

**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 17TH, 2026**

ATTENDANCE:

Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Brian Perry, Adams Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine and McConnell's Mill
Jen Rottman, Eau Claire
Dave Blair, Cranberry 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
Lisa Campbell, Butler County Community College
Tom Knights, Butler Township
Leo Rosenbauer, Jefferson Township

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Denton Zeronas, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the January 20th, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion by Brian Perry, second by Lisa Campbell. Motion carried.

Mr. Zeronas introduced guest, Leo Rosenbauer, to the group. Mr. Rosenbauer is a representative from Jefferson Township.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jen Rottman – Ms. Rottman reported Eau Claire is preparing for their America 250 event, which will take place in August. Ms. Rottman also reported on their Community Food Bank which will provide local families with food this summer.

Dave Blair – Mr. Blair reported on the progress of Cranberry Township's baseball and multipurpose fields. Mr. Blair reported the dirt has been moved and fields are being made ready to turf. Mr. Blair reported on Cranberry Township's rec center project, which is currently in the design phase. This project is expected to take 3-5 years, and he is hopeful to break ground on the project in 2027.

Mr. Blair reported on preparations for "Cranberry Summer Nights", an event that will replace the townships Community Days.

Mr. Blair reported hiring for seasonal camp and waterpark staff is underway.

Lisa Campbell - Ms. Campbell reported the AM Rotary is preparing for the upcoming Carved in Ice event at Diamond Park later this month.

Tom Knights - Mr. Knights reported that construction is to continue at the rugby/multi use fields this week, with sidewalks and parking lots expected to be poured. Mr. Knights reported the next rugby tournament will take place on March 14th through the 15th with 30 teams competing.

Brian Perry – Mr. Perry reported the township received a grant from Tree Pennsylvania for ten to fifteen trees to be planted in April. Mr. Perry also reported on meetings with Adams Township, Mars, and DCED to discuss the merger. He also reported planning is underway for the townships America 250 celebration, seeking partners and sponsors. Mr. Perry reported coming to agreements with their baseball teams to have the

teams only play in the mornings, leaving the parks by noon. This would alleviate restroom traffic for the pavilion rentals. Mr. Perry reported pavilion reservations have been live since January, with most weekends in June and July already booked. Mr. Perry reported the township will roll out 5 autonomous mowers this spring. Each mower taking care of a different zone in the park.

Dustin Drew – Mr. Drew reported Winterfest at Moraine State Park was a success, with between 1,000 and 1,500 people in attendance, despite the frigid weather. Mr. Drew reported on the ongoing sewage projects at the park are still underway, however have been slowed by the cold. Mr. Drew also reported seasonal hiring has begun.

Leo Rosenbauer - Mr. Rosenbauer reported Laura Doerr Memorial Park's softball and baseball season will begin March 8th. He also reported SEBCO pool will be closed for the year for repairs after the township voting to go ahead with renovations. This project will include work on the pool filter.

Denton Zeronas - Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock is gearing up for its Spring Events, which include Easter events and a mother/son carnival in April. Mr. Zeronas reported on collecting sponsors and pledges for the America 250 event. He stated the goal will be to plant cherry trees to be reminiscent of the cherry blossoms in Washington DC.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR –

Mr. Welliver reported that the sewage construction in the lower part of Alameda Park is expected to be completed in April, in time for the beginning of shelter rental season.

Mr. Welliver reported the county's America 250 celebration has been rescheduled to February 25th, during a public meeting. The event, which was originally scheduled for January 25th, 2026, was postponed due to the winter storm.

Mr. Welliver reported that 911 received a grant for a weather unit which has been installed on the bathhouse at Alameda Park. The unit will give up to date weather data once it is up and running.

Mr. Welliver reported on grants that are currently active, mentioning projects at Emily Brittain, Father Marinaro Park, Alameda Restrooms, Diamond Park, Connoquenessing, Harmony, Jefferson, Harcrest Park, and Forward Township.

Mr. Welliver also reminded the group that any applications for Local Park Renovation Grants need to be submitted to Butler County Parks and Recreation by 4:00PM on Friday, February 20th, 2026.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported the purchases of the drains, lifejackets, umbrellas and controller board at the waterpark. In the park area working towards the electrical bid project for lower alameda. The park area needs water fountains, replacement of the Kiwanis pavilion and the repair of the roof at the masonic shelter.

Program Report

Mr. MacBeth reported on new classes coming to Alameda Park, such as birding classes, by Butler Birding Club, and Painting in the park, by Abstract Studios. Mr. MacBeth also reported on bringing short track mountain bike races to the park.

Mr. MacBeth reported online registrations for all programs are now live, and shelter reservations will begin in person on Friday, February 27th, 2026.

Mr. MacBeth reported on upcoming Easter Egg Hunts, as well as a PRPS convention in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Open discussion about Diamond Park Renovations regarding shelter design, location of water feature, and seating, bringing up points about traffic flow and intended use of the features. Different options regarding shelter design and colors were discussed as well as placement of benches/water features.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported that the design will include an ADA accessible ramp.

Mr. Welliver reported that the memorial bricks at Diamond Park will be removed, the names on those memorials will instead be displayed on a monument at the park.

Mr. Zeronas asked for a motion to appoint Leo Rosenbauer of Jeferson township to the Park Advisory Board. Motion by Lisa Campbell, seconded by Dustin Drew. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45, motion by Brian Perry, seconded by Dustin Drew. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on March 17th, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Elwell