

**MINUTES**  
**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Vice President, **Lisa Campbell**, Rotary AM  
**Brian Perry**, Adams Township  
**Virgil Cousins**, Karns City  
**Dustin Drew**, Moraine State Park  
**Denton Zeronas**, Slippery Rock Borough  
**David 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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm. There was a quorum present. Director, Lance Welliver, notified the Park Advisory Board that President, Michele Burd has resigned. Vice President of the Park Advisory Board, Lisa Campbell, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes.

**MINUTES**

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

**REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Chirs Ziegler-** Ms. Ziegler reported that Buffalo Creek Nature Park is having a Watershed Festival event on September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Monroe Road Trailhead. Ms. Ziegler reported that DCNR paved from Cabot to Marwood to make it more assessable to everyone and there should be a ribbon cutting soon. Ms. Ziegler reported that the PennDOT Streambank remediation will take place this winter. Ms. Ziegler reported that SPC will be doing a bus tour for officials and tourism and that is TBD.

**Tom Knights-** Mr. Knights had nothing to report.

**Perry Latimer-** Ms. Latimer reported that Butler County Tourism has been planning for 2 years for the 2024 Butler Can-Am Police-Fire Games and they are happening this week. Ms. Latimer reported that registration for cycling started this morning. Ms. Latimer credited Brenda Hills, Director of Event Services, for her work in planning the events. Ms. Latimer reported that Pittsburgh Power Softball had over 175 teams participate over the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Latimer reported that they are currently looking for disc golf courses and ultimate frisbee fields.

**Brian Perry-** Mr. Perry reported that Adams Township has been busy with pavilions and that the pavilions have been used every day including weekends. Mr. Perry reported that the splashpad has been popular since June and that data shows an average of 17 people per hour. Mr. Perry reported that the park project for pickleball courts, basketball courts and parking should be done in August and is ahead of schedule. Mr. Perry reported on a new program called Pacer AI that specializes in analysis of foot/drive traffic trends, visits and uses visitor metrics for location growth. Mr. Perry said Adams Township isn't implementing Pacer AI, but he could see the benefit in using their data for sponsorships/donations.

**Dave Blair-** Mr. Blair reported that Cranberry's 3-day free Community Days event happened last Thursday through Saturday, and everything went well. Mr. Blair said that Cranberry's full-time Community Events & Stewardship Manager, Audrey Rattay, worked hard to raise funds for the Parks and Recreation department. Mr. Blair reported that Pittsburgh Power Softball was a big weekend for Cranberry. Mr. Blair reported that Tourism helped launch email blasts that partnered with businesses for local discounts/coupons that expired after the deadline, and he hopes they will be able to pull analytics from it. Mr. Blair reported that the Pittsburgh Penguins played pickleball at Graham Park on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Blair reported that Cranberry plans to host the Pittsburgh Pirates employee appreciation softball tournament. Mr. Blair also reported that Cranberry's splashpad has had issues with design and some sump pump/electrical issues and should be open mid-August. Mr. Blair reported on an active emergency at Cranberry

which prompted the purchase of Alertus, a mass notification alert system aimed to help take the layers out of communication and deliver first-hand information promptly.

**Denton Zeronas-** Mr. Zeronas reported on Slippery Rock's Independence Day Celebration that took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> and that they have \$600 to go towards next year's event. Mr. Zeronas said that it is the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year of putting the celebration on and it continues to grow. Mr. Zeronas reported that the estimated time of arrival for the "missing" playground equipment is July 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zeronas reported that the walking trail finished, and the paving project is scheduled to start soon. Mr. Zeronas offered a recommendation for C&K Party Rentals for planning events that require inflatable bounce houses and yard games for \$300 per day.

**Dustin Drew-** Mr. Drew reported that Moraine State Park is busy with the shoreline stabilization project and is working with Fish & Boat Commission to have less of the land wash into the lake from erosion. Mr. Drew reported that the regatta will happen August 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>.

**Virgil Cousins-** Mr. Cousins reported that Karns City is having a Community Day partnering with UAA on Aug 9<sup>th</sup> and it will include vendors. Mr. Cousins said that it is the first year and they have lots of volunteers and are hoping for a good turnout.

**Lisa Campbell-** Ms. Campbell reported that Buter County Community College (BC3) is having the annual cornhole tournament for the recovery community in late July. Ms. Campbell reported that the Italian Festival on Main Street was cancelled.

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

The Director, Lance Welliver, reported that Michele Burd, the Park Board President, resigned from the board due to a new job opportunity. Mr. Welliver informed the board that voting for the new president will take place soon. Mr. Welliver reported that CanAm (Mountain Bike Race) is happening Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Alameda. Mr. Welliver reported the Alameda ADA pedestrian walkway will start mid-August and should approximately take a month to complete. Mr. Welliver reported that a contractor is digging for an internet line today, Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, in the upper part of Alameda, by the pool, to make WIFI better accessible to everyone. Mr. Welliver reported that he is working on getting updated mapping on the website.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Community Conservation Partnership Projects

Mr. Welliver reported that Alameda restrooms project will begin the installation of (4) non-flush restrooms in early September. Mr. Welliver reported that there will be an additional flush unit installed at a later date. Mr. Welliver reported that Connoquenessing purchased their playground equipment and are ready for installation in late fall. Mr. Welliver reported that Marion Township's grills plan to be installed in early August. Mr. Welliver reported that work is being continued with Harmony Borough and City of Butler for Father Marinaro Park.

#### Local Park Renovations Board Grants

Mr. Welliver reported on the status of all Local Park Renovations for 2024. Mr. Welliver reported that Slippery Rock invoices have been submitted for payment. Mr. Welliver reported that Petrolia's pickleball courts are being worked on. Mr. Welliver reported that Penn Township's piping is continuing to progress. Mr. Welliver reported that Evan City's sidewalk steps and new drainage system are waiting for the pool to close. Mr. Welliver reported that he is waiting to hear about Cranberry's concrete pad installation. Mr. Welliver reported that Buffalo's piping of trails is being worked on. Mr. Welliver reported that Karns City is 50% completed. Mr. Welliver reported that Saxonburg is completed. Mr. Welliver reported that Fairview has submitted invoices for payment.

#### Administrative Services Contracts for DCNR

Mr. Welliver had nothing to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Program/ Waterpark Report

Mr. Bartholic reported that Alameda Waterpark has been busy. Mr. Bartholic reported that 6-week swimming lessons are on their last session this week. Mr. Bartholic reported that there have been (2) Moonlight swims with at least 250 people in attendance at each. Mr. Bartholic reported that on June 28<sup>th</sup> Disc golf had about 80 people in attendance and it is steadily growing. Mr. Bartholic reported that 2-3,000 people showed up to the Community Day Event on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bartholic reported that BCPR is gearing up for week 5 of summer camp. Mr. Bartholic reported that co-ed softball and volleyball playoffs are coming up. Mr. Bartholic reported that Professional Day is this Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and there will be a ceremony, presentation, reception and lunch. Mr. Bartholic reported that Camp Alameda will come by during the ceremony and Kona Ice will be there.

#### Jade's Dog Park

Mr. Welliver reported that Jade's Dog Park will be closed on Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00pm to make a consistent schedule to promote grass growing and other maintenance repairs.

#### Capital Items

Mr. Welliver reported that the pool plastering has been completed. Mr. Welliver reported that the Waterpark sound system was installed and completed. Mr. Welliver reported that BCPR is still waiting for other capital items to be delivered at the end of the month.

#### Parks and Recreation Professional Day

Mr. Welliver reported that Butler County was selected for the Parks and Recreation Professional Day on July 19<sup>th</sup> by PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society) for District 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47pm. Motion by Virgil Cousins, second by Dustin Drew. All agreed and motion carried. The next meeting will be on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Respectively Submitted,  
Nicole Tropf