

MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 17, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 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 September 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

MINUTES

The September meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion by Dustin Drew, Second by Virgil Cousins. All in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

Michele Burd – Michele reported that Marion Township’s new playground equipment should be done mid-November and that they have been removing the old playground equipment. Michele reported that they plan to add an ADA component to put in sometime down the road. Michele reported of a Trick or Treat event where local businesses donated to approximately 250 kids. Michele also reported that they were approached by a Sportsman Club that is interested in setting up a temporary ice skating rink at the park for the winter. Discussions will take place on whether or not that can happen.

Chris Zeigler – Chris reported that the Trail Council finally has a signed agreement for Norfolk’s 6/10ths of a mile. Chris reported that Buffalo Township is putting in 123 parking spaces. Mrs. Zeigler reported that there will be the 18th Annual ½ marathon on Saturday, October 21st. Chris reported that on October 28th there will be an Open Caboose event. Chris also reported about a fundraiser ride in the spring of 2024 across 130 miles from Brookville to Butler. The riders would park in Butler and camp overnight then bike to Schenley and boat across to Freeport. Chris feels like there has been many people waiting for multi day rides and estimates this event to be a success. Chris noted that National Trail Day happens on Saturday June 1st and joined with 10 miles open in November with the bridge set to be done at the end of the year would make this a good 2024 Spring event.

Brian Perry – Brian reported that Adams Township had a successful Car Cruise that raised \$7,000 for a Mars teacher with ALS. In 2023, they raised about \$1500 so this year’s event was successful. Brian reported that the event had to be cut short due to weather. Mr. Perry reported that on October 28th, there will be a Halloween Parade, ½ Trunk or Treat and ½ Parade; depending on weather. Brian also reported that they have started decorations for Christmas Lights in the park. Brian also reported of their annual Holiday event with fireworks and a picture with Santa will be on December 1st.

Perry Latimer – Perry reported that Tourism was successful in partnering with Lenersville Speedway. Perry reported that there are talks about expanding the event from a weekend to a week. Perry also reported that she is planning for the next summers Can-Am Police-Fire games, where they expect approximately 3,000 people in attendance. Perry reported that Amy attended the July 2023 NCAA Symposium to get information on how to bid for hosting in 2026-2030 for Division 2 and Division 3. Perry reported that hockey is back in swing and Cranberry Dome is open Monday for inside Pickleball.

Lisa Campbell – Lisa reported that she is still trying to track down the sign for the First Responder memorial. Lisa indicated that she still hasn’t received a response. Lisa reported that October 28th is the Ghost and Giggle Comedy event that Rotary is putting on. Lisa also reported that the week before Thanksgiving, the lights for Christmas will be put up on downtown Main Street. Lisa also reported that they are working on putting in the Special Events Application for Carved in Ice next year at Diamond Park.

Denton Zeronas – Denton reported that Slippery Rock had ADA playground equipment delivered. Denton also reported that excavation should start early next week on the playground area. Denton said that the grant indicated that they will need volunteers to assemble the playground. Mr. Zeronas reported that the 4th annual Octoberfest happened last weekend even with the rain. They brought in around \$2500. Denton also shared information to the group about LuxGive which is a fundraising/travel vacation package that could set up vacation for raffles and giveaways.

Dustin Drew – Dustin reported that the leadership project has started to transform the old room into a classroom. Dustin reported that they are waiting on permits. Mr. Drew also reported that the Moraine State Park north shore sewage project starts on October 18th and is estimated to run 2 years. Dustin reported that the Heritage Festival had about 8,000 people in attendance over 2 days. Dustin also reported that the turbine was repaired at the mill.

Virgil Cousins – Virgil reported that UAA met regarding grants for ballfields and that they now need to have contracts put in place like East Butler and requested model agreements for municipalities to use in circumstances like these.

Dave Zarnick – Mr. Zarnick reported that he attended the Bethlehem, PA State Conference and the Kaboom project had approximately 80-100 volunteers. They started at 8:30am and at 3:30pm there was a ribbon cutting. Dave reported that on October 27th Preston Park will be having a Trick or Treat event with vendors. Mr. Zarnick also reported that he has information regarding a Solar Energy grant for park/street lights and would forward that to the group if anyone was interested. Dave also reported that October 30th is the date that a winner will be announced for the 1st annual Halloween Home Decoration competition.

Leslie Osche – Commissioner Leslie Osche reported that she took the Park Board Advisory's recommendation to the other commissioners and Jade's Dog Park will be opened throughout the winter on a trial basis this year. Mrs. Osche reported that there will be on-going discussions about the maintenance of the dog park and winterizing the roads.

THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Welliver reported that Jason Mentel of Zelenople has recently been relieved of his position as they stated it was for financial reasons. He plans to stay on the board, but could not attend today.

Mr. Welliver reported that the Park ordinance is under solicitor's review. Lance gave Dustin a thank you for his information on airborne equipment.

Mr. Welliver reported that the Dog Park had a case of Parvo outbreak and was closed for 1 week. The Parks and Recreation Department contacted numerous vets, humane society and NRPA members to see if they had any comments. One vet said they recommended closing a minimum of 3-5 days. A few others recommended that Parvo can be in the soil for months or even years. A request was made to test the soil, but every area of the park would need to be tested, not just the dog park. Another asked for Parks and Recreation to hire a full-time attendant to check all vaccinations.

Mr. Welliver reported that the Masonic and Lower restroom flooring has been completed. It was done by the same company and has the same look as the bathhouse.

Mr. Welliver reported that the Carousel repainting/lights project has been completed by Facilities and Operations along with park maintenance team. Facilities and Operations are scheduled to start on the shakers for the exterior improvements today. Mr. Welliver reported that once the shakers are done, the floor and soffit/fascia will need improved where needed and that would complete the project.

Mr. Welliver reported that he met with Amy from Tourism on how our local park grant program works. The tourism department was looking to revamp their scoring procedure.

Mr. Welliver reported that there have been several attempted meetings with City of Butler to discuss Whippo Park as they have improvement ideas, but they had to reschedule multiple meetings.

Mr. Welliver reported that Butler County Conservation will be donating 24 trees to plant in lower Alameda Park and they should be planted by the end of the month.

Mr. Welliver reported that he met and/or discussed pool floor with multiple companies regarding our issue. They provided re-plaster/tile and other costs as well as costs for evaluated floor. Mr. Welliver reported that an estimated \$300,000 to re-plaster with minimal crack repair and around \$24,000 for tile plus additional money for the crack repair. Mr. Welliver is waiting for a cost to evaluate the soil and floor and will submit to the commissioners for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jake Bartholic – Jake reported that Football has 6 teams that play on Sunday mornings. Mr. Bartholic also reported on the Butler Area Community Day event that Alameda hosted last month. Jake reported that Alameda had 150 cars for the car cruise and 40+ vendors, food vendors, raffles and live entertainment. The event estimated approximately 1500 people in attendance despite the rain. Mr. Bartholic reported on the success of Monster Mile that happened on October 14th. Registration of 190 were sold out prior to the event. Jake reported there was a better than anticipated turn out despite the rain. Jake reported that the Dog Swim and Vaccination Clinic that was held on September 10th had 120 dogs that joined for the Paddle Pool Party and approximately 75 dogs came out to the free vaccination clinic. Jake reported that Alameda Park has recently partnered with Jump Start Sports of Pittsburgh,

they've been doing youth basketball clinics for approximately 16 kids on Sunday mornings. Mr. Bartholic reported about the upcoming Haunted Trail event happening on October 20th and 21st where people are invited to come walk through the woods. Jake also reported about the upcoming Santa's Workshop held on November 17th where a drive through Holiday Light Display will take place. This event is limited to 200 kids that will receive a present from Santa and have the ability to drop off their letter to Santa at the event. Mr. Bartholic reported on Safe Sitter Classes and how the last one of the year will be November 4th at Alameda. Jake also reported about the upcoming Breakfast with Santa event that is a new event this year and tickets are already sold out. There will be 24 lucky kids and their parents who get to enjoy breakfast with Alameda Park staff at Spring Hill Suits in Butler where they will meet Santa and take a picture with him. While they wait, kids will be able to do a craft and take home a bag of presents. Mr. Bartholic reported about the upcoming Parents Night Out which is December 8th at the Township Park Building. Jake also handed out a flyer to the group displaying the December 1st-31st Holiday Sale 2024 Pool Membership fees that will open up for Christmas sale in a few months.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm. Motion by Brian Perry. Second by Lisa Campbell. All in favor and motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,
Nicole Tropf