

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2024

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

- Hayley Burgess gave the Invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2024 Meeting

- **Mike Sullivan made a Motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Hayley Burgess 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

- **Multi-Use Path Dutchman Creek Park**

Aaron recapped the prior discussion on the request by Leon Hicks for a Greenway. Mr. Hicks and Claus Fey were present to ask for an update and how does the budget cycle work to ask for this project to be included.

Aaron explained that the budget cycle for FY 24/25 was already submitted when Mr. Hicks requested initially at the February meeting. Next cycle will begin October of 2024 to make request for FY 25/26.

Mr. Hicks asked if quotes would be necessary.

Laura asked if a petition would help Mr. Hicks' supporters.

Mr. Hicks will work on the petition and asked about crosswalks. Will the sidewalk that is in place allow the work?

Aaron will reach out to DOT about if walking is inside of fence and does it require curbing with crosswalks. Additionally, may could work with Duke Energy on funding.

Mike feels this would be in alignment if they went inside the fence line and asked how many people in his group would support the petition.

Mr. Hicks shared it is the South Harbor Village Subdivision, as well as other areas.

Aaron requested that Mr. Hicks return in October to present his petition.

- **Athletic Coordinator – Devonta Best**

Aaron introduced Devonta and asked him to share a little of his background.

Devonta stated he was from Warsaw, NC and attended NC Central. There he worked at Campus Rec through a Work Study Job. Started with exercise science but didn't like it so pursued Sports Management with Parks and Recreation. Worked for Wilmington Parks and Recreation for almost 3 years. Built up their flag football program and still volunteer coach for it. Began with BCP&R in September 2024 and is looking to add some new programs a few being Flag Football and Instructional Cheer.

Aaron shared these programs would allow 4, 5 and 6 year olds to participate. In addition, looking to add Lacrosse in the future.

Laura asked where Devonta lived now.

Teagan asked if Lacrosse would be male and female.

Aaron shared the District Attorney had reached out about the Lacrosse teams. Teams would be all male or all female based on females wear different helmets.

Mike stated it was a good idea to have these programs so individuals could get experience prior to attending high school.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Looking to get contract to legal for review, then allow invitation to bid on Phase 3. Key items to be added are dog park, walking trails and Musco lighting.

- **Update on Park Improvements**

Getting RFP's and bids for ARPA funding. Scoreboards and new signs in place. RFP out for fencing. Going to split rail fencing versus vinyl. New playgrounds to go to Dutchman Creek Park and Cedar Grove Park. Grant for third playground to be located at Navassa Park. IContracts in place for auto gates. Working on cameras in parks to have license recognition.

- **Upcoming Tournaments**

Dixie Boys State Tournament to be held at Town Creek Park July 12th through July 18th.

- **Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members**

Laura shared that staff and volunteers did a great job with Senior Games.

Teagan stated the Special Olympics was receiving great feedback.

Mike asked who took the coaches place over at South.

VII. Adjourn Meeting

Mike made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Teagan seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

VIII. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Laura Botto, Hayley Burgess, Teagan Perry-Hall and Mike Sullivan.

Board Members Absent: Dale Rabon

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins, Devonta Best and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Leon Hicks and Claus Fey

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2024