

MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
AUGUST 15, 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 June 20, 2023 meeting minutes.

MINUTES

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

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd – Michele reported that Marion Township has received good comments about their park rentals and how nice their park looks. Michele reported that Marion Township is planning to update their playground with an ADA compliant glider chair that they submitted a grant for. The CDBG grant will be for updating parking and sidewalk.

Chris Ziegler – Chris reported of an upcoming Open Caboose at Cabot on 8/26/23 and that Buffalo Creek will have a Wild Watershed festival on 9/18. Chris reported that Buffalo Township formed a member committee to raise funds for a community center. Chris reported that all trails meet under the 365 bridge and they will be extending the trail for parking and a kayak-only launch. She reported that it is about 130 miles of trail from Brookville to Butler.

Brian Perry – Brian reported that Adams Township has been working on getting pickleball lights connected and also reported that the local rotary club donated 3 cement cornhole displays that will be installed by the end of the week. Brian reported that Adams Township has switched from Swift Alert Systems to Rave Alert which they have been using for emergency and operational texting. Swift is no longer doing texting and the FCC regulates Rave Alert. Brian reported that Adams Township will be able to use the alert system for events, splash pad/field conditions, weather, and small group updates. Brian reported that planning for fall events are underway. In September there will be a Car Show, October will have a Halloween parade and December will host Christmas and Fireworks.

Lisa Campbell – Lisa reported that AM Rotary has ordered the sponsorship sign to wrap up the First Responders memorial.

Commissioner Osche – Commissioner Leslie Osche, reported as Butler PM Rotarian. Commissioner Osche reported that Diamond Park's new design calls for the removal of the fountain and the addition of a pavilion/shelter. The grant was submitted at the end of May 2023 and they are still waiting to hear if it's been approved. Leslie reported that the PM Rotary will be Collaborating with Penn Theater on 9/30 for a Chalk Festival. A local artist, Paul Menes will be designing benches that will be placed through the Cultural District. Commissioner Osche reported that St. Michaels Hall will be holding a raffle and meat giveaway for their Fall Festival on 9/30 in conjunction with the Chalk art event.

Dustin Drew – Dustin reported that Moraine State Park has had a good and quiet summer. Dustin reported that the attendance has been up since previous years and commented about the estimated attendance of 20,000 people for the Regatta that took place 8/5-8/6. Dustin reported of a fatality last Monday. Mr. Drew reported that McConnells Mill is having turbine damage issues and that the concrete stairs were delayed due to unfortunate circumstances which forced them to close access. Dustin reported of a friends group that planned to rehabilitate a classroom for educators at McDaniels Launch on the North shore. Mr. Drew reported that there is a committee that likes to give back to the park and right now they are raising funds to put together a shoreline stabilization plan.

Denton Zeronas – Denton reported on Slippery Rock Borough's Play Safe Program that essentially provides daycare/activities to approximately 30 kids per day. They utilize the park and go on field trips throughout the summer. Mr. Zeronas reported that Slippery Rock teams up with Moraine Elementary during the school year for the Play Safe Program and there is a cost to provide services throughout the school year. Denton reported that there will be a 5K race on 9/16 that will be at the same time as the Slippery Rock Village Festival.

Virgil Cousins – Virgil of Karns City reported that baseball has ended and that they have elected new officers. Mr. Cousins reported that he would be meeting with them in the future.

Jason Mentel – Jason reported that the last day for the pool at Zelenople this summer is 9/4/2023. Mr. Mentel reported that Zelenople has had issues with the heater in the pool and they are waiting for someone to come take a look at it.

Dave Zarnick – Dave reported that Butler Township had a 2-day Shakespeare in the park event recently. Mr. Zarnick reported that attendance has been off for Wednesday night movies in the park due to it not getting dark until later. Dave reported that Butler Township has put together a public safety children’s event that is partnered with the school district. Mr. Zarnick reported that the public safety event has been very well attended but obtaining the clearances needed have been difficult to come by. Mr. Zarnick also reminded the board members that if anyone knew of any baseball fields that were available to let Perry and East Butler know.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director, Lance Welliver notified the board members that Jacob Bartholic is the new program manager. Lance reported that Parks and Recreation Department’s intern, Van Stefaniszyn has ended his seasonal term and that there is already interest for the position in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

The Director, Lance Welliver, reported that the Diamond Park grant application was submitted in May 2023 and that BCPR is still waiting to hear back on the approval. Lance reported that the grant would cover \$250k of the estimated \$700k proposal, so they are still working on another application to fund the remaining amount. Mr. Welliver reported that the pool at Alameda Park is to close on 8/27. Lance reported that the large crack in the bottom of the pool will be looked at in 2 weeks when the pool is closed for the season. Mr. Welliver reported that the BCPR Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a walking path by the sand volleyball courts and around the multipurpose field will be about 1/3 mile that the community can enjoy. Lance reported that the walking path probably won’t begin until next fall. Mr. Welliver reported that Camp Alameda needed minimal suspension this summer and that it went very well. Lance reported that Camp Alameda had a few modifications this year (cut 1 hour in the morning and shaved off 2 weeks) and it seemed to help our staff and the kids. Lance reported that the park also added science and soccer camps this year. Mr. Welliver reported that the closure for maintenance on Wednesdays at the Dog Park has been accepted for the most part. Lance reported that the Parks and Recreation staff is working to update ordinances and will have something to submit to the board at our next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

The Program Manager, Jacob Bartholic reported that BCPR wrapped up the last sand volleyball game on 7/31 and that the last week of camp ended on 8/11. Mr. Bartholic reported that the End of Summer Soiree is happening this Friday, 8/18 with food trucks and a movie. Jacob reported that 8/22 will be the last free entertainment/concert series for Alameda Park. Mr. Bartholic reported that Night Disc Golf, Safe Sitter Classes, Dog Swim and the Community Trunk Sale are coming up. Jacob reported that 9/23 is the Community Day event with Butler Township and we have a few vendors and food trucks who have already submitted applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm. Motion by Dustin Drew. Second by Virgil Cousins. All in favor and motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,
Nicole Tروف