

**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 21ST, 2025**

ATTENDANCE:

Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Brian Perry, Adams Township
Jennifer Rottman, Eau Claire
Virgil Cousins, Karns City
Commissioner, **Leslie Osche**, PM Rotary
Perry Latimer, Experience Butler County
Chris Zeigler, Butler Freeport Trail
Lance Welliver, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Director
Ashley Helmstaedter, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director
Colleen Rhodes, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant
Pete Geis -Vortex Sales Representative

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. There was a quorum present. Vice President of the Park Advisory Board, Denton Zeronas, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the September 16th, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion by Brian Perry, second by Virgil Cousins. Motion carried.

Mr. Zeronas introduced guest, Peter Geis, a sales representative for Vortex. Geis shared with the board the benefits of splash pads.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Ziegler - Ms. Ziegler reported Butler- Freeport's 20th annual Buffalo Trail ½ Marathon took place on Saturday, October 18th, with 960 registered, 800 participants ran the race, 800 crossed the finish line. Ms. Ziegler reported the trail will be conducting an economic impact survey. Ms. Ziegler reported that upon completion of the Freeport bridge and the ADA Kayak launch. Ms. Ziegler also reported with the completion of the trail, Butler Freeport will be the 6th longest rail trail in Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Rottman – Ms. Rottman reported Eau Claire's Trick-Or-Treat event will take place on Saturday, October 25th. Ms. Rottman reported the townwide cleanup, partnered with Hunter Truck Sales, continues. Ms. Rottman also reported the town's Christmas lights are to be installed on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

Perry Latimer – Ms. Latimer reported on attending a teams' conference and expo with PA Sports in Columbus with the interest of bringing international sports to the area. Ms. Latimer reported she is working with Moraine State Park, US Rowing, and Alumni from Grove City College to bring rowing teams to Moraine. Ms. Latimer also reported working with Tom Knights from Butler Township hosting Rugby events. Ms. Latimer reported the Thanksgiving Girls Hockey Classic will not be as big this year as it has been in previous years. Ms. Latimer also reported that the county has seen more hotel stays from individuals participating in tournaments outside the county.

Ms. Latimer invited the board members to participate in a zoom session from Sports ETA for guidance on Tourism and Parks and Recreation working together effectively.

Commissioner Osche – The commissioner reported the Rotary hosted 22 Rotarians from Albania and Kosovo to a lunch in Alameda Park. They then boarded a trolley, talked about local parks, and toured downtown, and took the group to Cranberry for the evening. This group will be all over Western Pennsylvania this week.

Dave Blair – Mr. Blair reported Cranberry Community Park groundbreaking for their new field, which will have a natural surface, as opposed to turf. Mr. Blair is hopeful that construction crews will work through the winter, weather permitting.

Mr. Blair reported Cranberry Township Community Park's Halloween event will take place on Friday, October 24th, 2025.

Mr. Blair reported September's BBQ Bash was a huge success. He discussed the potential of a Battle of the Neighborhoods for next year's BBQ event.

Mr. Blair reported Santa's first stop will be in Cranberry on November 21st.

Mr. Blair thanked Butler County Parks and Recreation for assisting with the Local Parks Grant that provided basketball backboards and rims for their court. The township will be installing new lights on the courts.

Mr. Blair reported Cranberry Township's Early Learning Center has now been State Certified.

Mr. Blair spoke on PRPS District 1 involvement and attempts to bring more trainings and workshops to Western Pennsylvania.

Brian Perry – Mr. Perry reported Adam's Township will be installing a new electric sign. The sign was purchased from EMC Electric and will be installed next week.

Mr. Perry reported the parks field and directional signs funded by Local Parks Grant were installed last week.

Mr. Perry reported the park's pavilions have been winterized for the year.

Mr. Perry reported that is budget season for the township, and they are exploring options such as robotic mowers to cut back man hours.

Adams's township's Halloween Parade was a success. They hosted around 100 people, with 76 competing in the costume contest.

Mr. Perry reported the parks Christmas Lights are to be installed next month. The park will have a Christmas light display from December through January.

Virgil Cousins – Mr. Cousins had nothing to report.

Denton Zeronas – Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock's Oktober Fest was successful. They had 44 vendors and an accordion player. He stated the event had a good turnout and great weather. He expressed interest in adding a Polka band for next year.

Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock's soccer and other fall sports have wrapped up for the year.

Mr. Zeronas reported in working with Angel Tree and Giant Eagle to help local families in need this holiday season.

Mr. Zeronas reported on the parks upcoming Breakfast with Santa and arts and crafts programs.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Welliver reported he had a bid meeting later in the day for the electrical project in the lower part of Alameda Park, which he will present to the commissioners at the meeting in November.

Mr. Welliver reported a meeting with the Agency on ageing regarding the use of the new building on Duffy Road in Butler.

Mr. Welliver reported the Tough Tornado Run that took place at Alameda Park in late September had over 450 participants. Proceeds benefit the Golden Tornado Foundation.

Mr. Welliver reported the Month of Mud race at Alameda Park earlier this month had around 100 participants.

Mr. Welliver reported the State Police hosted Sunny Day Camp at Alameda this month to promote relations between the police force and special needs individuals.

Mr. Welliver discussed the following grant projects:

Father Marinaro Park is expected to be finished in mid-November, with just the playground left to install.

Forward Township's ADA improvements are to go out for bid in 2026.

Harcrest Park's ellipse has been completed and will go after another grant for more projects next year.

Marion, Connoquenessing, and Harmony grant projects are all wrapping up.

Emily Brittain School's playground has been installed.

Jefferson Township's Sebco Pool project is going up for bid a second time, as the first bid came in much higher than anticipated. The pool's pump has failed, so the pool will not be open for the 2026 season, which leaves more time for construction.

Diamond Park documents are prepared and ready for bid.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported the new Jaycee Pavilion has been installed. The concrete and grill is still to be completed, as well as installation of new water fountains.

Mr. Welliver encouraged the group to finish and closeout any Local Park Grants by next month.

Open discussion about Alameda Park's Shelter Naming Policy.

Program Report

Ms. Helmstaedter delivered the program report.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported the Halloween events at Alameda went well. Monster Mile was well attended.

Haunted Trail brought more than 300 visitors to the park, which was a large increase from last year. This event typically wraps up around 10:00pm, this year's event concluded almost an hour later. Both Halloween events had volunteers from the local ROTC.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported CO-ED flag football has wrapped up for the season, having excellent weather for all games.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported on upcoming Christmas events. Candy Cane Cruise will take place on November 21st. North Pole Floats in early December.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Pool Membership sales will begin after Thanksgiving.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported the Christmas Lights at Alameda Park are currently being installed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38PM, motion by Virgil Cousins, second by Brian Perry. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on November 18th, 2025.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Rhodes