

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
October 15, 2012

Present: Melinda Bookwalter, Laura Karns, Melissa Cannon, Joyce Moody, Faye Little, Bryan Williams, Danielle Blake, and Myra Butler.

Absent: Penny Usilton, Harry Packard, Jim Wright, and Commissioner William Pickrum.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES

At 6:15 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

A motion was made by Mrs. Karns, seconded by Mrs. Cannon, and approved by a majority of the board to approve the minutes of the July meeting.

Ms. Butler introduced newly appointed Student Representative, Danielle Blake, to the Board. Ms. Blake is a sophomore at Kent County High School and is active on the High School cheerleading squad as well as in many volunteer organizations in Kent County.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation

i. Summer 2012 Program Updates

a. Ms. Butler distributed and reviewed the aquatics revenue and attendance for the summer 2012 pool season, which were as follows:

- Community Center
 - May- 567 patrons/\$2,184
 - June- 3,177 patrons/\$11,578
 - July- 4,910 patrons/\$17,397
 - August- 2,959 patrons/\$10,086
 - September- 166 patrons/\$498
- Millington Pool
 - May- Closed
 - June- 548 patrons/\$1,084
 - July- 33 patrons/\$66
 - August- 236 patrons/\$464
 - September- 44 patrons/\$88
- Bayside Landing Pool
 - May- Closed
 - June- 125 patrons/\$250
 - July- 45 patrons/\$90
 - August- 150 patrons/\$300
 - September- 19 patrons/\$38
- Totals for the Community Center Pool include lap lane swimming, Aqua Fit, Night Swim, and daily admission.
- Both Bayside and Millington Pools opened during the first weekend in June.
 - Bayside opened at the request of the County Commissioners, following concerns expressed by Rock Hall citizens that the pool would not be open for the season. Bayside took in double the revenue that was anticipated for the season.

b. The 2012 Co-Ed Softball Tournament and the 2012 Scott D. Livie Blue Crab Grand Masters Lacrosse Tournament were both held on September 15-16. A total of 15 teams participated in the softball tournament, and 8 teams participated in the Lacrosse Tournament.

- Attendees and participants were pleased that concessions were offered during the tournament and the concession vendor was highly pleased with the sales turnout.
 - c. Ms. Butler reviewed copies of patron counts from July, August, and September 2012.
 - At the suggestion of Ms. Bookwalter, patron counts now include a patron count comparison from the previous year.
 - A decrease in the daily totals can be observed beginning in August due to the cancellation of the High School late bus transportation program.
- B. Parks**
- i. Fall Worton Park Green-Up Improvement Day
 - a. This event will be held on November 4 from 1:30 pm -5 pm.
 - Final decisions as to what clean-up/repair efforts will be made during the fall event are set to be made during a meeting taking place on October 18.
 - Long-term ideas that have been discussed include the addition of new benches, memorial markers, and exercise stations.
 - It is hoped that the Worton Park Green-Up will lead to community investments in all of the County's parks with seasonal green-up days.
 - ii. Worton Park Attractive Nuisance Items
 - a. In follow up to the May Advisory Board meeting and concerns expressed by Ms. Cannon as to trash items found in the woods behind the AA diamond in Worton Park, Ms. Butler informed that per Jim Wright these items have been removed by the Public Works Department.
 - iii. Business Proposal Update
 - a. In follow up to the May Advisory Board meeting closed session, Ms. Butler informed that the prospective business owner met with the County Commissioners on July 17. A decision was made by the Commissioners for the prospective business owner to move forward with developing a detailed business plan to be reviewed at a future meeting. As this meeting was a closed session meeting with the Commissioners, no further information has been provided at this time.
- C. Other**
- i. Community Center Pool Cover
 - a. In follow up to suggestions made by Ms. Bookwalter as to the feasibility of having a pool covering placed over the pool to enable year-round pool use, Ms. Butler informed that Mr. Wright has reached out to obtain information from Paddock Pools. Although a retrofitted cover would not be feasible, a dome cover could be installed to allow for year-round use. Year-round use of the pool would also require that the pool be heated. Although Ms. Butler is unaware of the costs of these items at this point, she did inform that there are many options available, including a covered walkway from the main Community Center building to the pool. Any further information will be obtained from Mr. Wright.
 - ii. Chestertown Spy Article- Diversity at KCCC Pool
 - a. In follow up to the reader's write-up in the Chestertown Spy regarding a lack of diversity at the Community Center Pool, Ms. Butler commented that she feels that there is highly diverse

patronage at the pool. Ms. Butler feels that the reader's perspective may be attributable to the time of day in which he chose to visit the pool.

- Ms. Butler highlighted a few feasible suggestions to increase diversity that were raised in the article, including free swim on code orange days and free swim days for the less fortunate.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recreation

i. Large Scale Private Vendor Events

- a.** Holiday Galleria, which is sponsored by Kent Youth and Shared Opportunity Services, was held at the Community Center on Friday and Saturday, October 12-13. There were 30 vendors participating in the event selling items ranging from plants and landscaping items to children's toys to jewelry. Approximately 300 people attended the event, which included a donor's night with food and beverages on Friday evening. The anticipated revenue goal set for this event was met.
- b.** Dance with the Stars 2013, which is sponsored by the Horizons' Program at Radcliffe Creek School, will be held on Saturday, January 19 with a weather make-up date of Friday, January 25. During this event, couples compete by performing dance routines in order to raise money for the Horizons' program offered during the summer. Approximately 400-500 people attended last year's event.

ii. Memorandums of Understanding in the Works

a. Kent County Health Department (KCHD)

- The Health Department plans to use the Community Center as a mass medication point of distribution in the event of a public health crisis/outbreak.
- The Community Center would be provided a 6 hour notice of the Health Department's arrival, and would be shut down during the Health Department's use of the facility.
- The Health Department plans to hold a flu clinic at the Community Center on October 31. The flu clinic will serve as a trial run for use of the Community Center during a public health crisis. During the trial run, the Health Department has to determine if the Community Center can be set up within a three hour period during a public health crisis.

B. Parks

i. Worton Park Trash Concerns

- a.** During an early morning visit to the park, John and Nancy Nunn observed large amounts of trash strewn about the park and the pavilion as a result of the previous night's rental. As a result of the condition in which the park was left, the Maintenance Department had to clean up the park. A \$150 clean-up fee was imposed upon the contract holder, although at this time, the fee has yet to be paid. The contract holder responsible for leaving the park in this condition had a prior incident in the park in 2005 in which the park was also left in an unacceptable manner.
 - Ms. Butler questioned the Board as to whether or not a security deposit should be required for park rentals.

- Board members in attendance agreed that requiring a security deposit would be a deterrent in leaving the park in an unfavorable condition following rentals.
 - Ms. Moody suggested a \$200 security deposit.
 - Mrs. Karns suggested that in addition to a security deposit, contract holders be required to acknowledge that should they fail to cancel their rental within a pre-determined amount of time they will forfeit a portion of their deposit (similar to policies in place for Community Center rentals).
 - Ms. Cannon suggested that a credit card be required to be left on file in the event that there is damage to or clean-up required in the park.
 - Ms. Butler will take all of these suggestions into consideration and establish a draft set of pavilion rental security deposit policies to be presented at the January meeting.
- ii. Draft Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP)**
- a.** Ms. Butler informed that after being mailed or hand delivered copies of the draft LPPRP, the Board voted through an electronic Doodle Pool to approve the Plan as submitted. The Plan will now be sent to the Department of Natural Resources and then back to the County Commissioners for approval.
 - b.** Ms. Butler distributed and briefly reviewed additional verbiage added to the LPPRP since its distribution to the Board members, including Table 3-2.
 - c.** Ms. Butler informed that she has reached out to Kent County municipalities in an effort to gather information about any recreational gaps they may be experiencing. Although no response has been received at this point, there is still time for this information regarding these recreational needs to be incorporated into the plan.
 - Ms. Butler plans to meet with each individual municipality at the start of the year in an effort to identify long term recreational needs.
 - d.** Ms. Butler is hopeful that the partnership with Delmarva Community Transit in providing transportation to the Community Center from Chestertown and Rock Hall will expand into routes from all of the County's municipalities.
 - e.** Ms. Butler addressed the following comments regarding the plan as submitted by Ms. Bookwalter:
 - Offer Rails to Trails to the Community Center as part of the goal of community access without the use of cars or public transportation.
 - Contrary to initial indications, plans to extend the trail to Worton are not completely dead. However, there is still much work to be done on this project. Ms. Butler suggested that the Advisory Board advocate extending the trail to Worton.
 - Mr. Williams questioned whether or not the trail will run parallel to the railroad tracks which are still in use. Ms. Butler will look into

the original master plan of the trail to the Worton area.

- Enhance the 4-H Park to be more than a once per year fairgrounds.
 - Although the lease to the 4-H Parks is owned by the Extension Office, the Board can discuss additional programs to be held at the site.
 - Ms. Butler is expecting to receive a timeline of improvements made to the 4-H park since the beginning of its use by the Extension Office.
 - Coast Guard Enhancements?
 - Although Still Pond Station is technically a County Park, the Commissioners are not ready to advertise it as such at this time. The building is currently leased to the Arts at Still Pond Station and the grounds are open to the public during the daylight hours.
 - The County is still assessing how to be in compliance with State requirements while protecting the environmental sensitivity of the site.
- f. Any changes or additions made to the LPPRP from this point will be forwarded to the PRAB for review and approval before the document is forwarded to the Commissioners for approval.

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>No Report.</i>
Millington Pool:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Edesville Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
Toal Park:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>
High School:	<i>Ms. Blake informed that several High School students have suggested that a Post Homecoming Party be held for students, similar to the Post Prom Party. Ms. Butler will pass this suggestion along to the Adolescent Substance Abuse Council, as they sponsor the Post Prom Party.</i>
County Commissioner:	<i>No Report.</i>
Board of Education:	<i>Nothing to Report.</i>

V. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 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