

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
June 21, 2011

Present: Melissa Cannon, Melinda Bookwalter, Faye Little, Joyce Moody,
Commissioner William Pickrum, and Stacey Clough

Absent: Penny Usilton, Laura Karns, Bryan Williams, Ron Jordan, Rachel Williams,
and J. Buddy Elgin.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as written.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- Ms. Clough informed that the Board of Kent County Commissioners approved the FY12 budget as submitted. The FY12 County budget was adopted by the Commissioners on June 14.
- During their June 14 meeting, the Commissioners approved a \$2 fee for Night Swimming at the Community Center pool. On days allotted for Night Swimming, the pool will close at 7:00 p.m. and re-open at 7:30 p.m.
- Ms. Clough informed that a recommendation for the establishment of a non-payment policy for youth sport leagues was submitted to the Commissioners for approval; however, the Commissioners felt that establishment of this policy could be handled within the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Butler plans to work with the County Administrator to develop this policy.
- At this time, there has been no new information regarding the merger of the Advisory Board with the Community Center Authority.
 - Commissioner Pickrum will look into moving this process along.
 - Ms. Bookwalter suggested that the legislation for the merger include an attendance requirement, which would help to assure that members are committed to the Board.

III. PROGRAMMING UPDATE

- Ms. Clough informed that Betterton Beach Clean-up, held on April 30, was successful. A total of 75 volunteers assisted with mulching, planting, weeding, and picking up trash on and around the beach.
- The 2011 Fishing Derby event was also successful with close to 70 people in attendance. Although there were fewer attendees this year than in the past, there was a lot of positive and useful feedback received from those in attendance.
- The 2011 Post Prom event was held at the Community Center on May 21 with approximately 100 students in attendance. The event was sponsored by the Adolescent Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) this year, as opposed to Parks and Recreation.
 - In response to questions raised by Ms. Cannon, Ms. Clough informed that Post Prom attendees are required to be juniors or

seniors, or the dates of juniors and seniors. Post Prom tickets are sold at the Kent County High School. Ms. Clough informed that there is a possibility that Parks and Recreation will take the Post Prom event over again for 2012.

- Parks and Recreation Summer Camp programs begin on June 27. The programs will run for seven weeks. Summer Camp staff began training today with a trip to Hartford County for team building exercises.
 - In response to question raised by Ms. Moody, Ms. Clough informed that Parks and Recreation does not provide transportation to attendees to and from camp. Although, Leaders Club parents are permitted to drop their children off at the Community Center for transport to Kent County Middle School, where Leaders Club primarily congregates.
- Ms. Clough informed that the Community Center and Bayside pools opened during Memorial Day weekend. Millington Pool opened the weekend following Memorial Day. Lifeguard training was held May 14-15. Periodic inservices will be held for the lifeguards throughout the season.
- The Summerfest program, which is generally sponsored by the Town of Chestertown and organized and ran by Parks and Recreation, will not be held for 2011. Instead, the Town has opted to provide \$8,000-\$9,000 in scholarships for Chestertown children to attend Parks and Recreation summer camp programs for 2011.
 - Ms. Moody expressed concerns that there is no transportation for children in the Kent County community to attend summer programs.
 - Ms. Cannon questioned if the Parks and Recreation Summer Camp programs are held throughout the county. Ms. Clough responded that the programs are not held throughout the county because the attendance numbers have not been sufficient enough to support programs throughout the county. Ms. Clough attributed the lack of numbers to the economy, as well as diversity in program offerings throughout the community. Ms. Clough continued that many in the Kent County community may be unaware of scholarships offered by Parks and Recreation for program attendance.
 - In response to a suggestion made by Ms. Moody that Parks and Recreation look placing a weekly blurb in the local newspaper regarding program offerings, Ms. Clough informed that currently Parks and Recreation advertises in the Coming Events section of the paper for no costs, as space is available. A weekly blurb in the newspaper would be costly. Ms. Moody informed that other counties are provided weekly blurbs in their local newspapers free of charge. Although Ms. Clough has had no success in the past when speaking with the local newspaper regarding a weekly blurb at no charge, she feels that communication and contacts with the local newspaper have improved, and she hopes to revisit this request with them in the future.

- Ms. Moody suggested utilizing local radio stations and television channels to spread the word about Parks and Recreation events and programming, as well as placing flyers at local pharmacies, banks, and churches.
 - Ms. Bookwalter commented that an abbreviated version of the seasonal newsletter would cut costs.

IV. New Business

- Ms. Clough informed that Bayside Landing Pool will now be open from Friday through Sunday, 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Advisory Board members were questioned as to whether or not they would like to continue the Annual Board Tour of County facilities, which in the past has taken place in July.
 - Ms. Moody stressed the importance of Board Members visiting the Parks and Recreation sites (at least every other year) so that they can provide accurate information when questioned by the public.
 - Ms. Bookwalter suggested that this practice continue once the Advisory Board merges with the Community Center Authority.
- Ms. Clough informed of the proposed Worton Complex Beautification Project, which is being headed by the Kent County Extension Office. A forum is being planned in the fall for discussion of potential short term and long term goals for the park. Potential short term projects include mile markers lining the walking trail, and community investment items (i.e. benches.) Although the project is in the early stages, Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works have been requested to be involved.
 - Ms. Bookwalter suggested exercise circuits for the park.

V. REPORTS

Turner's Creek:	<i>Ms. Bookwalter reported on the Country-Western concert series proposed to be held at Hopkins Game Farm. She informed that there will potentially be 10,000 – 15,000 individuals in attendance during each concert, with 6,300 to 7,500 cars per event. The concert events will be held ten times per year, from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. The events will be set up and broken down in the same day. Ms. Bookwalter informed that there is a potential for the County to make \$32,000 in entertainment taxes from each event.</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>No Report</i>
High School:	<i>No Report</i>

County Commissioner: *Commissioner Pickrum reminded that the Republicans of Kent would like to rename the Betterton Beach Pavilion in honor of Delegate Mary Roe Walkup. He informed that he is not opposed to the renaming; however, he is not in favor of the process. Commissioner Pickrum feels that whatever is decided regarding the renaming of the pavilion should be addressed by the Advisory Board first. He plans to re-address this matter with the Board of County Commissioners in the coming weeks.*

Commissioner Pickrum informed that former Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, in cooperation with a Salisbury University professor, is proposing to establish an old growth forest at Turner's Creek. The old growth forest will be the first of its kind in the nation. Plans are to establish an old growth forest in every county in Maryland.

Board of Education: *No Report*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Bookwalter, seconded by Ms. Little, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha C. Brown, Office Manager