

K MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 19, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

President, **Michele Burd**, Marion Township
Commissioner **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM
Brian Perry, Adams Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine State Park
Denton Zeronas, Slippy Rock Borough
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Tom Knights, Butler Township
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 12:08pm. 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 February 20th, 2024 meeting minutes.

MINUTES

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

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd- Michele reported that Marion Township's playground is finished. Michele reported that on 3/30, Marion will host an Easter event and a ribbon cutting for their new playground. The ribbon cutting will be held at 1:00pm on 3/30 and they have invited anyone who wants to participate to join.

Brian Perry- Brian reported that Adams Township has an Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, March 23rd and is hoping that the weather holds up, otherwise they will do a drive-thru like they've done in the past during COVID. Mr. Perry reported that Adams Township is working on a large park project with bids to close on Monday, March 25th. One project is for breaking ground to move the police garage and the other is for a sidewalk project. Brian reported that they are still training for the new software with (RecDesk) and plan to go live in 2 weeks. Mr. Perry reported that they are lucky to have their summer help ready to go with the splash pad and the park.

Dustin Drew- Dustin reported that Moraine State Park is posting seasonal positions and plans to do hiring within the next few weeks. Mr. Drew reported that Moraine is continuing work on the sewage project for the North shore. Dustin reported that the rehabilitation sewage and conveyance system is out for bid. Mr. Drew reported that they are preparing for the upcoming season and their rangers have been at qualification training to get ready for the spring/summer.

Denton Zeronas- Denton reported that Slippy Rock Borough had a large portion of their DCED playground project done last Monday, March 12th. Mr. Zeronas also reported that Slippy Rock has Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and egg hunt this Saturday, March 23rd. Denton reported that the "Newsies" Musical will be in April and tickets are already on sale. Mr. Zeronas reported that West Penn Power is to plant and transport trees for Earth Day and Slippy Rock is continuing to work on all the other upcoming park events for the spring/summer season.

Commissioner Leslie Osche- Commissioner Osche was reporting for PM Rotary and reported that signs have been ordered to outline the cultural district and have used grant money to purchase them. Commissioner Osche reported that PM Rotary has collaborated with local artists and students of Butler Area School District on designing two benches that will be installed downtown and in Ritts Park. Commissioner Osche reported that one bench is a butterfly design working with the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School students and the other is in the design of a book for Emily Brittain Elementary School.

There were introductions and open discussions with Dave Blair from Cranberry Township and Tom Knights from Butler Township where they briefed the Park Advisory Board on their on-going projects and events. Mr. Blair reported that Cranberry Township's Cranfest will be held on April 13th, 2024, from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Mr. Knights reported that traffic and road closure would start April

1st. due to Butler Township's transportation project at the Picklegate Bridge that includes improvement to traffic at the intersection of Hanson Avenue and Whitestown Road.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director, Lance Welliver, reported that the bid is due next week for replastering the pool at Butler County Alameda Waterpark to fix the main crack in the pool. Lance reported that the bid will be brought to the commissioner's meeting on March 27th, 2024. Mr. Welliver reported that Alameda Pool will open June 1st.

Mr. Welliver said that Butler County Parks and Recreation has hired seasonal maintenance staff.

Mr. Welliver reported that the refrigerator at the concessions stand at Alameda Pool was auctioned off along with the park's mower. Mr. Welliver reported that both were replaced, and the park received the new items last week.

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is working on two community projects: one is working with Butler Transit planting 35 trees in the park for their 35th anniversary. The second project is with Peoples Gas that will work on taking out and cleaning up trees and debris within the park.

Mr. Welliver reported that he has been working with a high school student that needs 180 hours minimum for school. Lance reported that the student had said he had been in touch with Moraine St. Park and Butler Township and was looking for maintenance experience.

Mr. Welliver reported on behalf of Lisa Campbell who represents AM Rotary and said that the plaque behind the stone at the First Responder Pavilion in Alameda Park is done. Lisa will give an update in the upcoming April meeting.

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR's Director, Assistant Director and Program Manager just got back from the PRPS Conference in Seven Springs. Lance reported that he and Ashley were part of a Leadership Academy that created a vision for an online portal system that would bring open communication throughout the commonwealth to share program/event ideas.

Mr. Welliver reported on drainage by the volleyball courts and the multipurpose field that is impacting the new walking trail. Lance reported that the walking trail is part of a CDBG grant and the materials were delivered, and the bids will go out for it soon.

OLD BUSINESS

DCNR Grants

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR has continued to work with Marion Township on their grant. Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is working with Connoquenessing for their nature playground. Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is working with Harmony for the rehabilitation of their playground. Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR has continued to support Penn Township in their final designs and permit for a tree-lined walking path, pavilion, and restroom. Lance reported that Jefferson Township's SEBCO Pool is having their pump room evaluated due to some issues and it may have to be postponed. Mr. Welliver reported that the City of Butler's Father Marinaro's walking path, playground and basketball court renovation has currently put permitting on hold, but the deadline is 12/21/2025, so there is still time.

There was an open discussion regarding the DCNR grant for Alameda's Restroom project. Mr. Welliver informed the board that, just last week, the company Sourcewell/Bluescope has withdrawn their proposal to install the restrooms and BCPR is working on bids to finish the project.

LPR Grants

Ashley Helmstaedter reported that 26 municipalities applied for Local Park Renovation projects. Ashley reported that the Board Review Committee has reviewed and scored the applications. Ashley notified the board that any municipality written in "red" was awarded the grant while everyone on the list in "black" was not awarded the grant. Ashley reported that the list is tentative until after the list has been brought to the commissioners' meeting next Wednesday, March 27th. Ashley asked if the board would motion to recommend the awardees to the commissioners. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Brian Perry. Motion carried.

Mr. Welliver reminded the board that the Administrative Services Contract for DCNR are binding agreements where the county does the paperwork and usually provides the cash flow for the project along with providing technical service and the county bridge crew will bid out concrete and other material. Lance reported that if there are any monetary items that are above the original grant amount, the municipality is responsible for it. Ashley reported that the BCPR department does not charge anything for the services,

and it shocked a few people at the PRPS Conference that asked if LPR can be used to match engineering fees for the services provided for grants.

There was an open discussion regarding whether a financial statement is reviewed prior to grants being awarded to verify that the municipalities had the funds to pay at the completion of the job.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bartholic reported on programs at BCPR. Mr. Bartholic reported that on 3/2 a Safe Sitter class was completed, it was a large class with 8 attendees. Mr. Bartholic reported that 3/9 was a Low Vax Clinic and it was reported by the Humane Society that approximately 150 pets came through to update their records. Mr. Bartholic reported on a Paint Your Pet Class that was sold out within the first few weeks of publishing online, was happening at the park on March 19th. Mr. Bartholic reported that it was his first time attending the PRPS Conference and he enjoyed being with experienced people in the field. Mr. Bartholic reported that 3/22 is BCPR's Easter Egg Flashlight Scavenger Hunts and one age group (4-7) is already sold out. Mr. Bartholic reported that Disc Golf will be starting up on 4/15 and is on-going monthly. Mr. Bartholic reported that there is an upcoming Safe Sitter course in Slippery Rock that has 5 attendees registered already. Mr. Bartholic said that the BCPR program guide is set to be here mid-April.

Mr. Bartholic reported that he is working on summer staff and has received new applications.

Mr. Bartholic reported that he just completed Lifeguard Instructor Training so that he can help get the new lifeguards certified.

Mr. Bartholic reported that BCPR has purchased new signage with QR codes throughout the park. Mr. Bartholic said the new signs will be located at trail heads, and then signs with program information will be located throughout the park.

Mr. Bartholic requested the board vote for their favorite Snow Creation choice and turn it in at the end of the meeting so BCPR can let the winner know. The winner will receive a family membership pass to Alameda Waterpark for the 2024 season.

Mr. Welliver reported that Jades Dog Park is currently in a trial year for keeping the dog park open during the winter season. Lance verified that Pennsylvania weather has been decent but proposed recommendations from the board about closing for maintenance. Mr. Welliver reported that there has been damage to the gate on the large dog side, large puddles and that the grass needs time to repair and grow. Mr. Welliver reported that a representative of canine turf was at the PRPS Conference. Mr. Welliver reported that he would be obtaining a quote to turf the dog park as the turf claims to have a 15-year warranty.

There was an open discussion regarding recommendations for closing the dog park to allow for maintenance and the time frame needed to do so. The Board agreed that BCPR bring pricing on fencing, alternative closure options, pricing on turf, closing time-requirements and communication that would be relayed to the dog park community at the next meeting so that the board can approve and submit their recommendation to the commissioners. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Denton Zeronas. Motion carried.

Mr. Welliver reported on capital purchase items that BCPR decided to break out in Pool costs vs. Park costs. Mr. Welliver reported that the Pool costs for capital items include the following: concession refrigerator, slide railings, umbrellas, filters, tables and equipment, a new sound system and lifeguard chairs. Mr. Welliver reported that the Park costs for capital items include the following: tractor upgrade, walk-behind mower be replaced, guardrail fencing, fire hydrant repair, electrical door replacement and that electricity for office be upgraded. There was an open discussion regarding the pricing and details for capital items that need to be given to the board so recommendations can be sent to the commissioners.

Mr. Welliver reported on the two new potential Park Board Advisory Appointments that include Tom Knights of Butler Township that will cover representation for region 3 and Dave Blair of Cranberry Township that will cover representation for At Large.

Mr. Welliver asked for a motion to recommend Tom Knights to the Park Board Advisory Committee. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Brian Perry. Motion carried. Tom will be recommended to the Board of Commissioners at the next Public Meeting.

Mr. Welliver asked for a motion to recommend Dave Blair to the Park Board Advisory Committee. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Brian Perry. Motion carried. Dave will be recommended to the Board of Commissioners at the next Public Meeting.

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is collaborating with Butler Township on a Community Day event on July 2nd. Lance reported that the neighbors have decided to join forces instead of competing against one another on their individual September-Fest dates and

instead plan to provide kid-friendly, entertainment, food and a firework show at Alameda Park. Mr. Welliver reported that Tom Knights provided the connection to the sponsor that will be funding the firework show.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27pm. Motion by Brian Perry, second by Dustin Drew. All agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on April 16, 2024.

Respectively Submitted,
Nicole Tropf