

## **BOTETOURT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

The regular meeting of the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Room 212 at the Botetourt County Administration Center, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia.

**Members Present:** Mr. Tim Snyder (Chairman)  
Mr. Dean Hackett  
Mr. Danny Agee  
Mr. John Mays  
Mr. Robert Campbell  
Mr. Matthew East  
Mr. Donald Scothorn

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Mandy Adkins, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Shontae Wade, Recreation Manager  
Chris Mundy, Recreation Program Coordinator

Chairman Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Snyder welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested to amend the agenda to add a discussion of Commission leadership reorganization. Mr. Agee made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with that amendment. Mr. Mays seconded; motion carried; the agenda with amendments was approved.

Mr. Snyder announced that he was appointed to a position on the Botetourt County Planning Commission for the Amsterdam District and began serving in January 2023. Therefore he will be leaving the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Snyder stated that he will remain on the Parks and Recreation Commission until a new Amsterdam representative is confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr Snyder motioned to appoint Mr Hackett to position of Chairman. Mr. Agee seconded; motion carried. Mr. Hackett motioned to nominate Mr. Mays as vice chairman; Mr. Agee seconded; motion carried.

Chairman Hackett welcomed Dr. Donald Scothorn to the meeting and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Dr. Scothorn has joined the Commission as the ex officio member, replacing Mr. Steve Clinton. Dr. Scothorn thanked the commission and briefly introduced himself.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Agee motioned to approve the January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion; motion carried; the minutes were approved as presented.

### **Old Business**

### Commission Meeting Guidelines

Mr. Hackett asked the Commission to review a proposed addition to the commission bylaws regarding public comment at Commission meetings.

Mr. Agee asked for clarity around how an individual would bring a topic to the Department to be added to the agenda. Discussion was had regarding the guidelines not including a formal public comment period.

A community member in attendance voiced objection to the proposed guidelines.

Mr. Mays suggested that he would be open to a public comment period being added to the meeting. Dr. Scothorn added that there can be value in allowing public comment.

Discussion was had regarding a three minute public comment period and the need for public comments to be relevant to Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Snyder read part of the proposal and points out that it allows for members of the public to comment on any agenda item and to request an item be added to the agenda. Mr. Snyder acknowledged that the Commission did not have any guidance in their bylaws for citizen remarks or how to be added to the agenda, which is why the proposal was brought forward.

Mr. Mays suggests that he supports the proposal with the addition of an open public comment period.

Dr. Scothorn points out that in Board of Supervisor meetings there is not dialogue between the Board and the public. The individuals providing comment do so, and the Board listens but does not respond or answer questions.

Mr. Hackett motions to table this proposal and consider adding more detail around a specific public comment period. Mr. Agee seconded the motion. Motion to table the proposal and consider a revised draft at the next meeting carries.

### New Business

Shontae' Wade provided an update on the ongoing registration for the spring sports season. She explained that currently 670 participants have registered to participate in T-ball, softball, and baseball. Dr. Scothorn asked for those numbers to be sent to him and if 670 is consistent with the number for previous years. Ms. Wade explained that 670 is below the total registration for the 2022 season but she expects a significant number of additional registrations in the final days. The late registration period ends on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### 2023 Baseball and Softball Update and Rules Overview

Chris Mundy provided an overview of proposed rules changes for the upcoming season. The following changes were proposed (changes apply to both softball and baseball unless otherwise noted):

- Adjustment of roster sizes for each league; T-ball: 7-9 players coach pitch, minors, majors: 10-12 players; junior and senior players; 10-14 players
- Addition of language clarifying coach's responsibility to carry department issued ID badge at all team events
- Addition of language clarifying that double header games count as one event toward the weekly team event limit

- Addition of rule specifying the scheduled home team provides the game balls
- Addition of language detailing the number of games scheduled for each league and that makeup games are only scheduled to ensure the number of guaranteed games; T-ball: 8 scheduled games with 6 guaranteed; coach pitch: 10 scheduled games with 8 guaranteed; minor and older leagues: 12 scheduled games with 12 guaranteed
- Addition of rule for coach pitch baseball league that coaches are required to pitch overhand
- Adjustment to game length for minor and major leagues from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 1 hour and 20 minutes
- Addition of language for minor baseball, minor softball, and major softball leagues clarifying how the 2 base award is enforced when the last batter of an inning is walked or HBP
- Addition of a rule for minor and major leagues that no stealing is permitted when a coach is pitching
- Expansion of an existing rule from minor softball to apply to all minor and major leagues that a pitcher is displaced after 3 walks in the same inning and is replaced by the batting team's coach to complete the inning. Coaches will throw a maximum of 5 pitches to each batter until a hit or an out is recorded.
- Changes to score reporting rules for minor and above leagues to require that both the home and away teams report the game score and include all star nominations with the score report

Mr. Mundy explained that these proposed changes are based on Booster Club and coach feedback from last season as well as clarification of issues that arose during the season. Proposed changes of the time limit and two base award reflect practices that were followed last year but were not codified. The expansion of the rule replacing a pitcher with a coach after three walks is intended to improve game flow and avoid continuous walks in a game.

Mr. Hackett suggested adding clarification regarding what specific ball should be provided by the home team for games. A member of the public voiced concern regarding the proposal for coaches pitching in a major league game; they believe the rule will not be necessary and could pose a safety risk. Mr. Hackett shared that he generally agreed with those concerns and encouraged department staff to review the rules of Little League in order to determine if this rule is addressed there. Mr. Snyder raised the concern that, under the current rules proposal, a coach could come in to pitch after three walks and then lead their team to victory which could create conflict.

Mr. Hackett motioned to approve the proposed rules with the condition that department staff conduct a review to ensure they are compliant with Little League; Mr. Mays seconded; motion carried.

### 2023 Baseball and Softball Evaluation and Drafting Procedures

Mr. Mundy provided an overview of the proposed evaluation and draft process. He explained that this process has not been codified in previous years and is necessary whenever a Booster Club has enough participants for more than 1 team in a competitive age group. Mr. Mundy explained that this process was implemented for the current basketball season and was very successful. The procedures allow coaches to observe a brief demonstration of basic skills from each available player and then use that information to select fair teams.

Mr. Agee voiced support for the idea and motioned to approve the evaluation and draft process as written; Mr. Mays seconded; motion carried.

### 2023 Baseball and Softball All-Star Selection Guidelines

Mr. Mundy provided an overview of the proposed all star team selection process. He explained that in 2022 there was no organized process in place for this selection and this process would apply to each of the competitive baseball and softball leagues who wish to send an all star team to the Little League tournament.

The proposed process would solicit nominations of up to 3 players which a coach would select after every game from the opposing team. The department staff would collect and total those nominations until the selection process begins. Players would be ranked by total number of nominations received and then a select group of the most nominated players is circulated to coaches. Each team can recommend the addition of one player from their own team to this select group. The all star team coach will be the head coach of the team with the highest winning percentage. The all star team coach would then select their team from the select group of players provided by the department staff.

Mr. Campbell suggested that the staff consider using a google form to collect score and nomination data. Multiple commission members and staff discussed the need to consider a weighted nomination process and whether the limit of three nominations from a team after a game was high enough. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the all star team selection guidelines as written; motion carried.

### Recreation Department Report

Mrs. Adkins explained that she is currently coordinating dates with members of the Booster Clubs for an introductory meeting of the Botetourt Recreation Club and hopes to have an update on the progress in March.

Mrs. Adkins briefed the Commission that Carilion Clinic IRONMAN 70.3 Virginia's Blue Ridge will take place in the region on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for all areas of the race. Mrs. Adkins encouraged Commission members to consider volunteering.

Mrs. Adkins explained that the date for BOCO wWld, an event rebranded from the previous fishing carnival, has been moved. The date was historically the first weekend of June which coincided with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) free fishing weekend. DWR proposed moving date to June 10<sup>th</sup> at Buchanan Town Park to allow for DWR to have more resources on site because they have more capacity on a separate weekend. Mrs. Adkins stated that DWR plans to issue a press release to the public announcing that fishing at Buchanan Town Park will still be free during BOCO Wild.

Mrs. Adkins reported that the 2023 USA Cycling Amateur Road National Champions will take place in the region again on June 14, 15 and 16 and 17. Botetourt County will host the Time Trial and Road Races on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Adkins said that the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail has been identified as one of five priority trail projects for the state of Virginia. There is approximately \$79 million available in state budget for the five priority projects. VDOT is working with both Craig and Botetourt County on initial planning and engineering for the trail.

Mrs. Adkins explained that the project is in the very beginning planning stages. Botetourt County is working to organize a citizen committee and citizen information meetings which will begin in the fall.

Mr. Mays mentioned an article from Roanoke Outside which had a significant amount of positive public comments and stated that he believes public information meetings will be helpful in educating the public on the details of this trail project.

Mr. Snyder asked if the majority of the trail will be in Botetourt County. Mrs. Adkins replied that the trail will be 26 miles long with eight miles in Craig and a little over 17 miles are in Botetourt County. Mr. Snyder expressed his support for the project and suggests that 26 miles makes it a perfect distance for marathon events.

The commission members voiced optimism about the project and believe it is a great opportunity for the County. Mrs. Adkins added that Delegate Terry Austin played a critical role in securing funding for this trail project and the County is grateful for his support of the project.

### **Locality Reports**

There were no locality reports.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Agee motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Mays seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.