

**BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
AUGUST 18TH, 2026**

ATTENDANCE:

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
Colleen Elwell, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant
Lisa Campbell, Butler County Community College
Dustin Drew, Moraine and McConnells Mill
Rick Yarosz, Experience Butler County
Virgil Cousins, Karns City
Heather Cuyler, Pashek representative
Michele Gebhart, Butler County Planning Commission

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm. There was a quorum present. Assistant Director of Butler County Parks and Recreation, Ashley Helmstaedter, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the May 19th, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Virgil Cousins. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Jen Rottman- Ms. Rottman reported Eau Claire is gearing up for their Community Day, which will take place this Saturday, August 22nd. The celebration will include fireworks and live music.
Ms. Rottman reported summer sports have finished for the season, as fall ball is just getting started.
Ms. Rottman reported the community continues to team up with the Greater Pittsburgh Foodbank to help locals in need.

Dave Blair - Mr. Blair reported the new fitness center at Graham Park is up and running.
Mr. Blair reported that the baseball season has come to an end.
Mr. Blair reported that property for the new recreation center has been acquired. Planning is underway for programming.

Rick Yarosz- Mr. Yarosz reported Experience Butler County has officially moved into its new location on Main Street in Butler and have the welcome center in the works.
Mr. Yarosz reported on Sports Relationship Meetings with PA sports to bring more sports to the region.

Commissioner Leslie Osche – The Commissioner reported on behalf of the PM Rotary.
The Commissioner reported the mosaic created by the community during the Steeples and Stacks event will be unveiled in the coming days. This 5-panel mosaic will be on the side of the Penn Theater and depicts film reels, pouring steel and the industrial history of Butler. The unveiling and dedication will take place during August's Foodie Friday.

Lisa Campbell- Ms. Campbell reported Butler Downtown is getting ready for their Holiday event at Diamond Park.
Ms. Campbell reported the AM Rotary is teaming up with Butler Downtown to host a 5k through Lyndora.

Ms. Campbell reported the AM Rotary is working with Butler Township to install a monument to honor the businesses that built Lyndora.

Dustin Drew- Mr. Drew reported the Regatta at Moraine State Park was a success. Attendance was down the first day due to rain, but beautiful weather the second day brought a good crowd to the park.

Mr. Drew reported Heritage Fest is coming up at McConnell's Mill in September.

Mr. Drew reported on construction happening at the parks. The construction continues on the water and sewage lines at Moraine, and the grist mill at McConnell's Mill will soon be stained. Road paving will take place throughout the parks.

Virgil Cousins- Mr. Cousins had nothing to report.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Welliver reported the sewer project at Alameda Park has been completed; however, in the process some damage was done to the roadways at the park. Crews will begin paving repairs after Labor Day.

Mr. Welliver Reported the Masonic Shelter's new roof has been completed.

Mr. Welliver Reported the Kiwanis Shelter project has been completed, however the shingles and electrical work on the lower park is still in progress. This is expected to be completed in the near future.

Mr. Welliver Reported the slide at Alameda Waterpark is to be refinished after Labor Day.

Mr. Welliver took the time to thank the AM Rotary for painting the Rotary Shelter.

Mr. Welliver reported the ribbon cutting for the new inclusive playground at Emily Brittain took place earlier this week. Phase two of the playground is in the works.

Mr. Welliver reported the fencing at Father Marinaro Park has been completed, and the grant is ready to close out.

Mr. Welliver reported the pool rehabilitation construction at SEBCO Pool in Jefferson Township is going well.

The construction on the pump room building is expected to be completed in October.

Mr. Welliver reported the final documents for Diamond Park Rehabilitation are expected to be completed and ready to go to bed by early September.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Local Park Grants in Clay Township, Saxonburg Borough, Cranberry Township, are ready to close.

Program Report

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Alameda Waterpark will be closing to the public on Sunday, August 23rd. The pool saw an uptick in patronage this year as a result of SEBCO pool in Jefferson Township being closed for construction.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Poolside Pups will take place on Sunday, August 30th.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Butler Area Flag Football will hold youth practices at Alameda Park starting in September. The games, however, will be held at Butler Township's Blue Fields.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Alameda will be hosting bike races in the coming months.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported preparations are underway for Alameda's annual Monster Mile event, which will take place around Odd Fellow's Loop on Saturday, October 10th.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported the Alameda will not be hosting Adult Flag Football this year.

Heather Cuyler – Ms. Cuyler, a representative from Pashek, passed out a sample survey to the group. This survey is to gather data to determine what areas of focus should be prioritized for future growth within the county. The county has been divided into 5 regions to get a sense of what the public is looking for in parks and recreational activities. Questions inquire about the individuals visits to a park in the past 12 months, and what activities they did while at the park. Many of the questions on these surveys are open ended, both to limit long scrolling, and to invite outside-the-box ideas. The goal is to determine what the public is actually doing at local parks, and what draws them here, whether it is events, trails, the pool, or other activities.

Ms. Cuyler discussed specifically, wanting to determine the interests of the younger generation to better understand how we can accommodate and foster their interests and tailor events and amenities to be more engaging for young people.

Open discussion about interests and hobbies of the younger generation.

Ms. Cuyler discussed trailways, and trail surfacing.

Open discussion about trailways.

Open discussion about sports facilities and multiuse fields.

Ms. Cuyler discussed Alameda Park, its facilities, and opportunities.

Ms. Cuyler reported she will rework the survey based on input from the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36PM, motion by Lisa Campbell, seconded by Dustin Drew. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on September 16th, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Elwell