

**MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 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

- Teagan Perry Hall gave the Invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 10, 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

Barb Textoris was present on behalf of Leon Hicks and Daniel Russo. Ms. Textoris stated Mr. Hicks asked her to attend regarding the request for multiple paths at Dutchman Creek Park. Ms. Textoris submitted a petition that had been signed by over 200 individuals in support of the request. Mike Sullivan asked if she had spoken with the Town and she indicated yes but had a ways to go. Aaron stated to make connectivity, the Town would have to be involved.

Wendy Gentile, a St. James resident was present and provided some background information on herself. She in the past was a High School Principal, Recreation Director, Physical Education Teacher, Coach and current Hiker. Utilizes Brunswick Nature Park and request trails be marked better based on she recently got lost in Park and signs nor maps provided clear routes of how to exit. Aaron shared Park was part of Coastal Land Trust and strict agreement regarding signage. Can't spray trees and would have to get permission for any flagging. Aaron will reach out to Coastal Land Trust on any suggestions.

V. Commission Business Session

• **USSSA Travel Ball**

Aaron provided some background information. Past 7 months our office has been involved with dispute from Director of USSSA Travel Ball. CEO operates out of Florida and Directors are all over East coast to West coast. They rent facilities for personal gain. SC representative wants to come into NC and eliminate the Brunswick County individual. Situation has escalated to calling and texting P&R Staff from robo numbers. Aaron looking to Board to make a recommendation of how to move forward. Options are continue and allow them usage of BC fields, ban them or put in place a 7-year ban. Laura asked what the exact issue was.

Aaron stated it was a cutthroat business. CEO said do what you have do. SC division utilizes NMB Sports Complex. When they use our fields, they do not want the NC group to use it.

Mike asked If Staff is being harassed and what percentage are they using.

Laurs asked if NC isn't the problem and SC is why ban the entire entity.

Mike asked if it would affect our budget.

Aaron shared that 70 teams in SC makes the same as 20 teams in NC based on the fields in NC are so much cheaper than SC. Only way is to ban the entire group. Have dealt with individual for weeks who was trying to reserve fields illegally. Group has even reached out to BOC.

Mike Sullivan made a Motion to ban the group for 7 years from using BCP&R facilities. Hayley Burgess seconded. The Motion carried 4 to 0.

- **River Road Property**

Aaron and Melinda went to meet with gentleman who has 101 acres near Dutchman Creek Park. Access is by boat only. Access point is owned by Duke who wouldn't allow usage to get to property by land. Gentleman wants to donate with exceptions. Funding from sale he wants to name after the Governor and leave a legacy.

Laura stated you would have to have access.

Aaron replied anything you build would have to go over on a barge. Gentleman wanted Aaron to share to see if anything could be done.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Went to BOC on 10/7/24. Wells Brothers to start Phase 3. Pre-construction meeting was 11/7/24. Waiting on Notice to Proceed.

- **Update on Cedar Grove Park and Dutchman Creek Park**

Cedar Grove Park playground is complete. Operation Services is doing the concrete walkway. Dutchman Creek Park playground is under construction now.

- **Update on ARPA enabled**

Funds will allow fencing and automatic gates. Phase 1 will include Waccamaw Park, Shallotte Park and Ocean Isle Beach Park. Cameras with plate recognition will go out to bid when gates are completed for all 12 Park entrances. Put in icontracts the playground for Navassa Park.

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

Laura asked how National Conference was.

Aaron stated Atlanta is different. Had curfew in place. So much information to learn.

Mike requested new chairs be purchased for Conference Room.

Aaron said we could request in the Advisory Boards budget.

Laura wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, see you December 10, 2024.

VII. Adjourn Meeting

Mike made a Motion to adjourn the meeting and Hayley 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 and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Barb Textoris and Wendy Gentile

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2024