



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



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

**February 9, 2026, at 5:30 PM
Kent County Community Center – Meeting Room**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Rick Myers, Chair; Albert Nickerson, County Commissioner and Vice Chair; Aidan Butler, Student Representative; Jill Coleman, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation; Joyce Moody, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

MINUTES

Due to the absence of a quorum, the minutes from the November 17, 2025, meeting could not be approved during this meeting. Members were advised that the minutes will be distributed and voted on electronically.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks

- Program Open Space (POS) and Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Projects Updates (Jill Coleman on behalf of Carrie Klein):
 - Dog Park and Dugouts (Worton Park): The fencing contract has been approved, and the dugouts have been ordered. Installation is planned to begin in early March; however, weather delays have impacted the schedule. The dugouts are expected to be completed by the end of March, with the dog park anticipated to be ready by June 1.
 - Concession Stand and Restroom Enhancements (Worton Park): Both projects are in their final stages. The former concession stand is being converted into a storage space and painting is underway, and final details are being completed on the restrooms. Completion is expected by March 31.
 - Orem Field Dugouts and Restroom Improvements (Worton Park): Restroom renovations are approximately 85% complete. The Kent County Grounds Division will return to regrade the fields, and the pitching mound on Orem Field has been rebuilt. Plans for the restrooms include installing a security camera and a remote locking system. Due to unexpected weather, the anticipated completion date for both projects is now the end of March.
 - Ballfield Enhancements (Worton Park): The digital sign is now operational at the park entrance on the left. Although the process took time, the result was well worth the wait. The sign features program information, sports registration details, and highlights the athlete of the week. Once the park opens, a directional sign will be added to indicate which direction to go for each field.
 - The Toal ballpark and benches have been completed.
 - The Betterton Beach Boardwalk Project: The project is currently on hold due to weather delays,

resulting in an approximate three-week setback. Completion is now expected by the end of April.

- Toal Park and Turner's Creek meadow restoration: This project, funded through a grant partnership with Washington College, remains a work in progress. Weather conditions have caused delays, but completion is anticipated once conditions improve.
- The old playground at Edesville Park has been demolished and a new playground has been installed. The project was completed on January 15th.
- Still Pond Station Site Plan: At the last meeting, the Board agreed to table this discussion until the May meeting, when the weather is warmer and members can visit the site. During the May meeting, the Board will review potential improvements and hold the scheduled meeting on-site.
- Edesville Park Communication Board: A Communication Board has been installed at no cost to the county, and reimbursement from the grantor is pending.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Free Facility Access Cards (FAC) were offered to students during September, with the promotion extended through the end of December. The offer was available to all Kent County students aged 13 and older. A total of 82 FACs were distributed to Kent County high school and middle school students.
- An emergency phone is now operational at Worton Park, located near the bathroom and AED. The phone is programmed to dial 911 only and includes a tamper wire on the exterior of the box that triggers an alarm if disturbed. The Commissioners approved this purchase through one of our capital budgets. The long-term goal is to install an emergency phone in each park; however, for now, only one phone has been purchased to test the product and model at Worton Park.
- A \$2,500 mini grant was awarded by the Kent County Health Department for the purpose of conducting CPR training. We recently lost our CPR trainer, and we coordinated with Kent County Office of Emergency Services (OES) who will conduct a class for us in March. The class sold out in one day, with all 12 seats filled and 4 individuals placed on a waitlist.
- Our pool rules signs have been updated and will be installed at all pool sites in time for the start of the 2026 pool season.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks (Jill Coleman)

- This year, all leagues have applied for the FY26 Youth Sports Equipment Grant. The grant in total is \$7,000 and the funds can only be used for items that can be reused each year. Ms. Coleman said four of the leagues requested \$1,500 or more so to be fair, she suggested the Board consider giving Kent Shore Sticks Field Hockey what they requested (which was the least amount) and then dispersing the remaining funds equally as follows:
 - Approve Kent County Youth Baseball for \$1,459;
 - Approve Kent Spartans Football for \$1,459;
 - Approve Kent Youth Lacrosse for \$1,459;
 - Approve Kent Youth Soccer for \$1,459; and
 - Approve Kent Shore Sticks Field Hockey for \$1,160.70.

Ms. Coleman said the only other way to consider dispersing the funds is if not all leagues are awarded funds. Ms. Coleman also announced that due to the lack of a quorum at this evening's meeting, an email will be sent to all members to cast their votes electronically.

- We are working toward our 2027 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP), a five-year plan. A Community Survey was sent to all citizens for whom we have an email address. The survey queries residents about what they would like to see in terms of open space, playgrounds, parks, and related amenities. On the first day it was distributed, we received 55 responses. This marks the first step toward completing the Plan; the second phase will take place in March, when we will visit and present to our towns to gather their input on what they would like to see within the county.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman informed the members that each year she requires her staff to submit three goals aligned with their job functions. She explained that these goals are intended to encourage creative thinking, and one of the goals may be a training objective the employee would like to achieve during the year.
- Ms. Coleman informed the members that their meeting packet contains the 2026 Spring Program Guide. She noted that the guide includes all programs Parks and Recreation will offer during the spring season.
- Ms. Coleman announced that the meeting packet also includes a significant accomplishment—the 2025 Annual Report—which she plans to present to the County Commissioners at their meeting tomorrow. She noted that the report ties into the LPPRP, and she reviewed its key highlights with the members.
- 2026 camp registration was a great success. Ms. Coleman reported that her staff processed approximately 128 registrations in about an hour and a half, and all camps sold out quickly. She noted that all camps are full with the following enrollment numbers:
 - Kiddie Camp: 18
 - Little Explorers: 24
 - Young Explorers: 50
 - Youth-In-Action: 24
 - Leaders Club: 8

All camps except for Youth-In-Action have a waitlist.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, or REPORT OUTS (All Members)

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Myers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nickerson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, May 18, 2026, 5:30 PM
Still Pond Station
24188 Still Pond Neck Road
Worton, MD 21678