



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



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

**November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM
Kent County Community Center**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Greg Welch, Chair, Rick Myers, Vice Chair; Jill Coleman, Director, Parks and Recreation Member; Carrie Klein, Deputy Director, Public Works Member; Faye Little, Member; Trish McGee, Board of Education Member; Paige Miller, Student Representative; Albert Nickerson, County Commissioner Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Welch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch asked for a motion to approve the August 19, 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

REMEMBRANCE

Mr. Welch asked the members to join him in a moment of silence in remembrance of Ms. Mary Fisher.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks

- Program Open Space (POS) and Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Projects Updates (Carrie Klein):
 - The basketball courts at Worton Park are scheduled to have lighting and to be repaved in Spring 2025. Ms. Klein said they are currently working on the electrical bids and with Choptank Electric for running the lines to the transformer. She said they are also working on the RFP to go out for bid in January which will include the posts, backboards, resurfacing, relining, and repaving.
 - Quotes are coming in for the following Worton Park enhancements: Dugouts, bathroom upgrades to the Worton bathhouse, and Orem Field backstops. The project is expected to be completed in March 2025.
 - A quote came in under budget for the backstop and fencing replacements at Toal Park; DPW staff will install the sunshade for the backstop. This project is also expected to be completed in March 2025.
 - The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and boardwalk extension project at Betterton Beach has been delayed; more information is forthcoming. Ms. Coleman confirmed that the bench, in honor of the lifeguards, has been ordered and should arrive sometime tomorrow.
 - Turners Creek and Toal Park project in partnership with Washington College: We partnered with Washington College on a grant funded project for the fields that are no longer permitted to being farmed. Kent County will transition the two fields into habitat and meadow lands for the community.

- Development Updates (Jill Coleman)
 - The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) declined our grant application request to make the small (0.6 mile) outlook trail at Turners Creek ADA accessible. Ms. Coleman said this is the second time we have been turned down for this grant, so we will attempt to apply for a different grant for the project or see if our Roads Division can make the ADA trail.
 - Through a very generous donation from the Donovan Foundation, we now have four beautiful multi-purpose sand courts at Worton Park. They will be used for beach tennis and for our Youth Volleyball program during the summer.
 - The green ball wall located at Worton Park is receiving a makeover from our Department of Public Works (DPW) staff in collaboration with the Youth Soccer League. Our DPW staff painted the wall blue on one side, and the Youth Soccer League will paint a lacrosse player and a soccer player on the reverse side, where there will also be a points system for the kids to be able to practice their lacrosse throws and soccer kicks. The goal is to have the wall completed by March.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman announced that her department will offer the following new programs:
 - Corn Hole League: We currently have patrons who bring their boards and bags and play in our gym, and they are very excited that we will be offering the program.
 - First Aid CPR Class: The classes will be offered to the community and will be taught by a certified Parks and Recreation staff member.
 - Silver Sneakers Club: Designed for patrons 55+. The activity consists of a walk around Worton Park, and the program provides the opportunity to make new friends.
 - Tai Chi: The fitness instructor for this program moved out of state, and we are currently looking for another fitness instructor and/or a different fitness class.

NEW BUSINESS (Jill Coleman)

Parks

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has mandated that any newly developed parks must have a communication board. Currently, DNR has a Recreation Communication Boards Pilot Program available and is offering grant funding for the boards until the total (\$100K) funding allotted for the program has been exhausted. The maximum award that can be received is \$3K for each approved application. Ms. Coleman said we already have a communication board at Worton Park, but we are requesting approval from the County Commissioners to apply for the grant to place one at Edesville and Toal parks.
- We are currently working on universal signage for labeling our ball fields.
- We are currently working on universal park rules signage. Ms. Coleman said that both she and Ms. Klein are working to come up with standards for all of our park signs.
- We submitted a consent item to the County Commissioners for approval to rename “AA Diamond” to “Commissioners Field” in order to honor our commissioners, both past and present.
- Ms. Coleman said she met with the superintendent of Kent County Public Schools to discuss the possibility of the County purchasing the school’s land next to the Community Center. Ms. Coleman said we would like to put up a pavilion, playground, and/or multipurpose field to be used by our summer

campers. Ms. Coleman said at the superintendent's request, this idea has been put on hold temporarily until the two new Board of Education members come on board in January.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- A request has been made to our Public Works department for our kitchen and lobby to be painted during the winter season.
- Ms. Coleman showed 3 out of 10 park photo collages that will be displayed at the Community Center. The collages portray the beautiful scenery at our parks and beach and the amenities at each..
- Ms. McGee inquired about the Story Walk at Worton Park, and she wanted to know how often the story gets changed. Ms. Coleman said she has witnessed many people enjoying it, and she said the book gets changed every season.
- Ms. Coleman said a total of 16 benches have been placed around Worton Park, with several being placed along the walking trail and some around the ball fields. She said she and Ms. Klein walked around the park and looked to see what the view was going to be prior to placing them.
- Ms. Coleman, displaying a picture of the meadow at Turners Creek, informed everyone that the area circled in red is where a walking trail will go around the outside and a habitat will go on the inside. Ms. Klein said she will share the link for anyone who wants to see pictures of Washington College's work.
- Ms. Coleman informed the members that during the spring and summer seasons, the board meetings will be held at one of the County's parks. Following are the locations for the meetings in Calendar Year 2025:
 - The February meeting location will be at the Community Center;
 - The May meeting location will be at Toal Park;
 - The August meeting will take place at Edesville Park; and
 - The November meeting will take place at the Community Center.

Each member received a copy of the new meeting schedule in their meeting packet.

REPORTS (All Members)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McGee 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 6:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 10, 2025, 6:00 PM, at the Kent County Community Center