

MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
MAY 21, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

President, **Michele Burd**, Marion Township
Commissioner **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM
Virgil Cousins, Karns City
Brian Perry, Adams Township
Dustin Drew, Moraine State Park
Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Tom Knights, Butler Township
Perry Latimer, Butler County Tourism
Chris Ziegler, Butler Freeport Community Trails President
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 Tropsf, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant
Eddie Trizzino, Butler Eagle

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Ashley on behalf of Michele Burd, who was present but unable to speak, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the April 16th, 2024, meeting minutes.

MINUTES

The April meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Virgil Cousins, second by Dustin Drew. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd- Michele reported that Marion Township has been busy with pavilion rentals. Michele also reported that the new playground is wonderful, and they are just waiting on the grills to be installed.

Virgil Cousins- Virgil reported that the park is being used for the baseball season. Mr. Cousins reported that they are going to need more parking.

Dustin Drew- Dustin reported that the official summer season has begun at Moraine State Park this weekend, May 17-18th. Mr. Drew also reported that they are hiring maintenance and ranger staff.

Denton Zeronas- Denton reported that Slippery Rock's High School musical "Newsies" was nominated for 9 Mancini Awards, including a nomination for best actor. Mr. Zeronas reported that the production was also nominated for Best Costume Design, Best Crew/Technical Execution, Best Ensemble, Best Musical, Best Execution of Direction, Best Lighting Design and Best Scenic Design. Denton reported that Summer Adventure Camp Series starts June 3rd at Slippery Rock from 7am-6pm, 3 days a week. Mr. Zeronas reported that they will have themes like sports, Olympians and character week. Denton reported that they were opening trail paving bids for inquiries only.

Dave Blair- Dave reported that May 31st is opening weekend at the Cranberry Waterpark. Mr. Blair reported that they are working on a second splash pad. Dave reported that camp will be starting soon. Mr. Blair reported that deck hockey, soccer, and pickleball is keeping Cranberry busy. Dave reported that pickleball increased membership and was sold out from ages 30-39.

Commissioner Leslie Osche – Commissioner Osche reported for Rotary and stated that Rotary is passing the sign ordinance. Commissioner Osche reported that June will be focused on having two benches ready for artists to finish and install in the Cultural District. Commissioner Osche also reported that Rotary will have a Jazz Quartet and artists at Natali's Restaurant for Jeep Fest on June 7th.

Perry Latimer- Perry reported that she attended the Sports ETA Conference in April. Perry reported that Tourism is currently working on placing a variety of events at courts and multipurpose fields. Perry also reported that Tourism is helping with the Spartan Race and college baseball at Grant and Pullman Park. Perry reported that CanAm is happening at the end of July and already has 300 registrants. Perry reported that Jeep Fest is happening on June 7th and already has 700 registrants. Perry reported that Tourism is preparing for the overflow into Butler County for the 2025 US Open in Oakmont, PA. Perry also reported that Tourism is preparing for the overflow for the 26/27 NFL Draft in Pittsburgh. Perry reported that it is restaurant week and 30+ restaurants/cafes were participating now until Saturday.

Tom Knights- Tom reported on open bids for Pullman Recreation Complex. Mr. Knights reported that there is no change in traffic on Hansen Ave and Armco Drive until July 2nd.

Chris Ziegler- Chris reported that Trails is spending most of their time cleaning up rain damage. Chris reported that June 1st Caboose in Cabot is having their membership drive. Chris reported that 1 mile in Cabot of paved trail from DCNR has been completed but the parkway is not. Chris reported that they are working on ADA parking on both ends. Chris reported that they are working on updating the map for signage and 911 numbers for the parking lot. Chris reported 425 people came out to Armstrong Trails. Chris reported that they have completed 103 miles and still have 626ft left to connect.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director, Lance Welliver, reported that the ADA pedestrian walkway in Alameda Park, located by the volleyball and multipurpose field should be done in late summer/early fall.

Mr. Welliver reported that Butler School District placed 150 trout in the creek to see how they would react to the stream.

Mr. Welliver reported that 911 came out to utilize the UTVs for trail access.

Mr. Welliver reported that Alameda hosted events like the Envirothon and 5K Back the Blue.

Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR volunteered at Kid's Day America and there were several people interested in summer camp.

Mr. Welliver reported that he was working with Slippery Rock University on a History Project for Alameda Lower Park signage.

Mr. Welliver reported on Community Day in collaboration with Butler Township on 7/2, where there will be fireworks and food vendors.

Mr. Welliver reported that 911 Butler Transit is looking to relocate their system.

Mr. Welliver reported that the drainage work for the Walking Trail – CDBG Grant has been completed. Lance reported that bids for the walking trail will be opened on 4/24.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Conservation Partnership Projects

Mr. Welliver reported on Connoquenessing Nature Playground that is waiting for items to come in. Mr. Welliver also reported on Harmony Borough's new playground starting in the fall. Mr. Welliver reported on Jefferson SEBCO Pool project which is having pump room challenges. Mr. Welliver reported on Penn Township's parking and restroom project. Mr. Welliver reported on Father Marinaro Park waiting for the city to approve parking access.

Local Park Renovations Board Grants

Mr. Welliver reported that Center Township's ballfields and access road grants are closed out. Mr. Welliver reported that work on Petrolia Borough's pickleball courts is continuing. Mr. Welliver reported on Saxonburg's shelter roof project. Mr. Welliver reported on Forward Township's parking project. Mr. Welliver reported on Fairview's ADA parking project. Mr. Welliver reported on Evan City's sidewalk and pool step project. Mr. Welliver said that all should be done at the end of the year.

Administrative Services Contracts for DCNR

Mr. Welliver said that there was nothing to report on now.

NEW BUSINESS

Program/ Waterpark Report

Mr. Bartholic reported that Master Gardeners had two classes totaling about 16 people. Mr. Bartholic reported that the Flower and Food Fest brought in about 2500 people within the community.

Mr. Bartholic reported that attendance for the Back the Blue 5k was around 75-100 people.

Mr. Bartholic reported that he is in the middle of summer staff training.

Mr. Bartholic reported that this year Camp Alameda has offered the CIT Camp, which is a Counselor In Training project to help counselors get through the summer and teaching skills to campers that have aged out.

Mr. Bartholic reported that the seasonal staff positions are filled.

Mr. Bartholic reported that summer concerts and entertainment in the park will be starting and the first is the History of Alameda on June 13th and we are preparing for 300+ in attendance.

Mr. Bartholic reported that Soccer Shots began on 3/22 and happened before the big rain really hit and there were about 20-25 kids in attendance.

Mr. Bartholic reported that Glow in the Dark Disc Golf started on 4/5 and there were around 35 people, and more than half were first-timers or new.

Mr. Bartholic reported that Safe Sitter in Slippery Rock on 4/6 had about 13 kids enrolled.

Mr. Bartholic reported that this month, BCPR is hosting programs like Envirothon and Back the Blue 5K at Alameda Park. Jake also reported that BCPR will have a Master Garden Speaker Series, Community Drum Circle, Lifeguard Certification Class and Flower and Food Fest held at Alameda Park starting this month.

Mr. Bartholic reported that BCPR has been working to compare shelter reservation and program registrations over the past 5 years. Jake reported on the attached documents and how much the shelters are used in the season at Alameda Park.

Jade's Dog Park

Mr. Welliver reported that Jade's Dog Park is to reopen May 22nd at 9:00am. Mr. Welliver reported that the dog park was closed due to water fountain and gate repairs, and aerating. Mr. Welliver reported that the dog park will be closed 9:00am-3:00pm on Wednesdays for maintenance and repairs throughout the summer.

Capital Items

Mr. Welliver reported on the waterpark replastering project that was completed earlier this week. Mr. Welliver reported that the Park and Recreation Intern, Danielle, will be starting next week.

Parks and Recreation Professional Day

Mr. Welliver reported that Butler County was selected for the Parks and Recreation Professional Day on July 19th. Mr. Welliver reported that PRPS will be presenting an award to us and there will be refreshments, proclamations, photos and certificates. Mr. Welliver extended an invitation to all members to attend the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Virgil Cousins. All agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on June 18th, 2024.

Respectively Submitted,
Nicole Tropf