

MINUTES

BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION JANUARY 19, 2021

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

The November minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Mary Messer second by Lisa Campbell. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Ziegler – Chris reported the December challenge match of donations was met and exceeded. A donor agreed to match \$5,000 and \$13,000 was raised. The donor was willing to match another \$5,000. Last Day Hike was well attended with 32 participants, on April 24th, Trail Day, looking into hosting food trucks on the trail. Finally, rumored DCNR awarded Buffalo with a grant, however, nothing official has been announced.

Lisa Campbell- Lisa reported the Carved in Ice Event has been cancelled and postponed to 2022.

Adam Hartwig- Adam had no report.

Haley Geyer- Haley reported working on park projects, Sewer extension project has been bid out. Haley reported working on a future pavilion with kitchen and restroom and eventually a splash pad.

Michele Burd- Michele had no report.

Dustin Drew- Dustin reported the water main project will be switching over within the week. The facilities will now pull water from a well instead of the lake. Dustin reported receiving word that DCNR will not hold any in person programs until March 31, 2021.

Dave Zarnick- Dave reported during the Township Meeting discussed Preston Park and hopeful to complete the renovation by March 2021. Dave reported students working on a project to clean up the parks.

Mary Messer- Mary reported with programs are running with COVID restrictions. With the schools being back in sessions, Slippery Rock is able to most of their programs, including the Father, Daughter Dance.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director reported the P.R.P.S Convention has moved to virtual.

Mr. Welliver reported opening day of shelter reservations are on February 26, 2021.

Mr. Welliver reported L.O.D.D shelter and stone will be delayed due to sponsorship. They have presented the shelter to be built second and the name stone first, however, this is not what the contract states.

Open comment:

Adam Hartwig: If you build the name stone first, what is to keep them coming back to build the shelter?

The shelter should not be built second due to funding may run out.

Dave Zarnick: The shelter should be built first.

OLD BUSINESS

The Director reported being awarded for 3 DCNR Grants totaling over \$400,000.00. DCNR awarded Summit Township, Clay Township and Penn Township. Summit Township was awarded Phase II of their playground located at Summit Elementary. Clay Township for its playground at Dassa McKinney Elementary, and Penn Township at Harcrest Park with Land and Water Conservation.

Mr. Welliver reported for the Butler County Local Park Renovation Grants. All grant applications have been sent out and are due by February 18, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Tim Calvert reported Waterpark sales have been down due to COVID and unknown circumstances going forward, hopeful for better sales in spring. Tim reported the opening day is planned to be on June 5, 2021.

Mr. Calvert reported offering 2 virtual babysitting classes. This will be a first for the Park Dept. Tim reported Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 26th, and the Spring Garden Market is tentatively scheduled for May 22nd.

Mr. Welliver reported the reappointment of Pete Geis, Dustin Drew, Chris Ziegler and Haley Geyer for their term on the Park Advisory Board. Motioned by Adam Hartwig, second by Virgil Cousins. Motion passed.

Mr. Welliver reported needing the Local Park Renovation Review Committee. Nominated were Haley Geyer, Adam Hartwig, Dave Zarnick and Dustin Drew. Motioned by Lisa Campbell, second by Mary Messer. Motion carried.

Mr. Welliver opened discussion about a complaint of Jade's Dog Park. Complaint was that the road gates are closed to drive back to the dog park. Mr. Welliver explained by opening the gate we would open access to the entire upper park. The park has had experience with vandalism, destruction of property, limited winter maintenance, and access to the materials yard. Opening up the gate to the dog park will open up a lot more access than just the dog park.

Comments:

Dave Zarnick- The same group of 3 have reached out to Butler Township as well, it falls under County of Butler.

Adam Hartwig- It will cost you more in maintenance to repair damages if you open the gates in the winter.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm. Motion by Mary Messer, second by Adam Hartwig. Agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on February 16, 2021.

Respectively Submitted,
Ashley Helmstaedter