

**MINUTES**  
**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 28, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, began conducting the meeting asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes.

**MINUTES**

The February meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Virgil Cousins, Second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Michele Burd** – Michele reported on construction being done for the CXT (DCNR grant). They are working on the next DCNR grant which is the purchase and installation of playground equipment for their next project. Michele also reported about an Easter event happening this weekend.

**Chris Ziegler** – Chris reported about a work update with Armstrong Trails. They have purchased 14 miles to connect trails to cities and expect bridges to be open. Chris reported about reconstruction for 140 continuous miles expected to be done by next spring. She clarified that the Freeport Trail will lead into Butler and would connect overnight trails and guests into the surrounding city and would have a \$1 million economic impact per year as there will be more Air BNB/Camping options in the spring of 2024 for Butler County Area.

**Pete Geis** – Pete reported that they have an Easter Egg Hunt Sunday. Waterpark Membership and Summer Camp enrollment is open for registration. Mr. Geis reported that their hiring is going much better than the previous years and they have over 60 lifeguards currently. Pete reported that the spring openings for restrooms will begin Mid-April and they will have a grand opening for a playground at one of their park locations. Pete reported about the cultural diversity festival happening on May 6 (Cranfest). Pete requested a flyer to be distributed to members for a Cranberry PRPS/DCNR workshop on April 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-4:00pm that invites local municipal managers and park champions to come tour N. Boundary Park. Registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch.

**Perry Latimer** – Perry reported about Spring Sports/Div 3 College is starting up at Pullman. Perry reported that construction at Graham Park is hoped to be completed before the Mid Atlantic Pickle Ball Finals. Perry reported that Pittsburgh Sports contacted her about having their Senior Cycling Games held in July. They would need 20K/40K timed trials. Perry reported that the Can Am 2024 would be taking place.

**Commissioner Osche** – Leslie Osche, reported as Butler PM Rotarian, she received a grant for \$15,000 for Pennsylvania Council and Arts Grants. It is a long-term program (4 years) and receive up to \$25,000 per year. Right now Butler PM Rotary is working with attorneys and signage. Butler PM Rotary said one of their projects is Emily Brittain Elementary School/St. Croix where the artist in residence was working with students on designing an art bench.

**Denton Zeronas** – Denton reported that they should be completing the softball field in mid-April for the Local Park Renovation Grant 2022. They have an Easter Breakfast with the Bunny this Saturday as well as a mom and son carnival coming up. Denton reported they are gearing up for the High School Addams Family Musical (April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>).

**Dustin Drew** – Dustin reported that the Marina will open on April 15, 2023. Dustin reported that the hiring process has begun and they have received more applicants than in the past. Dustin also talked about working on project bids to improve sewage. Dustin reported that Western PA has a grant that is open on April 21<sup>st</sup> for Canoe Access Fund for \$5,000.

**Virgil Cousins** – Virgil reported that UAA Baseball had new leaders and the sign-ups for baseball games were doing well.

**Jason Mentel** – Jason reported seasonal hiring for concession and pool. Jason reported that the parking area was having additional spaces added and they were prepping for summer.

**Dave Zarnick** – Dave reported that Butler Township was also getting ready for their Easter Egg Hunt this weekend and that the Pullman Park project is under way for the new sports complex. Dave reported they will be recycling material for the parking area and

project to turf the field by October. Dave reported that they only have 1 field as of right now but have had many interested in renting it.

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

The Director reported that Butler County Parks and Recreation staff has undergone some training this month. Frank and Lance completed ServSafe course and exam to be authorized to operate the concession stand. Frank and Lance completed the Pesticide course and will take the exam in May. Ashley and Lance completed the Certified Pool Operator course and exam to be recertified. Ashley, Frank and Lance attended the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Conference in Hershey along with many regional departments. Mr. Welliver reported that they were able to meet other park professionals throughout the state and attend good educational sessions. Ashley and Lance met with DCNR to work on the recently awarded projects and provide access for Ashley in their online system. This will provide additional assistance in uploading and completing the required documents. Lance continues to work with Trail Pittsburgh on the bike trails and have over 15 miles completed and plan to complete 18-20 miles. Lance said that the new hot water tanks have been recently installed in the bathhouse. The tanks were the original ones from the 1970s. In addition, the entire bathhouse and restroom were repainted as well as new flooring. The Director reported that County staff will continue to make improvements to the waterpark when spring arrives to repair various cracks and remove the surface at splash pad. Lance explains that due to our most recent storms, there were multiple trees down and/or uprooted as well as debris throughout the park. No one was injured. One tree fell over the lower road which blocked access over the weekend. It was a good thing that the road gates were closed as we had multiple trees down near the Odd Fellows area and one tree down across the lower road. Lance reported that they've received the new Skag – Zero Turn Mower and are in the process of purchasing a blower and power rake attachments for our mower to help with maintenance in the park. Lance reported that he has been waiting for a new utility vehicle which has had delays in delivery from fall 2022. The Director has recently installed new security cameras in the upper park – playground and waterpark areas – this will provide better coverage in these areas and also improve the camera quality.

The Director reported on recently submitted projects for 2023 DCNR Grant Applications. Lance included information on Emily Brittain Elementary creating a community park and playground rehabilitation. The Director reported that the area will be used by the community and YMCA. Lance reported on Harmony Borough stating that their old school house playground area near the municipal building is getting a renovation. Lance spoke about Connoquenessing Borough and how the nature themed playground will blend in with the park setting and be installed near their new and rehabilitation trail that was recently installed with DCNR funding. The Director informed the board about Alameda Park, Greenways and Trail plan that have made an update to the 2014 comprehensive county park plan. The Director reported of Jefferson Township's project that will allow the Township to replace the existing pool mechanical system, add a new pool heater, install a pool surface membrane/liner, excavate the pool deck and install a new pool deck. Lance reported of Father Marinaro Park and that he is working with DEP regarding the Arsenic in the soil along with ADA access, playground and surfacing, a shelter, resurface basketball courts, repave parking lots, and a plan to complete parking lot in 2023 and the rest to be completed in 2024. The Director reported Penn Township has been working on the proposal and necessary documents to get started in 2023 and plan to complete in 2024. The Director reported that public meetings have been held as they recently acquired property next to the current park and plan to relocate phase 2 to this location. The Director reported that the 2023 LSA grant was received for Seven Fields Borough for an improvement totaling \$250,000 for the community pool.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Masi reported that the program guide will be out in a few weeks and the seasonal applicants are rolling in for the summer. Mr. Masi reported that they have retention from last year. Mr. Masi said that Waterpark Membership and Camp Registration memberships are filling up. Mr. Masi reported that BCPR Easter Egg Hunt is this Friday and this year it will be offered with (3) separate age groups. Mr. Masi reported that the Slippery Rock Communication Department is helping the parks and recreation department staff with the prototype for an app that assists in registration. The Director and Mr. Masi reported that the program guide has had a price increase and due to the flux in technology that the parks and recreation department is looking to other alternatives to printing the guide and explained that the staff would be utilizing the user groups/tracking and technology to be more effective in our advertising.

President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, continued to agenda item: section VII, letter B: Local Park Renovation Grant Recommendation. Local Park Renovation Grant by the Review Committee nominated 12 of the 21 applications to be sent on for approval by the Butler County Commissioners. The awarded applicants are Karns City Borough, Chicora Borough, Bruin Borough, Jefferson Township, Ea Claire Borough, Harmony Borough, Seven Fields Borough, Slipper Rock Borough, Portersville Borough, Buffalo Township, East Butler Borough, and Center Township. Dave Zarnick asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Perry Latimar. Second by Virgil Cousins. Motion carried.

Dave Zarnick continued to agenda item: section VII, letter C: Jades Dog Park. Director, Lance Welliver said that maintenance reseeded early but we will be opening the dog park on March 31, 2023. We will be looking at opening up during the winter months in the future. Lance Welliver said the parks and recreation staff and the bridge crew will continue to evaluate conditions for winter closure.

President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, continued to agenda item: section VIII: Public Comment on Agenda Meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Laurel Saylor, Center Township resident, discussed about possible secondary or alternate location for Dog Park. Laurel requested text alert notifications to be placed on Jades Dog Park Facebook page.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm. Motion by Pete Geis. Second by Dustin Drew. All in favor and motion carried. The next meeting will be on April 18, 2023.

Respectively Submitted,  
Nicole Tropf