

MINUTES

BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION FEBRUARY 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Campbell, Rotary AM
Chris Zeigler, Butler Freeport Trail
Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Commissioner, **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM
Perry Latimer, Experience Butler County
Tom Knights, Butler Township
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine, and McConnell's Mills
Brian Perry, Adam's 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 12:06pm. There was a quorum present. President of the park advisory board, Lisa Campbell, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the January 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

MINUTES

The January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Chris Zeigler, second by Brian Perry. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Zeigler – Ms. Zeigler reported a trail grant has been awarded for a kayak launch along the Butler/Freeport trail. Ms. Zeigler also reported stream bank revitalization is to be conducted in the fall. Ms. Zeigler reported a bike sojourn will be taking place, traveling from Brookfield to Butler.

Dave Blair – Mr. Blair reported that they are in hiring season, hiring seasonal staff for the upcoming summer season. They are looking for individuals to work in the pool and summer camp.

Perry Latimer – Ms. Latimer reported Butler County Tourism has rebranded and is now called "Experience Butler County". Ms. Latimer reported they have recently spent time at golf shows in Toronto and Cleveland to entice visitors to stay in Butler County for the upcoming US Open, which will take place in Oakmont, Pa. Ms. Latimer also reported the county is preparing for an upcoming Hockey event, with pickleball event happening the same weekend. Ms. Latimer reported the Pittsburgh Passion is looking for a new home, potentially in Butler County.

Commissioner Osche – Commissioner Osche had nothing to report.

Tom Knights – Mr. Knights reported that site preparation at Pullman Park has begun and will likely be wrapped up by the end of May.

Brian Perry – Mr. Perry reported that this was the best year yet for the winter light display, the entire park was covered in lights. The celebration included fireworks from the Public Works Department. Mr. Perry also reported that their pavilion rentals are now open. Mr. Perry also reported that the AED that was donated to the park has been installed.

Denton Zeronas – Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock's Father Daughter Dance was a huge success. He also reported the park will be hosting SRU professors in March, to give Spanish lessons for elementary aged students. Mr. Zeronas reported Winter Wizard's disc golf will be having a fund raiser on March 9th.

Dustin Drew – Mr. Drew reported Winterfest at Moraine Park was a success with a large turnout. Mr. Drew also reported that construction is underway working on the sewage systems at moraine, as well as work on the dam. Mr. Drew reported that they are also hiring seasonal staff.

Lisa Campbell – Ms. Campbell reported the Rotary's Carved in Ice event will take place on Friday, February 21st and Saturday, February 22nd at diamond park. This event will showcase ice sculptures, have a chili cookoff, and a sweet treat competition. It will also have children's events, performers, as well as 12 sculptures to be carved on site.

Braden MacBeth – Mr. MacBeth shared his program report.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Welliver Reported that Butler County Parks and Recreation has been awarded Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Agency of the Year. The award will be accepted at the PRPS conference in March.

Mr. Welliver reported that the park is working with an SRU student to complete a self-guided tour around Alameda Park.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Welliver reported Connoquenessing's nature themed playground is to be completed by the middle of March.

Mr. Welliver reported Harmony is finalizing plans for a playground rehabilitation.

Mr. Welliver reported that Father Marinaro Park is working on getting DCNR approval for work in late summer.

Mr. Welliver reported Penn Township's Harcrest Park is in the bidding process for phase 2, which includes a walking trail and a parking lot.

Mr. Welliver also gave an update on Forward Township's Ash Stop Park. The ADA accessible pedestrian trail will be out for bid in late spring.

Mr. Welliver presented 2 agreements to be presented to the Commissioners to provide administrative assistance to Forward Township and Butler City. Motion by Brian Perry. Seconded by Denton Zeronas. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. MacBeth reported Alameda's Parents Night Out had a great turn out on 2/14/2025 and that all program registrations are now open. Mr. MacBeth reported that he will be working with Rock Serve to recruit volunteers for the park. Mr. MacBeth reported he has completed testing and is now a

certified lifeguard instructor. Mr. MacBeth will also complete Pool Operations Management training next month.

Mr. MacBeth reported on upcoming events. Shelter reservations will open on February 28, 2025; there will be a Safe Sitter class on March 1; Snow Creation Contest ending on March 9; and Easter Egg Hunts on April 11.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported that Alameda Park has a new utility vehicle and is awaiting a new tractor. Mr. Welliver also reported Alameda waterpark will have new doors installed in April, and the lower section of Alameda Park will have electrical work done in early March.

Local Park Renovation Grant

Local Park Renovation Grant applications are due February 20, 2025, at 4:00pm. A committee has been established to review these applications, and is to include Brian Perry, Dustin Drew, Tom Knights, and Dave Blair.

Park Board Comments

There was an open discussion about Penn State Master Gardeners.
There was an open discussion about Diamond Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm, motion by Denton Zeronas, second by Brian Perry. The Next Meeting will be held March 11, 2025; one week early due to the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Conference.

Respectively Submitted,
Colleen Rhodes