

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD  
May 16, 2016

---

**Present:** Faye Little, Joyce Moody, May Fisher, Harry Packard, Jim Wright, and Myra Butler

**Absent:** Melinda Bookwalter, Penny Usilton, Brian Williams, and Commissioner William Pickrum

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

At 6:09 p.m. the meeting was called to order.

Minutes of the March meeting were previously approved via electronic Doodle Poll on April 22.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Recreation

1. Betterton Beach Lifeguard Schedule

- a) The Commissioners have approved a Saturday/Sunday only, beginning Memorial Day weekend, schedule for lifeguarding. A budget of \$8600 was also approved for equipment and supplies (i.e. lifeguard chairs, radios, binoculars). Equipment and supplies will be stored in a 10x10 shed, which is set to be delivered during the first week of June. Until the shed arrives, items will be transported to the beach each weekend.

B. Parks

1. Program Open Space Project Updates

- a) Betterton Beach Bathhouse Design
- (i) A preliminary version of the Betterton Beach Bathhouse Design was provided by Mr. Wright for the Board to view. The final design will have a few small tweaks from the preliminary version. The bathhouse will have an outdoor shower, storage room, and a breakroom for lifeguards.
- (ii) The bathhouse is tentatively included in the budget for FY17, but will depend on the County Commissioners' approval.
- b) Worton Park Enhancement
- (i) Mr. Wright is awaiting a final estimate so that bidding can move forward.
- (ii) It is hoped that all three areas can be completed at one time, which would unfortunately, temporarily make fields unavailable for youth sports. The high school has been requested to permit use of their practice soccer fields while the Worton Park fields are being completed. The fields would not be available for three seasons playing after the work has been completed.

C. Other

1. Rails To Trails

- a) In follow up to questions raised by Ms. Bookwalter about plans to connect the trail to Worton from Chestertown, Ms. Butler informed that there have been no discussions or movement of this sort, per the County Administrator's knowledge.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recreation

1. Summer 2016

- a) Community Center Building Hours
- (i) As of May 1, building hours changed to 8:30-6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, for the spring and summer.
- b) Staff
- (i) At least 35 guards will be needed this summer in order to be in a comfortable staffing position for the pools and Betterton Beach.

- (ii) Summer Camp Directors have been hired. Camp Counselors will be submitted for approval this week.
- c) Programs
  - (i) Ms. Butler reviewed enrollment numbers to date for all summer camp programs as well as swim lessons.
  - (ii) Grant funding has been received from the Local Management Board to offer free youth swim lessons at Bayside Pool. The swim lessons will specifically target youth in the Baywood Court Community in Rock Hall, and will offer transportation to and from the lessons. Lesson will take place at 6:30 in the evening. Funding will also provide free lessons at Millington Pool that will target youth in the Calvert Heights community. These lessons will take place at 5:30 in the evening, and transportation will also be provided. Registration packets are being distributed by the rental offices of Baywood Court and Calvert Heights Apartments.
  - (iii) Pickle ball- This program is averaging 10 people, and will be expanding to the outdoor tennis court in a couple of weeks. A reservation board similar to that used for platform tennis will be created for Pickle ball reservations. Ms. Butler does not feel that there will be any issues or conflicts with tennis use.
  - (iv) Ping Pong is averaging 5-7 people.
- d) Pools/Concession Stand
  - (i) The Community Center Pool passed inspection early last week.
  - (ii) Bayside Pool passed inspection this morning.
  - (iii) Millington Pool is scheduled for inspection this week.
  - (iv) The Betterton Beach certification to operate has been received.
  - (v) The Concession Stand passed inspection last week.
  - (vi) All pools will open the last week of May. Staff training will be held on Mother's Day weekend for aquatics staff.
  - (vii) Concessions stand training will be held next week on May 24.
  - (viii) Summer Camp staff training will be held during the week of June 20, with camps opening the following week.
- 2. FY17 Budget Climate
  - (i) Although budgets have not yet been kicked back to departments from the Commissioners'/Finance Office, funding is anticipated to be flat this year with minimal funding for capital projects or operating budgets. Department should begin getting an idea of which items have been kept and which items have been cut in the coming weeks. The budget is generally adopted during the third week of June.
- 3. Youth Recreation Commission Initiative
  - (i) Parks and Recreation is planning to implement a Youth Recreation Commission thanks to interest raised at a recent Local Management Board Youth Forum. The Commission will give high school aged children an opportunity to be a part of the planning of activities and events at the Community Center. The first meetings of the Commission will be held on May 18 and June 8 at the Community Center. Ms. Butler hopes that during these meetings a president will be elected, as well as an order of the Commission and ground rules will be created. If successful, Ms. Butler hopes that activities may expand to offsite field trips, guest speakers, important topics (i.e. racism, job readiness, etc.) for high school aged children.
  - (ii) Mr. Packard questioned whether or not a high school based liaison will be designated to relay student questions to KCPR. Ms. Butler will take this suggestion into consideration, and may potentially speak to Paul Tue of the Bayside Hoyas regarding fulfilling this role. Ms. Butler hopes that the lead members of the Youth Recreation Commission may also serve as student advisory board members for the PRAB.
- 4. Door Alert Security Systems
  - (i) The door alert security systems in both the Concession Stand and Community Center are now in place.

5. Youth Sports Recognition

(i) On May 3 Ms. Butler recognized the Kent County Spartans Football and Cheer (formerly Pop Warner) during the meeting of the County Commissioners. Players and coaches were recognized for achievements and team initiatives. The Football and Cheer program had 6 players recognized in the scholastic program, with all 6 reaching the National level, which takes place in Florida. The Junior Midget cheerleaders finished 1<sup>st</sup> at the Bayside Championship.

(ii) Also recognized were players and coaches of the KCPR Junior Wrestling program. Recently the Commissioners approved new funding for new wrestling mats and singlets that mirror those of the Kent County High School. A wrestling banquet was also recently held to recognize players and coaches. Coaches Chris Yiannakis and Donnie Yerkie are responsible for reviving the program, which was almost cut due to a lack of participants just two years ago.

B. Parks

1. Kent County Youth Baseball League Challenges

(i) Ms. Butler informed that there have recently been challenges experienced in attempting to address the numerous wants and needs expressed by the new leadership of the league. Attempts are being made to get the league president to understand that the policies and procedures have been in place for a long time, and why they were established. One recent request made by the league president was for an additional field in Galena, which the league participation numbers do not currently support. Ms. Butler plans to meet with the president to explain why current numbers will not support this project.

2. Adult Soccer

(i) An outdoor drop-in Soccer program was started at Worton Park on Tuesday and Thursdays. Numbers have started out low, but will likely pick up.

C. Other

1. KCHS Post Prom Party

(i) The 2016 Post Prom party will be held this weekend at the Community Center. Grant money has been received from the Local Management Board, and will be used for anything except large high priced prizes. Full time KCPR staff as well as some seasonal staff will work the event. There are more giveaways planned for this year's event, in addition to a drawstring bag and souvenir cup for each attendee. Rather than having attendees collect chips to win prizes, they will win prizes by winning certain games. Prizes can be picked up when the student leaves for the night.

2. Youth Sports Equipment Grant Proposals

a) The following grant requests were received and reviewed.

(i) Kent County Youth Soccer

(a) A request has been made for soccer goal nets, goals, and field corner flag sets, totaling \$4,878.36. There was no indication of any matching funds that will be provided by the league, although the total request was less than the \$5,000. The Board requested to add the requirement of 3 quotes to the grant submitted, including the company in which the equipment will be purchased from.

(ii) Kent County Youth Baseball

(a) A request was made for funding to purchase helmets, face guards, tees, first aid kits, cold packs, coaches bags, and portable batting nets at a total cost of \$5,000, as the total project will cost \$10,230. The league is prepared to contribute funding to the request, although no amount was specified in the request, and no quotes were received. The Board requested a quote, an exact amount for matching funds, and an itemized listing of exactly what will be purchased using the

\$5,000 grant money.

(iii) Kent County Shore Sticks Field Hockey

(a) A request was made for field hockey goals, goalie uniforms, and goalie jerseys for a total cost of \$8,612. There was no matching funds amount submitted. Questions were raised as to the condition of the goals currently being used, which are owned and purchased by the county. Mr. Wright will look into this. As their request was not in line with the stipulations of the grant, the league will be requested to resubmit the grant, not including goals, for consideration.

(iv) As questions remained for all three submissions, Ms. Butler will follow up on all questions, and send the follow up to Board members along with a Doodle Poll for voting on the grant applications.

3. Board Assessment Survey

(i) Ms. Butler plans to distribute a survey during the next board meeting to determine what the Board would like to see in order for members to be more active, in addition to the goals and priorities for the Board. Ms. Butler will also obtain input from Ms. Bookwalter prior to distributing the survey.

**IV. REPORTS**

Chair:	No Report
Vice-Chair:	Nothing to Report
Turner's Creek:	No Report
Worton Park:	Nothing to Report
Bayside/Ingleside	No Report
Betterton Beach:	Nothing to Report
Millington Pool:	Nothing to Report
Edesville:	Nothing to Report
Toal Park:	Nothing to Report
High School:	Vacant
High School:	Vacant
County Commissioner:	No Report
Board of Education:	No Report

**VI. Adjournment**

At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Cannon, seconded by Mrs. Little, and passed by a majority of the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denisha Brown, Office Manager