

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
September 21, 2015

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**Present:** Melinda Bookwalter, Harry Packard, Mary Fisher, Penny Usilton, Joyce Moody, Melissa Cannon, and Myra Butler

**Absent:** Faye Little, Brian Williams, Jim Wright, and Commissioner William Pickrum

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ACTION ON MINUTES**

At 6:07 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

Minutes of the February meeting were previously approved via electronic Doodle Poll on April 13, 2015.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Recreation**

**1. Summer 2015 Recap**

**a) Programs**

- i.** The KCPR Summer Camp program ran from late June through mid-August, and served a total of 224 youth, including the Extended Care Program. The Extended Care Program is offered in partnership with Kent County Public Schools' 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant.
- ii.** The Town of Chestertown covered registration fees for 31 youth, which totaled \$10,280 in scholarships. Recreation Supervisor, Stacey Clough, was presented a check at the Town Hall meeting on September 8, 2015, after offering an overview of summer program highlights to the Mayor and Council.
- iii.** The Summer Camp program employed 22 staff and 5 volunteers.

**b) Aquatics**

- i.** Approximately 90 children were registered for youth swim lessons.
  - The department is looking into providing youth swim lessons at Bayside Pool, in addition to possibly a small scale Aqua Fitness classes at Bayside and Millington Pool.
- ii.** There was a total of 13,000 entries at the Community Center pool this season, totaling \$45,000 in revenue.
- iii.** Millington pool had a total of 3200 entries.
- iv.** Bayside Pool had a total of 900 entries (of which 90 resulted from three weeks of and added Wednesday and Thursday opening schedule).
- v.** Margie Elsberg volunteered to provide Adult Swim lessons again this year. There were a total of 10 adults registered, with 8 completing the class. Talks are already underway with Ms. Elsberg to provide lessons for 2016.
- vi.** The Aqua Fitness program had an average of 5-8 participants. This program will continue to be offered despite low numbers.



to be promoted to Lead Facility Monitor (inclusive of monitoring the Community Center and Concession Stand Management).

- c) There still remains a vacant Facility Monitor position. Interviews will be conducted this week. The Facility Monitor will assist Mrs. Shorter in monitoring the building. Ms. Butler would like the Facility Monitor to begin work November 2, which would be the start of the Community Center Fall/Winter hours.

2. Fall 2015 Programs

a) Newsletter Overview/Program Highlights

- i. An evening Zumba/Toning combo class has been added to the programming schedule. Ariel Pinder will lead this class, which will be held on Tuesday/Thursday evenings, as well as Saturday mornings. Saturday will be Toning only. The combo class is scheduled to run through December 19, and will be reassessed at that time.
- ii. KCPR will be working with Washington College to offer a girls basketball clinic. The Trojan Pride clinics currently offered generally draws boys.
- iii. An Adult Womens Drop-In Basketball program has been added, and will be held on Monday and Thursday evenings from November –April.
- iv. Pickleball has been added to the programming scheduled, and sees an average of 15-20 participants. Pickleball is played from Noon-2 pm on Monday and Thursday.
- v. Adult Drop In Kickball will be offered 1 day per week on Mondays.
- vi. Platform Tennis is going into its second year. The season opening event is October 1, 2015 at 6pm.
- vii. The Scott Livie Blue Crab Lacrosse Tournament was held this past weekend, and was a success, attracting six teams.

B. Parks

1. Still Pond Station Vacancy

- a) As of October 31, 2015, the Arts at Still Pond Station (ASPS) will be dissolving. River Arts has moved their clay studio into a space in Chestertown, so ASPS no longer is receiving revenue to rent the space and cannot sustain operations. Ms. Butler has been asked to provide suggestions as to possible uses for the building. Ms. Butler plans to speak with Mr. Wayne Gilchrest to determine if the Sassafras Environmental Education Center would have any interest in using the space.
- b) If Board members have any ideas please bring them to Ms. Butler.

2. FY16 POS Projects

- a) The Annual program has been submitted and approved. This year's applications have been submitted. Projects are as follows:
  - i. Betterton Beach restroom renovation design- Architectural design only will be completed this year, with work to potentially begin the following year. Jim Wright has budgeted \$25,000 for this project. A request

for proposals will be issued after Board of Public Works approval.

- ii. Edesville Park will receive new playground surfacing. In order to meet safety guidelines an engineered wood fiber surface will be installed along with replacing the borders. It is hoped that the renovation will assist in gaining a higher volume of use on the playground.
- iii. A second phase of enhancements for Worton Park will include grading of the Pop Warner football field, the new multi-purpose fields, and E Diamond ball field and an obtaining approved sediment control plan. Additionally, swings will be replaced on the existing playground structure, and engineered wood fiber will be installed for the playground surface. The newly installed multi-purpose fields need to be extended by 60 feet to 360 feet. E-diamond will receive a full overhaul with outfield grading, and possible field shifting. Shifting the field location closer to the storm water management area will hopefully increase the ability to play multiple sports on the multi-purpose field area closest to the tree line of the entry to the park.

C. Other

1. Betterton Beach Lifeguards

- i. The Commissioners requested preliminary budget numbers to assign lifeguards at Betterton Beach. Funds for lifeguarding at the beach were eliminated in order to use the funds for the Community Center Pool guards. Use of the beach has increased recently, and the beach was featured in an article on MSN.com, which highlighted how the beach was a great place to swim.
  - Ms. Butler has presented three different scenarios to the Commissioners for possible guard scheduling, and has asked for a decision by no later than December 1. Certification for open water lifeguarding is different than swimming pool certification, and time is needed to provide staff with the adequate time to become certified for both types of lifeguarding.
    - 1. The following lifeguarding schedules were proposed:
      - a. Weekends only until the end of the school year, then Thursday-Sunday until school resumes, then weekends through Labor Day.
    - 2. Guarding only on major holidays and special events (Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Betterton Day).
    - 3. Weekends guarding until school ends, then Monday- Friday until school resumes, then weekends through Labor Day weekend.



the recipients during the Commissioners last meeting in the month of March each year.

1. During the Commissioners' meeting in March, notable achievements for sports organizations, as well as individuals, will be highlighted.

- Ms. Cannon suggested sending flyers home with students to make parents aware of the opportunity for MARPSA Good Sports nominations.

**c) Volunteer Recruitment**

- i.** Ms. Butler is hoping to establish a volunteer recruitment initiative as KCPR senior offerings grow. Ms. Butler hopes to have volunteers on site after school to provide mentoring opportunities, and to develop relationships with young people at the KCCC. Volunteers could also visit KCPR programs and talk to participants about life experiences, knowledge, and expertise.
- ii.** Ms. Coleman will be holding an opening day event for youth basketball, with the Head Women's Basketball Coach at Washington College to speak to participants (offered as an example of a volunteer opportunity).

**d)** Ms. Butler would like for a Park and Facility Development committee to be established to develop short, mid, and long term goals (i.e. landscape plans, enhanced walking trails, etc.) for the parks, pool facilities, and the Community Center. This committee was established by name only a couple of years ago.

**e) Friends of KCPR Group/Foundation**

- i.** Board members were provided handouts referencing how to establish a Friends Group for their information.
  - Ms. Butler stated that as Program Open Space dollars are depleted, other streams of funding need to be coming in to keep projects afloat. A Friends groups may be able to fundraise for those projects that cannot be funded by POS. The Friends group could also organize efforts to complete projects (i.e. park clean-up).
- ii.** The Board was requested to review the how to document and consider if there is any interest in developing a Friends Group.
- iii.** This topic will be revisited during the November meeting

**3. Special Event Recycling Program**

**a)** New legislation has been passed that requires events held on public property with 200 or more attendees expected and will have food or drink to have recycling available. The county will require contract holders to provide and dispose of recycled items and receptacles. Receptacles are already in place at the Community Center.

- i.** The new legislation goes into effect in October, and will be incorporated into KCPR rental applications, policies and procedures.

**IV. REPORTS**

Turner's Creek:	Ms. Bookwalter reported observing high utilization during her last visit.
Worton Park:	No Report.
Bayside/Ingleside:	Nothing to Report.
Betterton Beach:	Mr. Packard reported a lot of picnic activity taking place at the beach during his last visits. He also commented that the men's bathrooms looked well kept.
Millington Pool:	Nothing to report
Edesville Park:	No Report.
Toal Park:	Nothing to Report.
High School:	No Report.
County Commissioner:	No Report.
Board of Education:	No Report.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:49 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Cannon, seconded by Ms. Fisher, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha Brown, Office Manager