

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 19, 2016

I. Call to Order

- Laura Botto called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in Building M, 2nd Floor Conference Room. Laura welcomed Mike Allocco and Danny Sellers, two new Board Members. She stated she appreciated them volunteering and asked that they do what is best for the County and not just their individual Parks. Told them to jump in and don't be afraid to make a motion.

II. Invocation

- Laura Botto gave the invocation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 21, 2016 Meeting

- **The Minutes were approved 4-0. Leander Mosley made a motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Mike Allocco seconded.**

IV. Citizens wishing to be heard

- Howard Benton spoke on behalf of the West Brunswick Youth Softball Association and the State Playoffs held at Waccamaw Park. The Tournament was held July 1 through July 6, 2016. Howard stated that they had no problems and P&R Staff did a super job. The 10, 14 and 16 year olds placed second in the state. There were 23 teams. Teams played at Waccamaw and remainder at Town Creek Park. The State Director would like to host tournament again at these locations. Howard expressed his thanks again to P&R for all they did to make the tournament a success.

V. Commission Business Session

- **Discussion of Howard Benton Service Plaque**

Aaron stated that Howard Benton had served for 27 years on the P&R Advisory Board and that he would like to suggest doing a bench with a plaque on it like we did for Morry Watkins. Aaron suggested placing the bench near the tennis courts at OIB Park until such time as the ball fields are done and then move it to the ball fields.

Laura stated you can't dedicate a Park, but you can place an item in the Park in honor/memory of someone.

Leander made a motion to approve Aaron's request, which was seconded by Mike. The motion passed 4 to 0.

VI. Director's Report

- **Introduction of New Advisory Board Members**

Aaron once again welcomed Mike Allocco and Danny Sellers as new Advisory Board Members. Mike replaced Howard Benton and Danny replaced Erik Bocook. Aaron stated he looked forward to having them on the Board and asked that they feel free to call him with any questions.

- **Update on Town Creek Park Project**
Held the State Playoffs for Softball Tournament on 7/1-7/6/16 for nine different age groups. Opening Ceremony was 7/1/16. Getting ready for football, cheerleading and soccer. Scoreboards and sound system are up and working. Park looks good.
- **Update on Waccamaw Park Project**
Held the State Playoffs for Softball Tournament on 7/1-7/6/16. Put in Novus to move forward with Outer Banks Tennis to complete the tennis courts. Court One has asked for additional funds due to undesirable soil. Court One has written letter they will back away. Will take to BOC on 8/1 to approve contract with Outer Banks Tennis. Maintenance Building has been started. They are putting in sewer and water for the building.
- **Update on Smithville Park Project**
Grand opening of Trillium Grant Playground is scheduled for 7/21/16 at 10:00 am. There will be give ways, hot dogs, drinks and keynote speakers. BOC have made a few changes to Phase 1 of Smithville. They are requesting that press boxes be put in.
- **Update on Ocean Isle Beach Park**
Two million has been allocated for Phase 2. Will know after audit in October what funds are available. Need additional 2.5 million. If available will move forward to do site design.

Mike asked if money was not allocated what would happen. Aaron stated it is on hold till BOC feel they can allocate. Mike asked if we could do a partial and Aaron said no. Two million wouldn't be enough to do Phase 2. Laura asked if funds would be there and Aaron indicated it depends on taxes, etc.

VII. Comments from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

Mike asked about bike plan. Is there a comprehensive plan within the County and does it include the beach area? Aaron said yes that it is set to go throughout all 17 municipalities. Kirstie Dixon is talking to all municipalities. Have blueway/greenway plan in draft stage and should know more soon.

Mike asked about connectivity with the beaches and if he could contact Kirstie directly. Aaron said yes. Mike thinks it is a safety issue and need to incorporate connection from main road to beaches.

Mike asked if the 2009 Master Comprehensive Plan is being considered for a revision. Aaron stated possibly by 2019. Aaron said an annual strategic plan is done to determine what is needed now and the comprehensive plan is done to determine long term.

Aaron stated that strategic plans are sent out for ranking in November each year to be returned by December. Mike asked if it is facility focused or does it include partnerships. Mike asked if we have written partnership agreements with the school. Aaron said we have a MOU with the Board of Education. Aaron stated we do facility maintenance with the schools.

Danny asked what connection Bill Smith Park is with BCP&R. Aaron stated Bill Smith Park is not a County Park and is operated and maintained by the Town of Oak Island. Danny asked when Smithville Park renovations are completed will County activities that are held at Bill Smith Park go to Smithville Park and Aaron stated yes.

Danny said Bill Smith Park is not safe and no one keeps up the Park.

Laura suggested Danny go to Oak Island P&R and complain.

Aaron stated Dixie Youth ages 4 to 12 are not part of BCP&R. We have League Agreements with the 12 and under age group for them to use our fields, but we do not run and operate their programs. Dixie Youth provides with their League Agreements copies of their insurance and schedules for BCP&R to facilitate fields on County owned and operated parks.

Aaron indicated that BCP&R did help Oak Island at Bill Smith Park in regards to tarps for the dugouts and temporary fencing. Southport Dixie Youth is only organization that doesn't use a County Park.

Danny said people want to come to the beach to play tournaments and it would generate revenue.

Aaron said BC is good at serving everybody in the County. Most parks are used by residents in the County. Parks are built to serve the County and not here to make a business out of Parks. We don't have staff to run tournaments like that.

Mike said there are opportunities to generate revenue from outside people to be able to use on people within the County. People want to come to the beach for tournaments.

Danny said kids can't afford to play. Danny said he has coached for 17 years and umpired and kids drop out that can't afford to play.

Aaron said BC as a whole charges the bare minimum for programs and does its best with recreation programs. We don't do travel or competitions.

Laura said we don't cater to travel, we cater to all.

Mike asked if there are creative ways to fund programs for kids with lower incomes and where can we get those funds.

Danny said Pre Majors didn't have helmets. Aaron said BCP&R provides those helmets and has them reconditioned.

Aaron suggested having Pre Majors play at Parks instead of schools. Coaches at schools have their own agenda and how they run things.

Danny requested that a volunteer coach Pre Majors instead of the high school coaches.

Aaron said high school coaches have access to the school facilities.

Danny said Pre Majors not run well and didn't know who the coaches were.

Danny complained that SBHS ball field was not safe and that he had complained to BOE. Had to complain again to finally get it fixed. Aaron said we have a checklist to make sure that Parks are in compliance with safety, but we do not have one with schools.

Mike asked if we have an agreement with schools, why don't we have a checklist.

Aaron stated we are not the same entity. We have an agreement that sets out specific items we take care of for the schools.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting

Danny made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mike. The meeting was adjourned.

IX. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Leander Mosley, Mike Allocco, Danny Sellers and Laura Botto

Board Members Absent: Dale Rabon

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Howard Benton

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, August 16, 2016