

# **BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

**Lisa Campbell**, Rotary AM  
**Denton Zeronas**, Slippery Rock Borough  
**Dustin Drew**, Moraine, and McConnell's Mills  
**Brian Perry**, Adams Township  
**Jennifer Rottman**, Eau Claire  
**Chris Zeigler**, Butler Freeport Trail  
**Virgil Cousins**, Karns City  
**Penny English**, Experience Butler County  
**Lance Welliver**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Director  
**Braden MacBeth**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Program Manager  
**Colleen Rhodes**, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Administrative Assistant

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. There was a quorum present. President of the Park Advisory Board, Lisa Campbell, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion by Dustin Drew, second By Denton Zeronas. Motion carried.

## **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Chris Zeigler** – Ms. Zeigler reported that a new mural was unveiled at Butler Freeport Trail's Marwood Rd trailhead. This mural is 8 feet by 32 feet and depicts the visionaries that saw what good trails could do for the area. She stated that Butler Freeport became a trail at the beginning of the "rails to trails" movement around 1988. Ms. Ziegler also reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Buffalo Creek Half Marathon will be taking place on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Ms. Zeigler also reported the Brookfield to Butler bike route is now completed, with 130 miles of connected trails.

**Jennifer Rottman** – Ms. Rottman reported Eau Clair has concluded their 8 weeks of meal distributions for the community, as they are now preparing for their Community Day this upcoming Saturday with a car cruise. She reported their local park's LPR grant mulch project is completed and has gotten positive feedback from the community. Next on their agenda will be new lights for their ballfield.

**Penny English** - Ms. English, for Experience Butler County, reported girls' hockey is getting ready for a Labor Day Festival. Ms. English also reported on Rugby at Pullman Park, as well as preliminary talks of lacrosse.

**Brian Perry** - Mr. Perry reported that Adams Township's Christmas in July event was a hit, bringing approximately 400 guests to the splash pad. The event included pictures with Santa, craft tables, vendors, and fireworks. Mr. Perry also reported the township hosted an AED dedication event on August 16<sup>th</sup>. An AED was donated to the park by the Aliver Foundation. The township had a "touch a truck" event as part of the dedication celebration. Mr. Perry also reported the township will host its annual car cruise next month to benefit a first grader who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. 200-300 cars are expected to participate in this cruise. Mr. Perry reported paving around the municipal building is underway, and an electric sign is to be installed in September.

**Denton Zeronas** – Mr. Zeronas reported that Summer Play Safe is wrapping up for the year. He reported Slippery Rock's Summer Theater put on a production of Disney's Frozen. This was performed by 26 children, grades 2 – 6. Mr. Zeronas reported on the upcoming Village Fest, which will take place September 13<sup>th</sup> on Main Street in Slippery Rock. Slippery Rock is also preparing for Oktober Fest, which will take place on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Downtown Slippery Rock. Mr. Zeronas also is in talks with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to treat areas to prevent the spread of spotted lanternflies.

**Dustin Drew** – Mr. Drew reported Moraine State Park's Regatta was a success, with nice weather and a good turnout. He reported the McConnells Mill Heritage Festival will take place in late September.

Mr. Drew reported that the restrooms at Moraine are mostly up and running, with the exception of one, which is currently closed due to a water leak.

Mr. Drew reported that Outdoor Corps has been doing a lot of work at the parks, assisting in trail work and things of that nature.

**Virgil Cousins** – Mr. Cousins reported Karns City ball season has ended and was a success. He reported the city is in talks of hosting a community day. Karns City held a Community Day last year, and he reported it was a success. The date, if they go this route, is yet to be determined. Mr. Cousins reported the park is doing well and the community is utilizing and enjoying it.

**Lisa Campbell**– Ms. Campbell reported BC3's Hope is Dope cornhole tournament on August 14<sup>th</sup> was a success. 15 teams (30 players) competed for cool prizes.

### **THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR –**

Mr. Welliver would like to thank the Butler County Probation Office for helping to keep an eye on the waterpark. Their presence made the patrons and staff feel safer.

Mr. Welliver reported the concrete at the dog park is beginning to pit, potentially caused by the ice melt used during the winter months.

Butler Symphony Summer Concert series is well underway. Music played by the Symphony has been played over the speakers at Diamond Park on Saturday afternoons, and will conclude on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mr. Welliver Reported that Butler County Parks and Recreation will be providing the use of the upper section of Alameda Park to the Agency of Aging on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to host a Sock Hop. There will be music and a movie.

Mr. Welliver reported he attended Penn Township's Parks and Recreation board meeting, providing a connection to a disc golf player to advise them on possible improvements at Harcrest Park.

Mr. Welliver Reported a ribbon cutting Ceremony at the opening of Connoquenessing's new nature themed playground.

Mr. Welliver had a meeting to discuss electrical improvements at Alameda Park. He reported that the Commissioners determined to bid it out as we worked with a state purchasing program and pricing was high.

Mr. Welliver discussed other projects at Alameda Park, such as memorial benches installed on the ADA pedestrian trail, and stream improvements.

Mr. Welliver discussed the efforts of the park to purchase an electric sign to place near New Castle Rd, at the Entrance of the park, however the property owner of the land in question is not interested in selling, so sign could potentially be installed closer to the park.

### **DCNR Grants and Funding**

Mr. Welliver reported crews are working at Emily Brittain School to remove equipment and prepare the site for installation of equipment, borders, and safety surfacing.

Mr. Welliver reported a bid was awarded at Father Marinaro Park and work is scheduled to begin by the end of August.

Mr. Welliver reported construction on the restrooms at Alameda Park is underway. Concrete and electric need to be completed at the restrooms by the Carousel Shelter for this project to be completed. This is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

Mr. Welliver reported having a meeting with HRG, Redcon, and Butler County Facilities and Operations regarding Diamond Park project to get the documents started to move forward. They are waiting on a DCED grant announcement as well.

Mr. Welliver discussed Ash Stop Park in Evans City, they are working on the final design documents to submit for review and approval. They plan to bid the project out at the beginning of 2026.

Mr. Welliver reported Harmony Borough's playground equipment has been removed. Crews are working on completing the final steps of the installation of new equipment, borders, and walkways.

Sebco Pool project is going out to bid once again, as the first bid was extremely high. They will rebid later this year, hoping for a completed project in May of 2026.

Mr. Welliver encouraged all recipients of Local Park Renovation Grants to complete their projects by November of 2025. When projects are completed, the paperwork needs to be submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Welliver reported that Alameda Park has been working with Jessica from DCNR Conservation District on a tree management plan. If DCNR approves the grant for the Comp Plan, a tree management plan will be incorporated. The decision will be made by the end of the year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS -**

**Braden MacBeth-** Mr. MacBeth delivered his program report.

Mr. MacBeth reported that Butler County Parks and Recreation teamed up with Butler Township to host Butler Community Day on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This event was a huge success, featuring food vendors, live entertainment, bounce houses, and fireworks.

Mr. MacBeth reported Night Disc Golf events have been successful, bringing in around 60 participants per event. The final Night Disc Golf event will be held at Alameda Park on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Mr. MacBeth reported co-ed volleyball and softball leagues have wrapped up for the season, as did the parks Summer Concert Series.

Mr. MacBeth told the board of upcoming events, such as Co-ed Flag Football, Poolside Pups, Monster Mile, and Haunted Trail.

Mr. MacBeth reported that the Moonlight Swims at the waterpark had excellent turnouts. Alameda Waterpark will close for the season on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. MacBeth reported on an upcoming National Interscholastic Cycling Association Conference at Alameda Park on September 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first NICA conference in this area and is expected to bring approximately 100-150 riders to the park.

#### **CAPITAL ITEMS**

Mr. Welliver reported the water fountains by Alameda's Jaycee Shelter have been replaced.

Mr. Welliver also reported that the waterpark and programs events have brought in upwards of \$20,000.00 more revenue than previous years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44PM, motion by Dustin Drew, second by Brian Perry. The next meeting will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Rhodes