



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



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

**May 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM
at Turner’s Creek Park**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Greg Welch Jr., Chair; Rick Myers, Vice Chair; Jill Coleman, Member; Drew Davis, Student Representative; Mary Fisher, Member; Melissa Landon, Student Representative; Albert Nickerson, Member; Jane Welsh, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

MINUTES

The Board did not meet in February.

The minutes from the November 20, 2023, meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Welch called the board meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks

- Program Open Space (POS) and Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Projects Updates (Jill Coleman on behalf of Dan Mattson):
 - The demolition of the Granary at Turner’s Creek has been completed. The area has been prepared for surface treating with tar and chip, and it should be completed this week. The full area around the boat ramp will be treated and open for parking, and concrete barriers will remain in place around the existing utility pole and electric panel. The bulkhead has been inspected by Public Works and a design engineer. Potential future improvements at the site may include restroom renovations.
 - POS money was initially used to stabilize the Granary and since the structure was demolished, we must now invest the money towards another project at Turner’s Creek. A small committee was formed, and they met and decided to invest the funds towards renovating the restrooms.
 - The County Commissioners approved the purchase of a sign to commemorate the Granary, and some of the wood from the structure will be repurposed to make a bench; both will be placed at the bulkhead area.
 - The Department of Public Works provided support for the 2024 Betterton Beach Clean Up Day.
 - The Department of Public Works built a concrete walkway from the boardwalk to the jetty. An ADA accessible access (roll-out) mat was purchased last fall and will be installed by Memorial weekend.
 - New sensory panels will be installed at the Worton Park playground in the fall. New benches will also be installed at the playground and the along the walking path around the fitness equipment.
 - New automated external defibrillator (AED) stations are being installed at some of our parks. The Department of Public Works is coordinating the installations of the AED stations which will be at Betterton Beach (outside the bathrooms), Bayside Landing (in the pool building), and Worton Park (in the bathroom). A ribbon cutting ceremony for the AEDs will be held tomorrow at Betterton

Beach at 1:00 pm; the AEDs are monitored and trackable.

- The FY25 POS grant was approved for basketball courts at Worton Park. We anticipate the bidding to take place during the summer and the construction to begin in the fall. This project will consist of resurfacing the existing courts and parking areas, basketball goals, new fencing, and basketball court lighting.
- The Department of Public Works will have a new deputy director starting in June. This person will be responsible for serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the first project he/she will work on to complete will be the open LPPI grants (Worton restroom renovations, Orem Field improvements, back stop replacements and fence dugouts throughout Worton Park, back stops and fence dugouts at Toal Park, and the digital messaging board for the field assignments within Worton Park).
- Development Updates (Jill Coleman)
 - We just recently applied for a Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Grant for the small (0.2 mile) outlook trail at Turner's Creek. We are trying to make the trail ADA accessible and if successful, it will be the first ADA County park trail in Kent County.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- FY24 Capital Projects:
 - We requested more pool furniture at the Community Center Pool and Millington Pool.
 - We requested one piece of commercial grade exercise equipment for the Community Center Fitness Room.
 - We requested new (full court) basketball adjustable rims for ages 5-10; the adjustable rims can hook on to our 10-foot rims which can then be rolled down for the appropriate ages.
 - We requested two (2) new Activenet Data Card Printers; these are needed for our pool cashier offices during the summer.

NEW BUSINESS (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman recognized the Board's two student representatives, Drew Davis, and Melissa Landon, with a certificate of appreciation for their service to the Board in FY24; both students are graduating this year and their service on the board is ending.
- Summer Opening 2024:
 - The County's pools will open one hour earlier this year from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm (instead of Noon – 6:00).
 - All pools sites will be open Memorial weekend and on major holidays.
 - More lifeguards are needed. The pay is \$17+ for lifeguards and \$18+ for head guards.
 - All aquatic staff have been training during the past two weeks.
- New Flooring:
 - The flooring will be replaced in the Computer Room, Kids' Room, and Kitchen at the Kent County Community Center. The Commissioners approved the work to be completed within FY24 using the left-over funds from the pool plastering.

- New Kiddie Pool Feature:
 - The Commissioners approved replacing the feature in the Kiddie Pool. The current turtle feature, which is disintegrating, will be replaced with a duck.
- 2023 Annual Report:
 - Ms. Coleman went over the 2023 Annual Report statistics that were presented to the County Commissioners in February. She said this report is what we use to show the Commissioners what we have accomplished in the past calendar year. It is also public knowledge and is posted on social media.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Youth Sports Grants:

The following Youth Sports Grants were awarded:

- Kent County Youth Soccer Association received \$1,300
- Kent County Spartans Football & Cheer received \$3,000
- Kent County Youth Baseball received \$2,000

Ms. Coleman said she is on the Commissioners' agenda tomorrow night to request the remaining \$1,700 for the Little League Softball team. She said the reason for this ask is because we have been nominated by Little League to host the minor league district playoffs at Worton Park, and there is no budget for the tournament; the tournament will take place on June 17th.

- Athletes of the Week Videos: Please check out our Facebook page. Our program coordinator, Jessica Plum, does a great job interviewing our athletes and posting weekly features of the "Athlete of the Week." Coaches from each of the teams pick an athlete of the week. Those picked show leadership, dedication, hard work, and perseverance. The Kent County News post our weekly athletes in their paper as well.
- Summer 2024 Activity Guide: The guide informs patrons of all programs and activities that are going on during the summer. A few highlights are:
 - Family Night Swim (*New*) – recommended for parents and kids ages 0-12
 - Movie Nights
 - Youth and Adult Swim Lessons
 - Beach Tennis Demo
 - Teen Night Swim
 - Softball and Volleyball Clinics
 - Brazilian Soccer Camp (*New*)
- Facility Access Card Incentive: The County Commissioners have been very generous. Each year during the month of January, they offer all full-time employees a free Facility Access Card (FAC). In addition to the free FAC, all full-time employees can have one (1) free rental during the summer.
- Story Walk at Worton Park: There is a Story Walk at Worton Park by the playground. The labor and materials were donated by D&D Contracting, and Kent County Library personnel are responsible for changing the book each month.
- First Aid/CPR Classes: We will be offering First Aid and CPR Classes to our Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board (PRAB) members in the near future. We will send out an email message with a date/time within the next couple of weeks and if interested, please let us know. Our deputy director, Marva Kumpf, is certified to teach the class.

Parks (Jill Coleman)

- Turner’s Creek Proposal: Program Open Space (POS) land at one point was farmed by a local farmer. We stumbled across that if we bought the land with POS money, we cannot have someone else till it and benefit from the crops. We must now figure out what to do with the land and to make it more beautified. Shore Strategies, the company that assists us with our Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) and annual report, came up with a planning concept for what we can do with the property:
 - Add a new trail and wildflowers.
 - Next section (trees): Add more trees next to the historic tree growth, and plant wildflowers and butterfly habitats with new signage.
 - Other side by the Kent Museum: Add Black Eyed Susans and a trail with wildflowers and signage pertaining to what we have added.
 - For all plantings, we will use Maryland Native Species.

Ms. Coleman asked for a motion.

Ms. Welsh made a motion to approve the Turner’s Creek proposal as presented, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; all were in favor.

- Toal Park (Galena): Ms. Coleman asked the Board for suggestions on how to develop the 20-acre property. Ms. Coleman said her suggestion would be to ask Shore Strategies to come in and make recommendations, or to send out a survey to County residents to see what they would like to have at Toal Park:
 - Ms. Welsh suggested a dog park.
 - Mr. Welch suggested something pertaining to equestrian.
 - Commissioner Nickerson said to keep in mind the bike path that runs along that area and was approved by the Town of Galena. Ms. Coleman said she will contact the Town of Galena to review the blueprints for that path.

Ms. Coleman asked for a motion for bringing Shore Strategies in to make recommendations for Toal Park.

Ms. Welsh made a motion to approve Ms. Coleman contacting Shore Strategies for their recommendations, followed by sending a survey out to all County residents, and Mr. Welch seconded the motion; all were in favor.

REPORTS (All Members)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM