

**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
MAY 19TH 2026**

ATTENDANCE:

Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Brian Perry, Adams Township
Jen Rottman, Eau Claire
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Commissioner Leslie Osche
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
Lisa Campbell, Butler County Community College
Tom Knights, Butler Township
Leo Rosenbauer, Jefferson Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine and McConnells Mill
Rick Yarosz, Experience Butler County
Heather Cuyler, Pashek representative

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Denton Zeronas, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the February 17th, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Brian Perry. Motion carried.

The meeting began with the introduction of guest, Heather Cuyler, a representative from Pashek. Ms. Cuyler introduced herself and discussed with the group a county wide comprehensive plan involving reaching out to the community to conduct surveys and interviews to find out how to better serve our community. She suggested focusing on youth, through schools and youth groups, to find a plan that aligns with the priorities of the community. She asked the group to come up with names and contact information for key individuals to reach out to for interviews and surveys.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dustin Drew - Mr. Drew discussed recent events at Morain State Park, Mighty Moraine Triathlon and the Glacier Ridge Ultra Marathon. Mr. Drew reported Bear Run Marina is now open as well as South Shore Pavilions. He reported the construction continues on the sewage rehabilitation and waterlines; however, beaches and marinas are now open.

Leo Rosenbauer - Mr. Rosenbauer reported SEBCO construction will begin in the first week of June, with all permits and documents in order.

Lisa Campbell - Ms. Campbell thanked Butler County Parks and Recreation on behalf of Butler Downtown for the use of Diamond Park for their annual Sips in the City. The event was a success, with upwards of 280 individuals in attendance.

Commissioner Osche - Commissioner Osche reported on behalf of the PM Rotary. The Rotary is heading into Steeples and Stacks season. This event will take place on July 10th and 11th to celebrate heritage and

industry. Festivities will include an art show at the Brickhouse, unveiling of wrapped benches, a mural on the side of the Butler Library, and a mosaic on Penn Theater. The Hob Nob Theater will have a silent performance of the history of Butler. There will be events taking place at the Maridon Museum as well as the library. This is a ticketed event; 250 tickets will be sold.

Brian Perry- Mr. Perry reported pavilion season is in full swing, with most weekends throughout the summer booked. Mr. Perry reported the park planted 15 trees, namely oaks and maples, with the Bare Roots program. Mr. Perry reported the township's robotic mowers have been a success. These mowers are quieter and require less maintenance than traditional mowing methods. The township plans to upgrade these mowers with AI technology next year for smoother operation.

Mr. Perry reported the splash pad will open on Friday, May 22nd. The township has 8 staff members for the splash pad. The pad will be open daily and is available for private rentals.

Mr. Perry reported the third merger meeting between Adams Township and Mars Borough will take place on June 2nd, with hopes for a final agreement and an official merger by the end of November.

Tom Knights – Mr. Knights Reported the annual Guys that Grill will take place on May 30th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at Preston Park. Tickets are available at the Butler Township Municipal building as well as Cummings Coffee and Candy on 68.

Rick Yarosz – Mr. Yarosz reported Division 2 softball world series took place in Cranberry, division 2 baseball world series took place at Pullman Park.

Mr. Yarosz reported Experience Butler County will be moving from Zelienople to Butler. Their new location will be in the Philips Oil and Gas building in downtown Butler.

Dave Blair- Mr. Blair reported on plans progressing for a Recreation Engagement Center in Cranberry Township. Initial design is expected to be completed by May 29th.

Mr. Blair reported that Cranberry Township's summer camp has a full roster.

Mr. Blair reported that construction has begun at the community park, as well as Graham Park's fitness area.

Mr. Blair also reported that 39 trees were to be planted in the Community Park on Thursday morning.

Jen Rottman- Ms. Rottman, reported that the sports are in full swing. Mr. Rottman reported Eau Claire park's pavilions are fully booked for weekends this summer. Ms. Rottman reported Eau Claire Borough is teaming up with the Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank and local charities to distribute food to those in need this summer.

Mr. Rottman reported Eau Claire is preparing for their Community Day, which will take place on August 2nd, 2026.

Denton Zeronas- Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock Borough is preparing for their Independence Day Celebration. This event will have vendors, fireworks, and bands.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Welliver reported the sewer project at Alameda Park is winding down. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the newly repaved lower trail.

Mr. Welliver reported that operations to mitigate invasive plants are underway. Spraying for these plants on 50 acres of the park had trails closed in the lower section of the park for a few days, these trails are once again open. Mr. Welliver reported Pennsylvania American Water will be donating to the park for future park development.

Mr. Welliver reported work on the Kiwanis shelter will continue. The concrete has been poured, holes for the posts have been created, the shelter now needs to be constructed.

Mr. Welliver reported the electrical upgrade for the lower end of the park is now underway. During this time, the shelters will still be open for rentals.

Mr. Welliver reported on events that took place the previous weekend, including the 369 Mountain Bike Race, and Back the Blue 5K. Both of which had good turnouts.

Mr. Welliver reported there were some electrical issues at the pool, which are now being repaired.

Mr. Welliver reported Jade's Dog Park is to reopen Friday, the 22nd. He also reported officers will be patrolling dog parks to ensure dogs are licensed, with fines up to \$500.00 for infractions.

Mr. Welliver reported on ongoing grants, with projects in Emily Brittain and Father Marinaro Park having inspections in early June. Connoquenessing and Alameda Restrooms are ongoing projects. Harcrest Park's grant should be closing out soon.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported on Capital Items, such as the electrical project going on in the lower end of Alameda Park. During this project, the electrical system in the lower end will be updated/upgraded. Shelter rentals will still take place during this time.

Mr. Welliver reported on the reconstruction of the Kiwanis shelter. The shelter was torn down early this season and will be rebuilt before the end of the season.

Mr. Welliver reported the slide at the waterpark will be refinished this season.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported on 2026 Local Park Renovation Grants. She stated that many of the projects are in motion and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Program Report

Mr. MacBeth delivered his program report.

Mr. MacBeth reported Alameda Parks Easter Egg Hunts had excellent turnouts, with approximately 150 children in four separate hunts.

Mr. MacBeth Reported there have been two Safe Sitter Classes since the last meeting, both with excellent turnouts.

Mr. MacBeth Reported the May 2nd Community Trunk Sale was sold out, although the weather wasn't cooperative, turnout was excellent. This year a food truck was added to the mix.

Mr. MacBeth reported that Night Disc Golf programs have been a huge success, with excellent weather for each one, they have had upwards of 50 participants at each event so far this season.

Mr. MacBeth reported Forest Bathing, a new event for Alameda Park. This is a guided meditation session directed by Discovering Wellness. Also New to Alameda Park, Bird by Ear – Walk and Workshop.

Mr. MacBeth reported on preparations for the upcoming pool season. He reported upcoming lifeguard certification has 8 new guards, with 8 re-certifications with former staff. Seasonal staff in services have begun, in preparation for Member Night on June 4th. Camp Begins June 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52PM, motion by Tom Knights, seconded by Brian Perry. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on June 16th, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Elwell