

**MINUTES**  
**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:**

President, **Michele Burd**, Marion Township  
Vice President, **Lisa Campbell**, Rotary AM  
Commissioner **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM  
**Dustin Drew**, Moraine State Park  
**Denton Zeronas**, Slippery Rock Borough  
**Virgil Cousins**, Karns City  
**Perry Latimer**, Butler Tourism  
**Brian Perry**, Adams Township  
**Chris Ziegler**, Butler Freeport Community Trail President  
**Lance Welliver**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Director  
**Ashley Helmstaedter**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director  
**Jacob Bartholic**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Program Manager  
**Nicole Tropf**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Michele Burd, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the November 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

**MINUTES**

The November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Chris Ziegler-** Chris reported that during Work Day, 1 mile of trail was cleared with 30 people in 1 hour. Chris reported that decking and railing work is going to be done at the Monroe Bridge this Saturday, 2/24, which is approximately 117 feet. Chris reported that there will be a Bike repair event in April and a Let's Talk Trail event. She also reported that she is celebrating that Armstrong Trails just completed 10-new trail miles from the Kiski River to Crooked Creek. Chris reported that the Kiski Bridge was rehabbed. Chris reported that they are 1 project away from connecting butler Freeport to a trail to the south. Chris reported of a free event on April 1<sup>st</sup> that will celebrate the historic event and already has 278 people registered.

**Perry Latimer-** Perry reported that Tourism is still seeing registrations for Can Am trickle in. Perry reported that they are heading into spring planning for the National Baseball Club's World Series that is hosted at Pullman Park. Perry also reported about meeting Dave Blair, the new Cranberry Park Director, when planning for the softball world series at Graham Park. Perry said that Tourism hired a new Sales Director, Rick Yarosz who has been helping with an outdoor event in Monroeville.

**Brian Perry-** Brian reported that Adams Township is working on submitting a bid for pickleball courts and parking and it is 1 week out. Brian reported that they are redoing the sidewalks. Brian reported that there has been new traffic on and around the park due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the road that is being worked on. Mr. Perry reported that they will be going with a new software company (Recdesk) within a month. And Brian reported that their Easter Egg Hunt is happening at the end of this month.

**Commissioner Leslie Osche-** No comment.

**Denton Zeronas-** Denton reported that this Friday is their Father-Daughter Dance. Mr. Zeronas reported that they expect approximately 220 people to attend. Denton reported that they will be having a Mother-Son Carnival on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Denton reported that Slippery Rock will be having an Easter event on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Easter Bunny. Mr. Zeronas reported that they will be having soccer and various youth programs in the upcoming spring. Denton reported that playground assembly days are 3/11 and 3/22. He also reported that West Penn Power is to plant and transport trees for Earth Day.

**Dustin Drew-** Dustin reported that Moraine State Park's Winter Fest happened in early February and they had a good turn out because of the weather. He also reported that the classroom that Preservation is funding was delayed by building permit changes but will hopefully be done by spring. Mr. Drew also reported that the Penn Outdoor Corps Youth Crew's schedule just recently came out.

**Virgil Cousins-** No comment.

**Lisa Campbell-** Lisa reported that the Carved in Ice event that AM Rotary put together was held on the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of February. She reported that they sold the most blocks of ice (121) this year than ever before and the weather was good. Lisa reported that there was no incident and there were many vendors and kids. Lisa reported that the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile reported that they had close to 1300 people over the weekend. Lisa reported about Sips in the City happening on May 4<sup>th</sup> and that they will be turning in an application to use Diamond Park soon.

**Michele Burd-** Michele reported that Marion Township's DCNR grant is being wrapped up. She reported that the new playground is beautiful. Michele reported that Marion Township will be applying for an LPR grant for a gaga ball pit for the park. Michele reported that they will be having an Easter event at the end of the next month.

### **THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

The Director reported that Dave Zarnick resigned at the beginning of this month. Lance reported that the Park Board will need to replace region 3 and at large representation on the Park Board Advisory Committee.

Mr. Welliver reported that Shelter Day is this Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Government Center and Alameda Park's office. The shelter rentals will be available online on 3/1.

Mr. Welliver reported that Jade's Dog Park is having a winter-open trail run this year and so far, it's going well. Overtime for the crew has been 4-5 days because of the light winter we've had. There will need to be closure during the spring to repair damage done in the winter to this area. There was an open discussion about time expected for closure to be a minimum of 4-weeks to make necessary repairs and grow grass.

Mr. Welliver reported that the county contracts for timber being cut in the park and at Sunnyview will be due early March. Experts plan to identify what can be cut and if it's worth pursuing now or in the future.

Mr. Welliver reported on the crack in the pool that happened last summer. He reported that there was an evaluation done by a consultant to replaster the pool area.

Mr. Welliver reported that Armstrong is providing new internet to the park, however, the waterpark has not been done yet. Lance reported that they are hopeful for improvements with Wi-Fi and internet within and throughout the park.

Mr. Welliver reported on the new painting and siding at the Carousel Shelter that happened this summer. Mr. Welliver reported a meeting with Wendy, Lesli and Kevin Grey to assess the walking trail that will be added to Alameda Park around the multiuse fields and volleyball courts.

Mr. Welliver reported that Butler County Treasurer/Controller's office have gone with a new credit card company (software) to exist with Recdesk. There was an outstanding issue with a \$0.01 cent reconciliation that they are trying to avoid.

Mr. Welliver reported that Community Day has changed from September to July this year. Lance reported that we are still working with Butler Township and that there will be no vendors this year, just a focus on food, entertainment and fireworks to complete the evening's events.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **DCNR Grants**

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is working with Marion Township on their grant as well as Jefferson Township's SEBCO Pool and City of Butler's Father Marinaro's walking path, playground and basketball court renovation.

#### **LPR Grants**

Mr. Welliver reported that Local Park Renovation grants are due this Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00pm. Lance said that so far 10 have been received and there have been 9-10 others confirmed to send.

Mr. Welliver reported that there is only one grant to close out from last year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Welliver reported that the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) Memberships renewals are due. PRPS Memberships were agreed to be renewed for partial Park Board Advisory Members. Mr. Welliver reported that he, Ashley and Jake will be attending the 2024 PRPS Conference in March at Seven Springs. (March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>).

Mr. Welliver reported that Local Park Renovation Review Committee volunteers are needed. Denton Zeronas, Dustin Drew, Perry Latimer and Brian Perry volunteered as the Review Committee for 2024.

Mr. Bartholic reported on New Programs for spring. Mr. Bartholic reported that there will be youth NFL Flag Football this year. Jake reported that there will be a new softball league. Mr. Bartholic reported on a Parent's Night Out that happened the previous week over Valentine's Day. Mr. Bartholic reported about the Challenger Soccer Camp, Community Scavenger Hunt to include local shops and stores and a Paint your Pet Night that sold out as of this morning. Mr. Bartholic reported that BCPR is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bartholic said that fall events will still be happening and that there will be concert/entertainment series in the summer at the park and 8 weeks of Camp Alameda like last year.

Mr. Bartholic reported that the BCPR office is looking for sponsorships for local events. He reports that BCPR is redoing the program guide and have consolidated it down to 8 pages that highlight the most requested programs and events.

Discussions regarding signage and advertising throughout the park took place. Discussions were made regarding revamping agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm. Motion by Virgil Cousins, second by Brian Perry. All agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectively Submitted,  
Nicole Tropf