

MINUTES

BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION JANUARY 21, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Osche

Chris Zeigler, Butler Freeport Trail

Denton Zeronas, Slippery Rock Borough

Commissioner, **Leslie Osche**, Rotary PM

Rick Ysrosz, Butler County Tourism

Tom Knights, Butler Township

Dave Blair, Cranberry Township

Dustin Drew, Moraine, and McConnell's Mills

Lance Welliver, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Director

Ashley Helmstaedter, Butler County Parks and Recreation, Assistant 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 12:00pm. There was a quorum present. Director of Butler County Parks and Recreation, Lance Welliver, conducted the meeting by asking if anyone would motion for the approval of the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes.

MINUTES

The November meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Dustin Drew, second by Tom Knights. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Zeigler – Ms. Zeigler reported that the Butler Freeport extension has been completed. Ms. Zeigler also reported the 20th annual Buffalo Creek Half Marathon will take place this year. She stated the first year, this half marathon attracted 174 runners. Last year over 1,000 runners attended.

Rick Ysrosz – Mr. Ysrosz reported Butler County tourism will be attending the Pittsburgh Travel show as well as the Toronto Golf and Travel show in the upcoming months. Mr. Ysrosz also reported that 2025 Jeepfest and US Open will take place the same weekend, June 13-15, large crowds expected for both.

Commissioner Osche – There was an open discussion of the Master Gardner's upcoming event in May, which will take place in the second weekend in May, with possible Partnership with the Farm Bureau.

Tom Knights – Mr. Knights reported contractors are out for bid for the recreation complex. Construction will begin on 3 fields at the end of May. Events for Butler Townships are expected to remain the same as last year, dates have not yet been confirmed.

Dave Blair – Mr. Blair reported phase 1 for repaving courts is underway. Cranberry Township will have 21 pickleball courts, for which registration is sold out at 1,900 members. Mr. Blair also reported that they have added 8 full time staff members, including a new Program Supervisor to oversee pickleball. Mr. Blair reported

phase 2 of the community park will ensure ADA accessibility and better use of the amphitheater. Mr. Blair also reported that all shelter reservations can now be made online.

Denton Zeronas – Mr. Zeronas reported that the Hoop Hero's Program has 66 registrations, exceeding expectations. Mr. Zeronas also talked about DCD grant involving the resurfacing of several playgrounds in the park. Mr. Zeronas also reported that the upcoming Father/Daughter Valentines Day Dance will take place on February 14th in the Slippery Rock Middle School Gymnasium.

Dustin Drew – Mr. Drew reported on winter activities at Moraine, including ice hockey, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and sledding. Mr. Drew also reported Moraine Preservation Fund is working with the New Castle School of Trade to build a classroom, which is expected to be completed in the spring. Mr. Drew reported the mill at McConnell's Mills has been inspected and is in good condition. Mr. Drew also reported the raceway gate at the mill has been replaced. This gate is used to control water flow into the building. Mr. Drew also reported that Winter Fest will be held on February 8th at Moraine.

Braden MacBeth- Mr. MacBeth shared his program report.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Welliver spoke on trainings of staff members, which include previous trainings - Lifeguard and Safe Sitter instructor training (Mr. MacBeth) and upcoming trainings, including CPRP testing (Mr. Welliver, Ms. Helmstaedter), Pool Operator and Pesticide certifications (Braden MacBeth).

Mr. Welliver reported that there was theft and vandalism to the parks light display on two separate occasions. Once prior to the Santa's Workshop drive through event, and again on Christmas night.

Mr. Welliver reported PRISM will be working at Ritz Park to mitigate the invasive species in that area.

Mr. Welliver discussed overtime for Maintenance workers for snow removal on weekends and holidays.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Welliver reported on DCNR Grant at Father Marinaro Park for a walking trail.

Mr. Welliver reported on Connoquenessing DCNR Grant, building a nature themed playground.

Mr. Welliver reported on Sebco Pool renovation, redesigning, and redoing their pool and pump room, which will take place after the pool has closed for the 2025 season.

Mr. Welliver reported Penn Township is working on finalizing designs for Harcrest Park for a walking trail and comfort station.

Mr. Welliver reported a flushing unit comfort station will be installed at Alameda Park in 2025.

Mr. Welliver reported an SRU student is working on a self-guided tour of the history of Alameda Park.

Mr. Welliver also reported on 3 grants that have been awarded at Forward Township, Emily Brittain School, and Sebco Pool in Jefferson township.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for the 2025 Park Advisory Board were as follows:

President Elect – Lisa Campbell, nominated by Dustin Drew, second by Tom Knights.

Vice President Elect – Denton Zeronas, Nominated by Dustin Drew, second by Tom Knights

Secretary Elect – Tom Knights, Nominated by Chris Zeigler, second by Dustin Drew.

Mr. MacBeth reported recent Christmas events have had good attendance the Santa's Workshop had an excellent turnout, including Santa's Workshop, Breakfast with Santa, and Paws and Claus. Mr. MacBeth also reported on Alameda Park's Snow Creation Contest, registration is free and online.

Mr. MacBeth reported there will be a Parent's Night Out on Valentines Day.

Mr. MacBeth reported December's waterpark sales had record numbers, and new splashpad items will be installed this year.

Mr. MacBeth reported on upcoming events, such as Safe Sitter classes, vaccination clinics, and easter egg hunts.

CAPITAL ITEMS

Mr. Welliver reported that new doors for the waterpark have been ordered and will be installed in March.

Mr. Welliver reported RedCon will be doing electrical updates and improvements to Alameda's purple playground.

Mr. Welliver reported a new tractor and utility vehicle will be purchased for use at Alameda.

PRPS

Ms. Helmstaedter reported PRPS memberships have been renewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm, motion by Dustin Drew, second by Tom Knights. The Next Meeting will be held on February 18, 2025.

Respectively Submitted,
Colleen Rhodes