



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



Kent County Community Center * 11041 Worton Rd., Worton * MD 21678

February 13, 2023, at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance: Jill Coleman, Member; Drew Davis, Student Member; Faye Little, Vice Chair; Albert Nickerson, Member; Greg Welch, Jr., Member; Jane Welsh, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

Absent: Mary Fisher, Trish McGee, Joyce Moody, Mike Moulds, Penny Usilton.

MINUTES

The minutes from the November 21, 2022 meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Little called the board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The meeting started with board member introductions.

A binder containing information pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Department was distributed to each member; Ms. Coleman went over the contents.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Coleman provided the following updates:

Recreation

Full Time Staff Updates (Old and New)

- We recently filled one of our two facility monitor positions. The department is still down the following two full-time staff positions: deputy director, and another facility monitor position.

FY23 Capital Projects

- One of the department’s capital budget projects is to replaster the swimming pools. The Millington pool and the Community Center’s kiddie pool both need to be completely replastered, as well as the shallow end (0 ft. – 3 ft. entry) of the Community Center’s main pool. After completing the RFPs and receiving the quotes back, it was determined that there are not enough funds for the work to be done on all three pools. Only the Millington pool and kiddie pool, which are the most urgent due to neglect from last season’s management company, will be completed at this time. Ms. Coleman commented that the cost for repairs and chlorine have skyrocketed since last season. She said for the upcoming pool season, the department will staff the lifeguards, and hire CW Services to balance and maintain the pools.

Spring/Summer 2023 Schedule of Programs & Activities

- Preparation has begun for our spring and summer programs, and we are working on training for summer camp personnel, lifeguards, and pool cashiers.
- We have just started working on our FY24 budget.

Parks

Local Parks & Playground Infrastructure Grant Projects Status

County Parks:

- Ms. Coleman gave the following updates for projects funded by Program Open Space (POS):

Betterton Beach:

- New steps were installed from the park up to the pavilion.

Edesville:

- A new swing set will be installed.

Town of Galena:

- A new design is forthcoming for a restroom at Toal Park. We are hopeful that the restroom will be completed in 2025.

Worton:

- The multi-purpose field lights arrived and will be installed in a couple of weeks. The lights will be installed on the middle field. It will be great to have the field well-lit for the football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey programs. Ms. Coleman said she plans to schedule a meeting with everyone so that rules can be established to ensure that the field gets shared fairly.
- A new playground is forthcoming.
- The lights will be replaced with LED lights at Orem Field.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Coleman provided the following updates:

Recreation

Spring/Summer 2023 Schedule of Programs & Activities

- We hired two girls from the high school to teach our Tumbling and Movement class; the class is for children ages 2-10. The program was just posted this morning and already 15 people registered.
- Summer Camp registrations opened February 1st. Kiddie Camp is already full, and eight (8) children have registered for Day Camp.
- We are hosting a “Little Glove Bug League” which starts girls out playing softball, instead of them having to play T-ball with the boys. The program will involve live pitching. It is a Co-ed program, and it is for Pre-K and Kindergarten children. We currently have nine (9) children registered for the program, and we are hoping more will register so that we can form teams for them to play against each other.
- A notice has been posted for advertising our Youth Swim Lessons, and 13 people have already registered. The lifeguards teach the swim lessons, and it is always a big hit.
- In addition to our Adult Softball League, we are working on an Adult Kick Ball League which will start in April at the Orem Field in Worton Park.
- The County Commissioners provided an incentive for county employees to join the facility. During the month of January, all employees were invited to get a free Facility Access Card; approximately 50 employees took advantage of their generous offer.
- In an effort to take care of the County’s employees first, Summer Camp registrations were opened for employees to register their children three days prior to being opened to the public; approximately six employees registered their child(ren) early. Since registration is very limited for Kiddie Camp, it was important for our employees with younger children to be able to participate and to not have to worry about childcare for the summer.

Parks

- We are working with the Planning Department for maps of Turners Creek. We will post them on our website so that people can locate and find information about the County's walking trails and the various other amenities. We are starting with Turners Creek and will then move on to Worton Park, and then Toal Park. Eventually, maps will be made available online for all of our parks.
- For years the Kent Museum, and then Soil Conservation, farmed at Turners Creek. We recently found out that because this area was purchased with Program Open Space (POS) funds, we are not allowed to do any farming on this property. We have made the Kent Museum and Kent Soil and Water Conservation District aware of this regulation.
- The historic Granary at Turners Creek is in disrepair and is becoming a safety hazard. Our Commissioners recommended that we reach out to the County's Historic Preservation Commission for advice and possibly the Historic Society in St. Michaels to see if they are interested in having it.

Other

Bylaws

- Ms. Coleman asked the Board to think about how they want to revamp the Board's committees. She said since there are not enough members to form several committees as currently documented in the bylaws, she suggested to form the top three, so that each committee will have at least 2-3 members. She said her thoughts for the top three committees could be: 1) Parks, 2) Recreation, and 3) Marketing. Ms. Coleman volunteered to meet with the Board's Chair prior to the next meeting to discuss.

Advisory Board Member Terms (Expiration)

- Ms. Coleman said according to the Board's bylaws, Ms. Fisher's term as Chair for the Board and Ms. Little's term as Vice-Chair have expired. She informed the Board that they must hold an election, and she asked the members to refer to Section II of the bylaws to review the duties for both positions. Ms. Coleman asked for nominations.
 - Ms. Welsh nominated Ms. Moody for Chair. Ms. Moody was not present at the meeting to accept the nomination.
 - Mr. Welch nominated himself for Chairman of the Board. All members present at the meeting were in favor of the nomination.
 - Ms. Coleman asked Ms. Adams to contact Ms. Moody to see if she will accept the nomination of Vice Chair.

FY23 Youth Sports Equipment Grant

- The Board reviewed and voted on the following two Youth Sports Equipment Grant applications that were received:
 - Kent County Youth Baseball is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,459.24 for helmets, first aid kits, jugs, baseballs, scorebooks, and catching gear; and
 - Kent Spartans (Football) is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,474.88.

Ms. Coleman informed the Board that the grant allows for approved applicants to be awarded up to \$2,000 each, and it comes with a required match.

Ms. Welsh made a motion for approving both requests, and Ms. Little seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

Ms. Adams was asked to send an email to the members who were absent for soliciting a seventh vote.

REPORTS

Vice-Chair/Worton Park: Faye J. Little
Nothing to report

Betterton Beach: Greg Welch
Nothing to report

Kent County Commissioners: Albert Nickerson
Nothing to report

Kent County High School: Drew Davis
Ms. Davis asked if the pump at the Millington pool has been checked in preparation for the upcoming pool season. Ms. Coleman said she thinks that the problem was not with the pump itself, but instead with the suction and vacuum lines. Ms. Coleman said she will have it checked out to ensure that the problem is fixed.

Ms. Coleman suggested the Board decide whether to continue with the same reporting process or to revamp the process. Ms. Welsh commented that it would be nice to receive everyone's report in advance for reviewing prior to the meeting.

Ms. Coleman thanked the new members for their willingness to serve on the Board. She informed everyone that the May meeting will be a working meeting for reviewing and updating the bylaws and for forming committees.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Welsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Welch seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 15, 2023