

MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
APRIL 18, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the March 28, 2023 meeting minutes.

MINUTES

The March meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Pete Geis, Second by Chris Ziegler. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd – Michele reported that they are still working on their DCNR grant and are ordering playground equipment. Michele reported on Marion Township’s Easter Egg Hunt event that had approximately 120 kids and was a celebration.

Chris Ziegler – Chris reported that October 21st is the 18th annual ½ Marathon. Chris reported that in September there will be a festival in September with fly demonstrations made with owls and it was a great kid event last year. Chris reported that National Trails Day is June 3rd and they plan to have a caboose and a food truck. Chris reported that Dave and Commissioner Osche met at Pullman to assess the potential of switching the railroad to the old tracks in the future and what that would look like.

Pete Geis – Pete reported that Cranberry’s Easter event had a couple hundred in attendance. Pete reported that the PRPS/DCNR Small Community Resource Workshop on 4/14 had about 25 attendees, where the Director, Lance presented. Pete reported that Earth week is this week for 7 days. The event will have the environmental council advisor, guest speakers and they will be giving away trees.

Perry Latimer – Perry reported that the 4/14 conference at Cranberry was informational. She reported that it is the 2nd week of the Sports ETA Symposium. Perry reported that she has been meeting with the sports organizers and getting more information about what their needs would be. Perry reported that Tourism has partnered with Speedway and they will be doing three events in the summer.

Commissioner Osche – Leslie Osche, reported as Butler PM Rotarian, also attended the 4/14 seminar in Cranberry. She met with Steve May of Saxonburg Borough who is having financial issues with major upgrades in Roebing Park, specifically with the Historic building. Commissioner Osche reported that she wants to bring in Lance, fundraising and a consultant to talk about financial opportunities that Saxbonburg Borough has not been taking advantage of.

Lisa Campbell – Lisa reported that there will be a College Corn Hole tournament in Diamond Park in July called “Hope is Dope.” Lisa also reported that Butler Downtown is hosting an event on 5/6 at Diamond Park for “Sips in the City” which includes businesses, wine and alcohol vendors.

Dustin Drew – Dustin reported that all areas of the park are open for the season. Dustin reported that the marina opened 4/15. They had a (1st ever) Kayak race. The waters were low but the event coordinator was experienced and will be back in the future. Dustin reported that his hiring is still on-going.

Virgil Cousins – Virgil reported that new steps were put in and they’ve had baseball games underway.

Dave Zarnick – Dave reported that their Easter event went well. Butler Township had 2 sessions with a total of 400-500 kids in attendance. Dave reported that People’s Gas has helped clean up leaves and open up trails in honor of Earth Day. Dave brought up a question to the committee about drone policies. Dave reported that he is considering policies about e-bikes and drones.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director, Lance Welliver, reported that in 2001, Butler County Parks and Recreation decided to maintain BC3’s baseball fields in summer months. However, the mound has been removed and grass added without permission. Lance has tried to reach out to have discussions on whether the contract has been voided. The Director reported that East Butler Borough’s baseball complex needs repaired. Mr. Welliver reported that the DCNR with LWCF are meeting to correct language on deeds to protect parks. Mr. Welliver

also reported that the Butler County Parks and Recreation department ordered a freezer, power rake, and blower and new security cameras were installed up at the waterpark.

NEW BUSINESS

The Program Manager, Frank Masi reported that they added a new age division for the Easter event and it went well even though the weather was pretty bad. Frank reported that he has been interviewing for summer/seasonal staff. Frank reported that there is a Trunk Sale event scheduled for 5/6 and on 5/13 the Safe Sitter Event will be held at Adams Township. Frank also reported that the annual Flower & Food Fest will be on 5/20.

President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, continued to agenda item: section VII, letter B: Local Park Renovation Grants. The Director, Lance Welliver reported that the contracts for the Local Park Renovation Grants that were awarded have started to come back. Lance also reported that over \$1.5 million has been awarded out of \$300 million in grants.

Dave Zarnick continued to agenda item: section VII, letter C: Jades Dog Park. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was to have the Butler County Parks and Recreation staff prepare a policy to bring to the next advisory board meeting to review. Motioned by Dustin Drew, Second by Lisa Campbell. Motioned carried.

President of the Park Advisory Board, Dave Zarnick, continued to agenda item: section VIII, next meeting. There was confusion with it taking place on May 16, 2023, which is Election Day. Possible reschedule would be May 23rd. If there is a change, we will advertise the finalized date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12pm. Motion by Dustin Drew. Second by Lisa Campbell. All in favor and motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,
Nicole Tropf