BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Jen Rottman, Eau Claire
Dave Blair, Cranberry Township
Cindy Hildebrand, Butler County Commissioners Office Administrative Assistant
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
Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock
Brian Perry, Adams Township

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:02pm. There was a quorum present. The President of the Park Advisory Board, Denton Zeronas, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the August 18th, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion by Lisa Campbell, second by Brian Perry. The motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dustin Drew- Mr. Drew reported Glacier Ridge Ultra Marathon, a 24-hour race, took place at Moraine State Park, with excellent attendance. This was the second year for the Glacier Ridge Ultra Marathon, which was attended by 137 runners. The next Glacier Ridge race will take place in February.
Mr. Drew reported on construction projects recently completed at McConnells Mill, with a bridge having been paved, as well as the grist mill being stained. He also reported the sewage and watermain projects at Moraine State Park are well underway.
Mr. Drew reported on the upcoming Heritage Festival, which will be taking place later this month.
Mr. Drew reported that Moraine will be hosting a fundraiser on October 3rd.

Brian Perry – Mr. Perry reported the Adams Township splash pad has closed for the season. Minor mechanical repairs on the equipment are now being completed.
Mr. Perry reported Adams Township's 9th annual car cruise was a huge success. The cruise raised roughly $1,700 for special needs programs for local children.
Mr. Perry reported the township is getting ready for their upcoming Halloween and Christmas programs.
Mr. Perry reported the township's AED enclosure project is well underway.
Mr. Perry reported on the ongoing merger meetings.

Open discussion about the Mars Borough/Adams Township merger.

Lisa Campbell- Ms. Campbell reported the Rotary is preparing for their 5k around Lyndora on October 10th, which starts at Butler Townships sports fields. This 5k event will also feature a car cruise.
Ms. Campbell reported proceeds from this event will help fund a monument at the Blue Fields, representing the history of Lyndora.

Rick Yarosz –
Mr. Yarosz reported the passing of colleague, Perry Latimer. She will truly be missed.

Experience Butler has moved into their new building on Main Street in Butler. Mr. Yarosz stated there is plenty of office space available in the new building.
Mr. Yarosz reported the new Welcome Center is coming together nicely, with interactive boards and displays. The open house is yet to be announced.

Dave Blair- Mr. Blair reported the Cranberry township waterpark has closed for the season.
Mr. Blair reported the township is preparing for their annual Barbeque Bash.
Mr. Blair reported that Cranberry Township will be hiring a Golf Course Manager in the near future.
Mr. Blair reported that the township is getting ready for their seasonal holiday events, such as Santa's First Stop.

Jen Rottman – Ms. Rottman reported Eau Clair Community Day was well attended, despite the rain in the evening.
Ms. Rottman reported the borough's fall ball is in full swing.
Ms. Rottman Reported the borough is teaming up with Hunter Truck sales for their upcoming neighborhood cleanup.
Ms. Rottman reported Eau Claire is getting ready for Trick or Treat and their annual Halloween Parade.

Denton Zeronas- Mr. Zeronas reported Slippery Rock will be hosting a range of activities such as Spanish classes, Basketball, Family Fun Night, as well as a Fall Color Run, which will take place on October 14th.
Mr. Zeronas reported he will be resigning his position with Slippery Rock.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR
Mr. Welliver reported Butler County Parks and Recreation will be hiring two program coordinators. These positions will be part-time, 1,000-hour positions, and will supervise activities such as summer camp, as well as holiday events.
Mr. Welliver reported the sewage project at Alameda Park has been completed; however, the crews will return to complete repairs to fix damage that was done to park gates and signage.
Mr. Welliver reported the invasive species mitigation at Alameda Park has been completed. The next step will be to replant some native plants and trees in the park.
Mr. Welliver reported that work on the Kiwanis shelter has been completed. This project included the construction of a new pavilion, as well as re-shingling the roof on the structure covering the grill.
Mr. Welliver reported the electrical project at the lower end of Alameda is still underway. He is hopeful that this project will be wrapped up by the end of November.
Mr. Welliver reported that crews have finished the refinishing of a slide at Alameda Waterpark.
Mr. Welliver officially welcomed Rick Yarosz as a new official member of the Park Advisory Board after receiving approval from the commissioners.
Mr. Welliver Reported the inclusive playground at Emily Brittain is finished, the ribbon cutting for this project took place in August.
Mr. Welliver reported the project at Father Marinaro is nearing completion. This project included play equipment as well as basketball equipment.
Mr. Welliver reported Ash Stop Park in Forward Township is expecting to bid out their ADA walkway project in late fall.
Mr. Welliver reported work on Jefferson Township's SEBCO Pool is scheduled to be completed in November.
Mr. Welliver reported the Diamond Park rehabilitation project has received approval to advertise. Demolition and excavation are expected to begin in February of 2027. This project includes removing the fountain and constructing a large octagonal pavilion, a water feature, and a load in/load out area. The memorial pavers will be removed and the names from the pavers will be transferred to a plaque at the government center.

Program Report
Ms. Helmstaedter reported that Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League will be hosting a mountain bike race on the trails at Alameda Park this upcoming weekend.
Ms. Helmstaedter reported the annual Tuff Tornado Run will be taking place at Alameda on September 26th.

Ms. Helmstaedter reported Monster Mile will take place on October 10th and is expected to bring in approximately 150-200 children.
Ms. Helmstaedter reported the Candy Cane Cruise is scheduled to take place on Friday, November 20th, with 15 stops with a unique candy cane flavor at each stop. The following evening, Alameda will be hosting Run, Run, Rudolf Two-miler, the racecourse will go through the Christmas light display.

New Business
Ms. Helmstaedter reported that Local Park Grants for Penn Township, Evans City, Cranberry Township, and Saxonburg are finished and ready to close out. The remainder of the Local Park Grants are still underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44PM, motion by Dustin Drew, seconded by Brian Perry. The motion carried. The next meeting will be held on September 16th, 2026.

Respectively Submitted,

Colleen Elwell