



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



Kent County Community Center * 11041 Worton Rd., Worton * MD 21678

August 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Kent County Community Center (Meeting moved inside due to weather)

MINUTES

In Attendance: Aidan Butler, Student Representative; Jill Coleman, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation; Nathaniel Copper, Member; Carrie Klein, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works; Rick Myers, (acting) Chair; Rachel Strong, Student Representative; Joyce Moody, Member; Albert Nickerson, County Commissioner; Jane Welsh, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Myers asked for a motion to approve the May 19, 2025 meeting minutes as written. Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Coleman welcomed and introduced the Board's two newest members: Rachel Strong, who will serve as a Student Representative, succeeding Paige Miller; and Nathaniel (Nate) Copper, who is joining as a Member, replacing Greg Welch.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks

- Program Open Space (POS) and Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Projects Updates (Carrie Klein):
 - The renovation of the basketball courts at Worton Park is nearing completion. The project consisted of installing new lighting, repaving the courts, applying fresh paint, adding new benches, and placing a new trash can. Funded by a \$275K POS grant, we have approximately \$3,400 left to use. The remaining funds will go toward trees and adding one or two more benches.
 - The Orem Dugouts and Restroom (LPPI project): The dugouts and the fencing are now complete. K & C Grounds of Baltimore County will be responsible for the remaining field work, which includes turf grading, installing sod, and rebuilding the pitcher's mound. Weather permitting, this work is expected to begin around the third week of October.
 - Quotes have been received for the Worton Park bathhouse renovation. Some interior updates, such as new flooring, plumbing, and new fixtures, in both the men's and women's restrooms, have already been completed. The remainder of the work has been awarded to Dick Davis, Industrial Engineering. They have placed the supply order and will be installing a new roof and wall panels that match the colors of the Worton workshop across the street, along with new gutters and

downspouts. Interior upgrades will include energy efficient LED lighting with motion and timing controls, as well as dual replacements. Additionally, a new sidewalk and water filtration and bottle filler system have already been installed.

- The remaining ball fields at Worton Park have been upgraded with new backstops and dugout enclosures. Heroes Field now has two new dugouts, and two new sunshades have been installed, ensuring that all fields are now equipped with sunshades. A new LED message board has also been ordered, with installation expected at the beginning of October. Field re-grading for the rest of the ballfields is scheduled for fall 2025, to coincide with the work planned at Orem Field.
- The POS work at Toal Park was completed this spring. Improvements included a new backstop and dugout enclosure, as well as the installation of two new playground benches. This project was finished under budget, and we have received approval from the Department of Natural Resources to reallocate the remaining funds to support ongoing work at Worton Park.
- The old concessions stand at Worton Park will be converted into a storage structure and will receive a new roof and doors. The County's maintenance team will handle the renovations, with partial funding coming from the remaining POS funds from the Toal Park project.
- Betterton Boardwalk LPPI project: Although we initially believed the proposal was finalized, we are currently working with the architect and the engineer to determine the most suitable materials to use. We anticipate resolving this issue within the next couple of weeks, allowing us to put the project out to bid, and complete the work by the end of this calendar year.
- New Playground at Edesville Park: Ms. Klein reported that after speaking with the vendor at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), they expect the playground installation to be completed by the end of November, or, at the very latest in December.
- Ballfield(s) Signage (Jill Coleman): The new ballfield signs have been installed, and we are now working on helping everyone get accustomed to the updated field names.
- Park Rules Signage (Jill Coleman): The park rules signs have been ordered, and a purchase requisition has been submitted to process payment to the vendor. Funding for this project comes from our FY26 capital budget, and we expect the signs to ship in about 6-8 weeks.
- Turner's Creek/Toal Park Project (Carrie Klein): Our partnership with Washington College and their Natural Lands Project for habitat restoration has been approved. The project is fully grant funded and covers habitat installation and management at both parks for the next three years. After this period, Washington College will collaborate with us to provide ongoing management oversight. This year, we are continuing with lead management in both areas, and next year, Washington College will begin the habitat planting process.
- Still Pond Park Concept and Site Plan (Jill Coleman): Ms. Coleman shared that Shore Strategies developed the site plan with a focus on passive recreation, and the design work is fully funded by POS funds. Ms. Nancy Scozzari from Shore Strategies joined the PRAB meeting virtually to go over the proposal and to answer any questions. Members received a copy of the plan in their meeting packets and agreed to take time to review the proposal before discussing it further at their next meeting.
- Granary Funds (Carrie Klein): We are in the process of scheduling Mr. Dick Davis to assess potential restroom upgrades at Turner's Creek. This evaluation will help us repay the \$33K in funds that were received for the Granary. We need Mr. Davis to provide a scope of work that can be used to put the project out to bid.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- The 2025 pool season operated on a cashless basis, with vouchers provided instead of refunds. Patrons

received vouchers if the pool closed within 30 minutes of entry due to inclement weather or mechanical issues.

- We provided Water Safety Week for our Kiddie Campers (Ages 3.5-5 years) again this year. Lifeguards provided classroom time, as well as swimming time to teach them how to be safe in and around the water. The program is popular with both children and their parents.
- A new treadmill has been ordered for our fitness room, and it should arrive in approximately four weeks.
- We purchased and received new furniture at Bayside Pool.
- Ms. Coleman reported that, following the Board's request at the last meeting, she contacted the Director of Emergency Services and the Director of Information Technology regarding the installation of emergency phones in the County's parks. She was informed that this is feasible, with a one-time cost of \$350. Ms. Coleman added that the directors are currently working out the logistics, and she will proceed by presenting the proposal to the County Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Coleman explained that Chairman Greg Welch is no longer able to serve on the Board due to his recent job transfer into her department. She stated that Vice Chairman Rick Myers will lead the meeting this evening, and the Board will need to nominate a new chair.
 - Ms. Coleman nominated Rick Myers for Chairman of the Board, and Commissioner Nickerson seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Ms. Coleman asked if there were any more nominations for chairman of the Board and there were none.

- Ms. Coleman stated that, with Mr. Myers nominated as chairman of the Board, a new vice chairman will need to be selected. She then called for nominations for the position of vice chairman.
 - Ms. Welsh nominated Commissioner Nickerson for the role of vice chairman of the Board. Commissioner Nickerson questioned whether his current position on the Board permits him to serve as vice chairman. Ms. Coleman responded that she would review the by-laws and provide clarification to the Board at the next meeting. She also noted that the Board will vote on both positions at that time.

Parks (Jill Coleman)

- We have applied for a \$10K grant for a solar well for a garden at Turner's Creek. The garden is maintained by Wayne Gilchrest, along with the children from our Youth In Action and Leader's Club programs. The vegetables that are grown are dropped off at the local Food Bank each week. The children have learned a lot about gardening and giving back to the community, and it is a very popular and wonderful program.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman informed the members that in their meeting packet contains the 2025 Fall Program Guide. She said the Guide contains all of the programs that Parks and Recreation offers in the fall.
- Parks and Recreation is expanding the Afterschool Program to include days when the Kent County Public School system has half-day sessions, with the program running until 6pm.
- We are partnering with Washington College to provide sports clinics, including free clinics for the local children in the community.
- Our Teen Luau, originally scheduled for July 31st, was unfortunately rained out. The event was rescheduled for August 7th, and approximately 80 teens attended.

- We are offering a free Facility Access Card throughout the month of September to all incoming freshmen in any Kent County school system.
- We had a record number of sign-ups for our softball program this year in both the youth and adult divisions. Youth participation increased from 80 to 120 players, and the number of adult teams grew from 6 to 10.
- The Community Center now has a new water filtration and bottle filler system. It was well received, with everyone appreciating the convenience of filling their water bottles. We are grateful to the County Commissioners for approving the transfer of funds within our capital budget to make this purchase possible.
- The French Creek Racing Tournament took place at Betterton Beach. The organizers rent the beach for their water events, and they pay our standard rate for staff to stock supplies and maintain restroom cleanliness throughout the event.
- We have purchased Restroom and AED signage for installation at Worton Park.
- Kent County Parks and Recreation has filled all three of its vacancies: the Aquatics and Sports Coordinator position and both Facility Monitor positions.
- We are always looking for fall seasonal staff for Afterschool positions, Facility Monitor positions, Facility Supervisor positions, as well as coaches and umpires. If you know of anyone interested in any of these opportunities, please refer them to our Human Resources Department.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, or REPORT OUTS (All Members)

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Myers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Welsh seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, November 17, 2025, 5:30 PM
Kent County Community Center/Meeting Room
11041 Worton Road, Worton