

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2022

I. Call to Order

- Laura Botto called the Meeting to order. The Meeting was held in Building G, Parks and Recreation Conference Room.

II. Invocation

- Kris Crane gave the Invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2021, Meeting

- Dale Rabon made a Motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Teagan Perry-Hall seconded. The Minutes were approved 4 to 0.

IV. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

There were no citizens wishing to be heard.

V. Commission Business Session

- **Parks and Recreation Board Initiatives (Budget Purposes)**

Aaron Perkins began by stating that at one time the Commissioners had looked at dissolving the Advisory Board for P&R, but Administration had requested to keep in place. Now asking that the Board be an advocate for the District they represent. If there are items that need improvement in your area, please let him know.

Aaron stated he has a new Supervisor, Deputy Manager Haynes Brigman, who came from a prior job where the Advisory Board was a big advocate. Steve Stone is new County Manager and he is a big advocate as well, along with being a supporter of training.

Advisory Board is part of NCRPA and conference in the fall will be held in Greenville, NC.

As part of the upcoming budget Aaron is requesting the funds for the Board to attend conferences. Budget is due March 4, 2022.

Laura Botto asked if the budget year still ran 7/1 through 6/30 and Aaron stated yes.

Teagan Perry-Hall indicated that as a member of NCRPA you can log in and sometimes find free online classes followed by a test.

Aaron said intentions are to start sending maintenance staff to more trainings.

Aaron stated that Steve had been with the County since 2002 and was moving in the right direction, along with Haynes wanted the Advisory Board to be involved and help with getting funding.

Laura stated that the 50+ Senior Cheerleading Program had resumed in person today at BCC. They had a new member join who back in the day was a cheerleader for the Baltimore Colts.

Dale Rabon said the way of life had changed as we knew it the past 18 to 24 months.

Kris Crane asked if there was a delay in getting items or equipment for the Parks.

Aaron said there had been a 38% increase in cost for items for our Department.

Teagan asked if we had any grants.

Aaron stated we had funds to purchase items, but the availability of the items was the issue.

Laura asked on status of 10 Year Comprehensive Master Plan.

Aaron indicated he should have something by June 2022. McGill would be sending a draft soon. The plan will come out simultaneously with the land use plan. Aaron will present to the Board for review prior to formal approval.

VI. Director's Report

• **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Aaron stated restroom facility is in place. Electrical rough ins are in. There is a hold up with the meter box. Met Mike Sullivan on meter to get changed up. Duplex grinder ordered in July 2021 and still hasn't come in. Once in will be put in by utilities, as well as utilities putting in the water tap and meter.

• **Navassa Park**

Restroom facility is in place. Meter came in today. CO has been scheduled and final walk through. Hope to pass and get facility open.

• **Youth Basketball**

Program has started with some challenges. Children with Covid, in addition to the ice storm then snow has caused the games to be pushed out to 3/19/22. Typically, games are January and February based on soccer season begins in March.

Laura asked where games were held.

Aaron stated they are played at the middle schools on Saturdays.

• **ARP Funds**

Received 2 million dollars to utilize at Leland Park, Northwest Park, Shallotte Park, Waccamaw Park, Cedar Grove Park, Navassa Park and Lockwood Folly Park. These funds will be allocated among these parks and used on scoreboards, fencing and items that have met their life expectancy. Goal is to bring parks up to a certain standard. New entrances and gates are on the list. The County received 28 million of which 11 million went to utilities and 2 million to parks. Using these funds instead of tapping into general fund. Have to follow procurement policy if using ARP funds. Currently quotes are only good for 5 days which make it difficult to secure those jobs that quickly. Have to get quotes to do the jobs.

Had 350 feet of fencing stolen at Town Creek Park Dog Park during Christmas holidays.

Someone cut link at entrance to enter park. Thoughts are that it is a contractor who needed the fencing to finish a job based on how they removed the fence.

Have had challenges with theft within the parks. Catalytic converters were stolen 6 times within the parks.

Brunswick Forest had fencing stolen also. Looking to get rid of white pvc fencing.

Lockwood Folly Park is listed next for full renovation with construction 7/1/2023.

Northwest Park would be next in the design process 7/1/23.

Requesting in CIP to utilize the 900-acre parcel on Highway 211 in the Green Swamp.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Kris asked about the two community request she had received by emails. One was on the benches at Sunset Harbor and the other on the trails at Brunswick Nature Park.

Aaron stated we had not received any email on the benches but had met with Dave Ellegood of SORBA regarding the trails at BNP. Currently in the process of updating signage and the kiosk there.

Laura asked about the soccer incident where Megan Peattie spoke.

Aaron stated he had discussed with Haynes, his Deputy County Manager. At this time, Haynes has spoken to Ms. Peattie directly and when soccer resumes our Department will look at ways to move forward.

Kris asked about registration fees.

Aaron stated we keep them as low as possible to be affordable for all families.

Kris asked if we offer financial assistance.

Aaron said we do and that football general managers raise funds to offer scholarships.

Kris stated that the cost of North Myrtle Beach programs are really low, but she noticed that First Tee and Dixie Youth Programs had increased their registration fees.

Aaron indicated that the schools had a hard time getting lacrosse started back.

Kris shared that Ryan Winslip wanted to put in place a travel lacrosse team.

Aaron stated that the County does recreation and not travel. If we did recreational lacrosse we would need facilities and space.

Our Department would like to do volleyball but have no indoor space. We couldn't use schools based on it conflicting with their volleyball and basketball. Schools do not want us to use their facilities in the summer based on they do not want to cut on a/c during those months.

May reach out to Ryan about doing camps for lacrosse instead.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Dale made a Motion to adjourn meeting and Kris seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

IX. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Teagan Perry-Hall, Laura Botto, Kris Crane and Dale Rabon

Board Members Absent: Mike Sullivan

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: None

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022