

# MINUTES

## BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION NOVEMBER 19, 2024

### ATTENDANCE:

Vice President, **Lisa Campbell**, Rotary AM  
**Denton Zeronas**, Slippery Rock Borough  
**Brian Perry**, Adam's Township  
Commissioner, **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM  
**Perry Latimer**, Butler County Tourism  
**Tom Knights**, Butler Township  
**Lance Welliver**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Director  
**Ashley Helmstaedter**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director  
**Braden MacBeth**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Program Manager  
**Colleen Rhodes**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant

### 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, Lisa Campbell, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes.

### MINUTES

The October meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Brian Perry, second by Denton Zeronas. Motion carried.

### REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Tom Knights** – Mr. Knights reported that Butler Township's Trick-or-Treat was a huge success, with roughly 1,000 trick-or-treaters. They had 3 buses shuttling the event and 28 vendors passing out treats for the children. The township's Rugby tournament took place last month, the 4 games brought a couple hundred spectators.

**Perry Latimer** – Ms. Latimer reported that the 2025 Visitor's Guide is well underway. Girls Hockey Thanksgiving Classic and the Mid-Winter Classic are expected to be a big hit. Ms. Latimer also reported there is an update in the works for the tourism website.

**Brian Perry** – Mr. Perry reported the Adam's Township Halloween event on October 19<sup>th</sup> had beautiful weather and a turnout of around 100 children, with Girl Scouts handing out refreshments and cookies provided by Giant Eagle. Mr. Perry also reported the township was able to send 8 2x4 containers of hygiene products and essentials to North Carolina for Hurricane relief. Adam's Township will be hosting a Christmas celebration on December 13<sup>th</sup> with lights and fireworks. Mr. Perry also shared that a family chose Adam's township through a charitable foundation to receive an AED with a weather enclosure. Mr. Perry also reported that the township is working with The Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation to create a master plan for a 102-acre farm and farmhouse that was acquired by the park in 2021.

**Denton Zeronas** – Mr. Zeronas reported that Slippery Rock light up night will take place on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Festivities will begin at 4pm. Slippery Rock is partnered with Giant Eagle in participating in the Angel Tree program to help families in need this holiday season. The park also began their Vacation Raffle fundraiser. This year they are raffling off a 3-day trip for 4 people to a vineyard in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Tickets are available for purchase for \$20 in the park office. Mr. Zeronas also reported they will be holding a Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Slippery Rock Elementary School.

**Lisa Campbell** – Ms. Campbell reported Butler Downtown has decorated Diamond Park for the holiday season. The display includes a string tree and lights. Ms. Campbell also reported Carved in Ice will take place at Diamond Park in February.

**Braden MacBeth** – Mr. MacBeth shared his program report.

**THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR** - Mr. Welliver wanted to thank Butler Police Department for assisting the Parks Department with the vandalism and theft of Alameda Park's Christmas light display, as well as the vandalism of the grass and fall surface at Alameda's purple playground. He also wanted to thank the Police for their assistance in dealing with an individual attempting an extended stay at the park. Mr. Welliver also reported that the pool cover has been installed at Alameda Waterpark. There was an open discussion regarding requests made by visitors to the park.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Welliver reported Father Marinaro Park project will be completed pending sewer authority inspection, with a deadline of 12/31/25.

Mr. Welliver reported Connoquenessing playground is underway, including extra play equipment funded by an estate donation.

Mr. Welliver reported Harmony Township is awaiting DCNR approval.

Mr. Welliver completion of Marion Township Grills is awaiting inspection, with a deadline of 12/31/26.

Mr. Welliver reported Jefferson Township is finalizing drawings to redesign their pumproom.

Mr. Welliver reported Alameda is getting final quote on flushing units for the restrooms, looking to open to the public in the spring.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. MacBeth reported Haunted Trail brought 270 guests to the park on October 18th. BCHS vaccinated 171 pets at the Alameda Park garage on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Safe Sitter class on November 16<sup>th</sup> sold out. Mr. MacBeth also reported events to come, such as Santa's Workshop on November 23, a Holiday Light drive through beginning November 28<sup>th</sup>, Breakfast with Santa on December 7<sup>th</sup>, Painting in the Park on December 12<sup>th</sup>, and Parents Night Out on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Welliver Reported the community was awarded four grants this week, including Emily Brittain Elementary School playground, which received \$45,600; Diamond Park, which received \$250,000; Ash Stop Park in Forward Township, which received 216,100; and Winfield Township, which received \$275,400.

**Capital Items**

There has been no recommended increase in price for shelter rentals for 2025.

Motion by Denton Zeronas

Second by Brian Perry

Price increase for Softball and Volleyball programs has been suggested.

Motion by Brian Perry

Second by Denton Zeronas

Waterpark changes, include an early closure on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, to free up parking for the Community Day Event. It was suggested the pool follows the school schedule at the end of August, due to the number of lifeguards in high school.

Waterpark pricing is recommended to remain the same, except for Nanny passes, which are to increase to (\$75.00 from \$50.00 in previous seasons) and it is suggested that First responders will get a 50% discount on July 4<sup>th</sup> with ID.

Motion by Brian Perry

Second by Lisa Campbell

**PRPS**

Ms. Helmstaedter reported PRPS memberships fees are due.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported that there will be a PRPS Conference and Expo March 16-19 in Hershey, PA.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm. Motion by Brian Perry, second by Denton Zeronas. All agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2025.

Respectively Submitted,  
Colleen Rhodes