

BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION APRIL 15, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Campbell, Rotary AM
Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Commissioner, **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine, and McConnell's Mills
Brian Perry, Adam's Township
Jennifer Rottman, Eau Claire
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 12:05pm. 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 February 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

MINUTES

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

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Lisa Campbell – Ms. Campbell reported that the AM Rotary will be hosting Sips in the City at Diamond Park in May. Ms. Campbell also reported the AM Rotary has met with representatives from Emily Brittain to discuss their Playground Project.

Dustin Drew – Mr. Drew reported that seasonal hiring is going well. He reported the Marina at Moraine is now open and will have a port-o-john this season as the park sewer system is undergoing construction. Mr. Drew has also reported that they will be implementing a controlled burn at Moraine, which will be supervised by a group from the western region. This controlled burn will mimic natural wildfire in an effort to control invasive species. Mr. Drew then reported that road improvements are underway at McConnell's Mills.

Denton Zeronas – Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock's Shrek the Musical was a success. He reported an upcoming mother-son carnival. Mr. Zeronas also reported an upcoming PreK Bootcamp, which is a program to prepare young children for preschool, with incentives for full enrollment. Mr. Zeronas also reported that they are currently looking for vendors and firework sponsors for Slippery Rock's upcoming Independence Day celebration.

Brian Perry – Mr. Perry reported Adams Township's Easter Egg hunt on April 12th was a success, with around 200 children finding 2,000 eggs. He reported they are working to get the splash pad up and running and ready for the summer season, staffing for the summer season is complete. Mr. Perry also reported on a large paving project involving sidewalks and an HVAC project in the township's municipal building.

Dave Blair – Mr. Blair reported that the pickleball dome is down. Getting ready for the spring/summer season. He reported that Cranberry Twp has a Parks and Recreation Sports Specialist on site. Mr. Blair reported that the park is preparing for the upcoming Cran Fest and are currently booking food vendors. Mr. Blair reported that the township's Easter Egg Hunt sold out and was a huge success. He also reported that they are still in the hiring process for summer seasonal employees.

Commissioner Leslie Osche – Commissioner Osche reported that the PM Rotary has met with and has begun funding the playground at Emily Brittain School. The Commissioner also reported the Cultural District signage is up. She reported they had a very successful meeting with the theaters, the local library, and the museum about marketing a cultural event to celebrate the cultural heritage of the town.

Jennifer Rottman – Ms. Rottman reported the Borough of Eau Claire is getting ready for a Community Day Celebration in August. Ms. Rottman also reported that the borough is converting its tennis courts to pickleball courts. She also reported that the borough's baseball/softball season has begun.

Braden MacBeth – Mr. MacBeth shared his program report.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Welliver discussed a forest management plan that was proposed to him, suggesting the park would benefit from a timber harvest. There are concerns that a "management cut" without the removal of invasives would cause the invasive species to thrive. There are also erosion concerns, and with that, concerns of flooding. Mr. Welliver also has concerns about the possible impact these plans would have on the park's trails.

Mr. Drew suggests there needs to be a new plan drawn up that would be tailored to the needs and goals of Alameda Park. Mr. Zeronas suggested it would take 1-2 years of work to remove invasives.
Open discussion about alternatives

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Welliver reported that Connoquenessing's nature themed playground has been finished.
Mr. Welliver reported Harmony's project to remove/replace the playground is underway.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Welliver reported that Jade's Dog Park will be closed from April 21 through May 30. The gates/fencing will be repaired, and grass will be planted and given time to grow.

Mr. MacBeth reported the Easter Egg Hunt at Alameda was a success with over 150 participants. He stated that this was the first Alameda had an Adapted egg hunt for individuals with special needs and it received a lot of positive feedback from participants.

Mr. MacBeth reported good retention of seasonal staff. Staffing for the summer season is 90% complete. Lifeguard in-service training is beginning in May.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported electrical upgrades on the lower half of Alameda Park are underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19PM, motion by Dustin Drew, second by Denton Zeronas. The Next Meeting will be held May 20, 2025.

Respectively Submitted,
Colleen Rhodes