. The Leaders Club program had a total of 28 registered participants. The Leaders Club participants hosted a carnival for the Kiddie and Day Campers.
- v. Co-Ed Softball is down 4 teams from 2012, with only 14 teams participating.
- vi. AM Zumba is averaging 6-8 participants per class. Toning has also picked up in attendance since summer.
- vii. Ping Pong is averaging 3-4 participants per session.

b) Aquatics

- i. Youth Swim Lessons Sessions I and III were both filled. Session II had 26 of the 30 spots filled.
- ii. Adult Swim Lessons were led by Margie Elsberg, with the assistance of Melinda Bookwalter. Both Mrs. Elsberg and Ms. Bookwalter graciously volunteered their time to instruct the class. A total of 10 people registered for the class, with regular daily attendance of 8. Plans are to offer Adult Swim lessons in 2014 as well, with Mrs. Elsberg and Ms. Bookwalter instructing the class again. Both ladies did a fantastic job leading the class.

- iii. Aqua Fitness classes averaged 3-4 attendees per class and will be offered for 2014.
- iv. Revenue for 2013 pool attendance was slightly down from 2012 attendance, which is being attributed to a few cold and rainy weeks during the month of August 2013.
- c) Delmarva Community Transit
 - i. The summer seasonal route from Chestertown to the Community Center averaged 5-8 riders daily. No official report has been received regarding attendance from route from Rock Hall to the Community Center.
- d) Fitness Room Equipment
 - i. Equipment donated from the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company has been put into place in the Multipurpose Room. Use of the equipment was higher during the summer months, and has slowed since the school year began.

B. Parks

- 1. Mr. Wright reminded that the Board of Education and the County have established an agreement for the county Grounds Maintenance department to mow and line the athletic fields at the High School.
 - a) As a result of the Grounds Maintenance Department having an overly full load and receiving no assistance from the Detention Center Community Assistance Program for the past two months, some criticism has been received regarding mowing.
 - i. Ms. Butler commented that because of the anticipated use of the CAP program, the Commissioners cut funding for seasonal workers in the Grounds Maintenance Department. Without the assistance of the CAP, Grounds Maintenance is down manpower.

C. Other

- 1. Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan Update
 - a) The plan was adopted in April and is now part of the State of Maryland LPPRP that is currently being finalized.
 - b) A new set of guidelines will be established for the 2017 LPPRP update and departments statewide will work with the Department of Natural Resources for the recreation portion of the plan, which will ensure greater accuracy in numbers for population and use.
- 2. Concession Stand Air Conditioning Installation
 - a) The previous equipment installed in the concession stand was unable to keep up with the heat from the appliances. Therefore, an additional system was installed at a cost of \$15,000. The concessionaires, Mark and Lana Grove, had no complaints with the new system according to Ms. Butler.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation

- 1. Municipalities' Recreational Needs Meeting
 - a) Recreation Supervisor, Stacey Clough, met with each of the towns to determine their recreational needs. Ms. Clough was informed by each town that their needs are met and nothing is needed at this time.
 - b) Mrs. Moody informed of a project being spearheaded by the Chestertown Recreational Committee to utilize unused spaces throughout Chestertown. The Committee feels that although the

County has the Community Center, Worton is too far for some Chestertown residents to travel for activity. The Committee is currently reviewing uses for the community space in the Washington Park community.

2. Fall 2013 Programs
 - a) Ms. Butler provided copies of the Fall newsletter for the Board members information.
 - i. Indoor Field Hockey will be offered again this year with Trish McGee. Last fall's offering saw a good amount of attendance.
 - ii. Kent County Public Schools is no longer going to offer the extended day morning and afternoon program for students, as there were issues recruiting teachers for the afterschool portion of the extended day program. The school has been given verbal approval of a 21st Century Grant to offer a 5 year summer program in place of the extended day program. Parks and Recreation plans to partner with the school system in this program.
 - iii. There has been no communication with the former Ballet, Jazz, and Tap instructor and the department is currently working to recruit someone to fill this role.
3. Upcoming Large Scale Rental/Events
 - a) Relay for Life will be held at the Community Center Friday, September 20-Saturday, September 21. The event has traditionally been held outdoors, but is being moved indoors this year to prevent any unforeseen weather related issues.
 - b) Holiday Galleria will be held at the Community Center on Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9.
 - c) Woofstock Music Festival is planned to be held at the Community Center in March 2014. More information will be provided as it is made available.
 - d) River Arts will hold its annual fundraising gala at the Community Center in March, 2014.
4. Lifeguard Certification Classes
 - a) Parks and Recreation may potentially offer lifeguard certification courses, which may assist in lifeguard recruitment efforts. However, the department is challenged with finding an indoor location to offer the classes, as Washington College is unavailable.

B. Parks

- i. Bayside Landing Pool
 - The pool closed two weeks early this season (August 18) due to a shortage in lifeguarding staff. There has been no negative feedback received regarding the early closure.
 - Currently under review is the possibility of offering incentives to returning lifeguarding staff (i.e. funding the cost of pool and spa operating certification courses).
 - In addition to the shortage of lifeguards, the pool's water level was down due to a leak, which required that the pool be filled each day. This issue was resolved by Chris Wilson of CW Pools.

- ii. Millington Pool Improvements
 - An Eagle Scout troop completed a rehabilitation project at the pool's picnic area, including new picnic tables, etc.
 - The Maintenance Department re-painted the bathhouse floor with a sand/paint mixture to eliminate the slippery surface on the floor.
 - Quotes are being obtained for work on re-caulking the pool.

C. Other

1. Program Open Space Updates

- a) In a July 2013 letter, notice was received that the Department of Natural Resources has approved the Annual Program, which includes creation of multi-purpose fields at Worton Park and purchase of three portable chair lifts for county pools. Mr. Wright informed that funding for the projects has been requested in the amount of \$225,000; however, the bid for completion of the multipurpose fields totals only \$68,000.

IV. REPORTS

Turner's Creek:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Worton Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Bayside/Ingleside:	<i>No Report.</i>
Betterton Beach:	<i>Nothing to Report</i>
Millington Pool:	<i>Mrs. Cannon reported that the work completed by the Boy Scouts at the Pool looks great.</i>
Edesville Park:	<i>Mrs. Moody reported that at last visit the park looked clean.</i>
Toal Park:	<i>Mrs. Karns reported that Toal Park looks good. Public Works is working on the sign that has fallen down.</i>
High School:	<i>Nothing to Report</i>
County Commissioner:	<i>No Report.</i>
Board of Education:	<i>No Report.</i>

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:50 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Karns, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha Brown, Office Manager