



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



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

May 15, 2023, at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance: Greg Welch Jr., Chair; Rick Myers, Vice Chair; Jill Coleman, Member; Drew Davis, Student Member; Dan Mattson, Member; Trish McGee, Member; Joyce Moody, Member; Albert Nickerson, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

Absent: Mary Fisher, Melissa Landon, Faye Little, and Jane Welsh

MINUTES

The minutes from the February 13, 2023 meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coleman called the board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

The meeting began with board member introductions.

OLD BUSINESS

Nomination of Officers

- At the February meeting, Greg Welch nominated himself for Chair. Ms. Coleman asked for further nominations and there were none.
- At the February meeting, Joyce Moody was nominated for Vice Chair. Ms. Coleman said Ms. Moody, who was not present at the February meeting, was contacted and declined the nomination. Ms. Coleman asked for further nominations, and Mr. Nicholson nominated Rick Myers for Vice Chair.

Department Operations

- Ms. Coleman commented that the Department of Planning, Housing, and Zoning did a great job mapping the County’s walking trails, amenities, and property lines for Betterton Beach, Edesville Park, Millington, Toal Park, Turners Creek, and Worton Park. She said a publication went out to the public.

Recreation (Ms. Coleman reported)

Current and Upcoming Programs (Spring/Summer Seasons):

- Tots of Fun Program: In partnership with the Judi Center and Kent Family Center.
- Kids Care Program: When KCPS has a virtual learning day, the kids can be dropped off at the Community Center to do their lessons and to be cared for.
- Beach Tennis Demo Day (this) Friday at Betterton Beach: It is a free event for anyone age 16 and over.
- The Youth Fishing Derby, in partnership with the Maryland Parks Service, will be held at the Cypress Branch State Park. The event is free of charge and will be held on Father’s Day for kids 12 and under.
- Bus Trip to Atlantic City on July 15th
- Youth Swim Lessons

- Summer Camp (the program is currently full)
- Night Swim and Movie Night Swims
- Co-Ed Softball League

Parks

Program Open Space (POS) & Local Parks & Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Project Status

County Parks (Mr. Mattson reported)

Projects that are currently under contract or in progress and being funded by Program Open Space (POS):

- The bathroom flooring has been completed at Bayside Landing; slip proof flooring was used.
- The park/pavilion stairs have been replaced at Betterton Beach.
- A new swing set is being installed at Edesville Park. It will be delivered at the end of this month and construction will be completed the first week of June.
- A new playground will be installed at Worton Park. The project should be completed by the end of July. However, with Summer Camp still in progress, Mr. Mattson said he will consult with Ms. Coleman to determine if that timeline should be delayed by a few weeks.
- At Millington Pool, the tennis courts are being resurfaced, the parking lot is being repaved, and the basketball hoop is being relocated in the back of the parking lot. The project should be completed sometime early July.
- Roof repairs are underway on the pavilion at Betterton Beach and Worton Park. Both projects should be completed in late June.
- The Worton Park multipurpose (remote controlled) lights have been installed. The electric company is currently putting in a panel, and the lights are expected to be operational by the end of next week.
- At Orem Field, the existing lights are being replaced with LED lighting.
- An engineer has been hired to provide a detailed design for replacing the boardwalk at Betterton Beach. The new boardwalk will be a stamped concrete walkway which will be more durable and will last longer.

Program Open Space (POS) Overview (Ms. Coleman reported)

- POS is under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and was established in 1969.
- POS is a long-term commitment for conserving natural resources by providing outdoor recreational opportunities.
- The County must contribute 10% of the project costs for each project approved for POS funding.
- POS gets funded from a 0.5% property transfer tax that everyone pays into when purchasing property.
- Project requests that are funded through POS can be resubmitted for a replacement/upgrade every 20 years.
- Funding in the amount of \$228K is available for park development but can also be used to purchase land.
- Funding in the amount of \$293K is available to purchase land. Land funds cannot be used for park development.
- Unused funds for land purchases accumulate from year-to-year.
- Currently there are no land purchases being considered by the County.

Funding Ideas Identified in the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) for FY24 (Ms. Coleman reported)

- Provide a comprehensive master plan for park development at Turners Creek
- Continue enhancements at Worton Park
- Offer public water locations
- Offer shoreline recreational opportunities
- Provide add-ons to the trail system at Turners Creek
- Provide a master plan and complete a skate and DMX park
- Dog park
- Preserve the historic buildings at Turners Creek

Ms. Coleman said the following ideas have been proposed and requests must be submitted to the State starting July 1st. She asked each member to vote by selecting one (or two) of the ideas from the list and to write them down on a piece of paper:

- An additional multipurpose field at Worton Park
- Dog park
- A skateboard and bike park
- Resurface Worton Park's basketball courts, provide fencing, and add lighting
- A comprehensive master plan and park development at Turners Creek
- Other ideas. All suggestions are welcomed.

After all votes were in and they were read aloud, the majority of the members voted in favor of the following:

- Resurface the basketball courts at Worton Park; and
- A comprehensive master plan and park development at Turners Creek.

Ms. Coleman commented that the next step is for the proposed projects to go before the County Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

- Ms. Coleman asked for a motion to elect a Board Chair. The Board voted all in favor of electing Greg Welch as Chair for the Board; and
- Ms. Coleman asked for a motion to elect a Board Vice Chair. The Board voted all in favor of electing Rick Myers as Vice Chair for the Board.

Parks (Mr. Mattson reported)

Projects under review for future consideration:

- Baseball fencing and backstop replacements at Toal and Worton Parks
- New backstops, new sunshades, and sideline fencing (certain fields)
- New bathroom, bleacher, and dugout replacements at Orem Field

Ms. Coleman informed everyone that a grant application was submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for creating an ADA Trail at Turners Creek.

Recreation (Ms. Coleman reported)

- Parks and Recreation currently has 17 lifeguards to work this summer, and 30 are needed. In order to guard all water locations (3 Pools and Betterton Beach), it takes 14 lifeguards. Ms. Coleman said we are scheduled on the County Commissioners' agenda for next Tuesday to recommend not guarding Betterton Beach.

Committees

Ms. Coleman comprised the following four committees within the Board, and each member chose a committee to serve on:

- Program Development Committee – Drew, Jill
- Park Development Committee – Dan, Greg, Rick
- Finance Committee (Grants) – Jane, Sandy
- Publicity/Marketing Committee – Joyce, Trish

Ms. Coleman said each committee must elect a chair for providing an overview at the meetings, and the goal is for each committee to meet 15 minutes prior to the meeting for soliciting and discussing ideas.

Ms. Coleman informed the Board that she will put together key questions and discussion topics to help each team get started.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McGee 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 7:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 21, 2023
Committees meet at 5:45 PM
Meeting will be called to order at 6:00 PM