

MINUTES
BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 8, 2019

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 August 13, 2019 Meeting

- **Mike Sullivan made a Motion to accept the Minutes as approved and Kris Crane seconded. The Minutes were approved 4 to 0.**

IV. Citizens Wishing to be Heard

Ted Symanski and George Briggs from Ocean Ridge Plantation were present. Mr. Symanski introduced himself and Mr. Briggs stating they had emailed Aaron a list of questions regarding OIB Park. Explained that he and Mr. Briggs are the go between for the residents of ORP. Since the Grand Opening of the expansion they have collected input from individuals. Mr. Symanski stated that Aaron could address the questions in the email when he went over OIB Park during his Director's Report.

V. Commission Business Session

- **Marketing and Community Events Coordinator**

Aaron introduced Melinda Johnson as BCP&R Marketing and Community Events Coordinator.

Melinda began by saying as part of the Community Events she oversees the Little Princess Ball (Daddy/Daughter Dance) each year in February. It is a co-sponsorship with Communities in Schools and on its 11th year. The Ball has been held at up to three locations, but currently is held at two. Partners with Town of Shallotte for Halloween Event. Has been on the Oyster Festival Committee for ten years. Oversees swim and water aerobics at The Winds at Ocean Isle Beach, but programs will be ending based on The Winds has changed ownership. Each summer has summer camp and partners with the Town of Shallotte and Cooperative Extension. Has contracted programs for Instructional Cheer, Tennis, Pickle Ball, Art, Scrapbooking and Knitting. Offers shag in four different locations throughout the County. Does the Program Guide Brochure three times a year. Hosted the Grand Tea for the first-time last year and will be offering it every other year. Handles the marketing for the Department and public releases. Produce a monthly newsletter and sets up marketing booths at events.

Mike asked how long had Melinda been with P&R? Mel responded twelve years.

Laura stated that Melinda would also come out to do presentations.

VI. Director's Report

- **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Batting cages are in place. Ordered 1000 cubic feet of ABC stone to put in walking trail.

Operation Services will do in house. Waiting on sod for multipurpose field. Staff is limited

right now based on working on the shooting range for the Sheriff's Department. Will be submitting proposal for restroom/concession at front of park to accommodate people from crossing the street. Building will be pre-fabricated concrete. Put up new sign at entrance. Mike thanked Aaron for getting the goal post up.

- **Update on Ocean Isle Beach Park Project**

Still waiting on the final pay application for work on renovation. Have some concerned citizens regarding the expansion. Have received emails about Dog Park. Citizens would like to see tables and chairs inside the Dog Park so they can be closer to their pets. No way to do a shelter inside, but have ordered tables and benches to put within the large and small side. There have been questions regarding the gate latches and problems. Staff has met with Operation Services to add another gate on the right side of entrance.

Mr. Symanski said Shallotte Park has buffer zone to go into the Dog Park and why didn't OIB Park? Mr. Symanski stated that people were bringing their own chairs to sit in at the Dog Park at OIB.

Aaron said they are addressing a lot of the issues, but have to wait on the final pay application to determine how much funds are left to repair things. Aaron stated they have added frost free water bid for the dogs.

Next question emailed from Mr. Symanski was about the scheduling of the ball fields. Aaron said at this time nothing has been scheduled except Senior Softball on Tuesday mornings on Field 1. Mr. Symanski asked if there was a master schedule.

Kris said on Tuesday and Thursday nights her children participate in fall ball.

Aaron said we have an internal schedule, but not a public one and that individuals would reach out to our office to reserve. Unless they are scheduled, they are a first come, first serve.

Mr. Symanski said ORP would like to play on Saturday afternoon. Aaron stated that they are first come, first serve unless reserved.

Mr. Symanski stated that there are issues with lights being on until 10 pm when nothing is scheduled.

Aaron said Musco lights control the lights and are set to come on and off. New system has push button, but old system on the tennis courts and multipurpose field come on at dusk and go off when park closes.

Mike asked what the concern about the lights being on is.

Mr. Briggs said it has been a concern since the beginning. He stated LED is better, but didn't want the lights on.

Aaron said it isn't LED lights on the existing multipurpose and tennis courts. Would need funds to upgrade those existing lights.

Kris said ORP Foundation could make a contribution to buy new lights for multipurpose field and tennis courts. Kris stated that the Park was a great asset and was designated a long time ago.

Aaron said he would know more after the final pay application is done. Will look at push buttons for the multipurpose field and tennis courts.

Next question was regarding shade at the pickleball courts and windscreens.

Kris said this would be another good contribution for ORP.

Next question was if advertisements are allowed at the Park.

Aaron said you can't earmark money that comes through the County because it goes into the general fund and becomes funds for overall. You can reach out to leagues about banners. You can sponsor a team for a certain amount and have a sign put up.

Kris asked if when grass was sown was there a warranty.

Melinda said it took three years for grass to get established at Town Creek Park.

Aaron said the community loves the Park. There have been some issues that concerned citizens have had. We are working to get things in place.

Another concern is the parking at the Dog Park and that we should have had more parking.

Said the basketball players are using all the parking.

Question was asked if OIB owns land not deeded previously.

Aaron stated that if any future plans were done it would be in the 52 acres and would not depend on OIB donating more land.

- **Update on Brunswick Waterway Park**

Ordered ABC Stone to do driveway and parking lots. Will look at prefabricated restroom/shelter and doing walking trails. Taking place slowly.

- **Navassa Park Concession Stand and Shelter**

Still in the works. Coming along slowly. Should have pre-fabricated building by the end of the year. Have ordered new sign for the entrance that looks the same as Smithville Park.

- **10 Year Comprehensive Master Plan**

Met with Planning Department two weeks ago and outlined what we are looking for. Will be a joint 10-year plan/land use to help in cost.

Melinda asked if the land use was developed or not developed. Aaron said it would be the blueways and greenways also. Will send out RFQ and select 3 or 4 firms and then pick one to move forward. When the time comes will be getting everyone involved from Staff to the Advisory Board, Operation Services and Citizens.

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

Kris said she is involved in Brunswick Wellness Coalition, a nonprofit sponsored by Doshier to improve the health of Brunswick County. Asked if there was a list of what each Parks Offers.

Melinda stated we had a handout, but it needs to be updated and was waiting till we got the 10 Year Master Comprehensive Plan done before spending the funds to do a new pamphlet.

Kris asked if it included gyms and showed where all the Parks are.

Melinda told Kris she could email her with any questions about the amenities.

Kris said The Winds was under new management and we could no longer have swim lessons there.

Melinda said The Winds would not allow swim lessons or water aerobics.

Kris said that Coast FA Soccer out of Myrtle Beach practices at Jessie Mae Elementary. Would like to practice indoor soccer at JMES.

Aaron said we use the elementary schools for basketball, but told Kris should would have to go through the schools about usage.

Kris said she is at OIB Park 3 times a week and has received very good feedback. Stated it is fun to see every aspect of that facility being utilized. Only negative comment she has received is that there is no place to hang bats/helmets in the dugouts.

Kris also stated she felt bad that Daniel has a hard time trying to get soccer coaches.

Aaron said we have tapped into every outlet possible to get coaches. Background check makes it hard to coach. Our office offers free registration for participant if parent

coaches. Have a lot of kids playing and need a lot of coaches. Staff has to typically help coach.

Kris said she is happy to try and do leg work to help get coaches.

Mike said it is cool to have coaches that help even when they don't have a kid involved.

Mike said they use a team app to help with spreading information.

Teagan said she is at Smithville Park 3 days a week. Sometimes a negative can make a positive. Stated first two weeks of soccer were challenging, but that programming is hard. Her coaches for her children have been great.

VII. Adjourn Meeting

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

VIII. Meeting Roll Call

Board Members Present: Laura Botto, Kris Crane, Teagan Perry-Hall and Mike Sullivan

Board Members Absent: Dale Rabon

Staff Members Present: Aaron Perkins, Melinda Johnson and Tanya Jackson

Citizens of Interest: Ted Symanski and George Briggs

Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2019