

**MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
JANUARY 16, 2023**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. There was a quorum present.

MINUTES

The November minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Lisa Campbell, second by Michele Burd. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd- No report.

Chris Ziegler- No report.

Perry Latimer- Perry reported she would be traveling to Cleveland, OH for Golf for promotions. Perry reported the need for turfed fields, as there are requests through their department.

Lisa Campbell- Lisa reported the Carved in Ice event is going to be February 10 and 11th, 2023. Lisa reported Rotary group is so appreciative of the Park Department and Facilities employees for their help towards the event.

Virgil Cousins- No Report.

Jason Mentel- No report.

Dave Zarnick- No report.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director had no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Masi reported the flyer on Waterpark Sales comparison, sales being at its highest over the last few years. Mr. Masi reported ESports is getting some new registrations, Santa Workshop sold out at 200 participants, Parent Night out went well for first time event with 19 participants.

Appointment of board selection.

President Zarnick reappointed onto the Park Advisory Board, motion by Michele Burd, second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

Vice President appointed to Pete Geis, motion by Jason Mentel, second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

Treasurer appointed to Perry Latimer, motion by Chris Ziegler, second by Michele Burd. Motion carried.

Reappointment of Park Advisory Board members, Virgil Cousins and Lisa Campbell. Motion by Michele Burd, second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried. Reassignment of region for Jason Mentel from At Large Representative to Region 4. Motion by Chris Ziegler, second by Lisa Campbell. Motion carried.

Local Park Renovation Review Committee for 2023. Nominee, Dustin Drew, Jason Mentel, Perry Latimer, Lisa Campbell. Motion by Virgil Cousins, second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

Open Discussion Jade's Dog Park:

Jade's Dog Park is active in Butler County area. Jade's Dog Park has been open year round for 3 years. Although the dog park is open, the road gate is closed December 1 for driving access. Recently a couple went to the Park Director, Board of Commissioners and County Solicitor to open the road gate. In doing so, they admitted that they fell walking back from the dog park. In this admittance, the County Solicitor and the insurance company decided it was best to close the dog park until the risk is removed.

Commissioner Osche: The social group brought to our attention the wanted use of the dog park with the road gates open. Commissioner is looking for suggestions, pros and cons of opening road gate, the job duties by union employees, freezing temperatures would require salt and separate dog salt.

The group offered opening daily based on weather and close daily.

Lance Welliver: Over the past, two to three years we have left the road gate open an extra month and closed December 1. We have had one to two complaints per year one time about the road gate closure.

Commissioner Osche: Due to the acknowledgement of the email stating, "I fell, you win" the solicitor admitted the risk was too much. In addition, the solicitor with the insurance company requested new signage of No winter maintenance, use at your own risk.

Lance Welliver: These signs are have been created and placed on the road gate for no winter maintenance, use at your own risk.

Commissioner Osche: I would like to present a meeting with the group at the Butler Township Park Building with the Park Advisory Board at the February meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 11:00am with our Advisory Board meeting at 12:00pm.

Lance Welliver: We could create a secondary location down here in the lower park of Alameda. Across from the Carousel Shelter, this area would be temporary and used only when the Dog Park is closed for winter.

Commissioner Osche: There is also donation money spent as well as grant money from DCNR. We are concerned for safety first and want this to be a community area.

Dave Zarnick: The safety is the biggest concern. As well, as compile, the other dog parks in the area and their policies. In addition, the Butler County Humane Society and PETA for the safety of the dogs for weather under freezing.

Jason Mentel: Cranberry Township has the old dog park with a division to allow with the separation of the area, to allow for closures. The new dog park does not have this separation.

Ashley Helmstaedter: Several dog park have changed their dog park policies to match field use policies. This allows the grounds to heal and recuperate. Cranberry Township is thinking about this move with their new dog park.

Chris Ziegler: How will the decision made here effect other municipalities? These park areas are amenities; at Buffalo Trail, we do not winter maintenance any area. Would we be required or requested to change our policies by this change?

Dave Zarnick: Creating a secondary location may not solve the problem, as well as it is taxpayer's dollars to create the second location.

Jason Mentel: By creating your secondary location, do you lose the area for use of field? Your youth sports would have to be relocated.

Ashley Helmstaedter: When does it become the responsibility of the dog owner to exercise their dog?

Commissioner Osche: At this point, we would like to have the Park Advisory Board decision on if the gates should be open or if it would just become policy. The meeting in February is just an information meeting for the social group. Would the master plan that is to be revised in 2024 have a new solution to this?

Lance Welliver: We will get our information together to the Park Advisory Board before the meeting in February to list facts about the dog park.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm. Motion by Jason Mentel, second by Chris Zeigler.

Agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on February 21, 2023.

Respectively Submitted,
Ashley Helmstaedter