

BOTETOURT COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Botetourt County Parks & Recreation Commission was held on **Monday February 7, 2022**, in Room 212 at the Botetourt County Administration Center.

Members Present: Mr. Tim Snyder (Chairman), Mr. Dean Hackett, Mr. John Mays, Mr. Alan Bayse, Mr. Steve Clinton, Mr. Matthew East, Mr. Robert Campbell

Members Absent: Mr. Danny Agee

Others Present: Mandy Adkins, Recreation Director
Tara Williamson, Administrative Assistant
Tammy Riggs, Colonial Elementary School Principal
Scott Butler, Blue Ridge Booster Club President
Jennifer Taylor, Cloverdale Booster Club President
Jessica Prieto, Buchanan Booster Club President
Justin Beckner, Cloverdale Booster Club
Jason Williams, community member

Mr. Snyder called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Board Reorganization:

Mr. Hackett made a motion to nominate Mr. Snyder as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Bayse seconded; motion carried. Mr. Snyder made a motion to nominate Mr. Bayse as Vice-chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Hackett seconded; motion carried.

Old Business:

Minutes from the prior regular meeting held on December 6, 2021, were reviewed and approved following one amendment.

Mrs. Tammy Riggs, Principal of Colonial Elementary School, presented a revised Recreation Incentive Fund Project proposal. Since the last presentation to the Commission, the initial project has turned into something much greater. This new, current proposal will serve ideas much easier to attain in the interim, until a full reassessment of the previous concept is completed. The current project includes the installation of heavy-duty tables to be located at an outdoor classroom area, a pedal path with trikes, signs, helmets and cones, and soccer goals located in the back recreation field. Many of these resources will be at the disposal of the community.

Colonial Elementary proposed a matching fund request of \$7,800 to the Commission.

Mr. Hackett made a motion to accept; Mr. Bayse seconded. Motion carried; Colonial Elementary's Recreation Incentive Fund project approved.

New Business:

2022 Baseball & Softball Rules:

Mrs. Adkins presented the baseball and softball rules to the Commission for consideration and approval. Last year, Botetourt County partnered with Botetourt Youth Sports (BYS) to provide athletic

programming amidst COVID restrictions. It was decided to align the rules with those of Little League, providing structure and additional financial assistance with background check processing. As a department, baseball and softball have not been offered since 2019.

Mr. Hackett inquired as to how often doubleheader games occur, with questions regarding length depending on age group.

Mrs. Adkins responded that doubleheaders are rare and are rarely scheduled unless part of an event or for travel purposes.

Mr. Bayse gave the opinion that playing up should be considered on a case-by-case basis. He would like to see a system where a request is reviewed, and the participant given the chance to both explain and justify their desire to play up.

Mr. Bayse proposed that the wearing of masks for pitchers be optional in the top two groups, as well as voiced disagreement with the pitch count, inquiring as to whether this is a local or Little League rule. Mrs. Adkins responded that the department will doublecheck Little League's rules so that we stay in accordance, as some rules are not up to local discretion.

Mr. Snyder stated it makes sense to play by the rules by which we will inevitably be governed.

Mr. Hackett expressed that we should be cautious in allowing children to play up, as we could be opening a "can of worms". He is curious as to the vetting process that would be employed in deciding who is deemed able to play up.

Scott Butler, Blue Ridge Booster Club President, explained that in his twenty years of experience with booster clubs, he and his fellow members have been required to use discretion in moving certain players up to form both additional and adequate teams.

Mrs. Adkins stated that we have yet to let a child play up, and that additional stress on staff may be a concern if this option is considered. She asked if it would be possible to entertain a lengthier conversation in the future regarding this potential process.

Mr. Hackett made a motion to accept the rules of Little League for the upcoming season as presented. Mr. Snyder seconded; motion carried by 3-1 vote.

Recreation Department Report:

Basketball season is currently underway with a total of 53 teams. Games will conclude March 12th. The department has hired eight seasonal site supervisors; however, this number is still not enough to fulfill all needs. The department is still actively pursuing the hiring of additional, necessary staff.

Mr. Bayse asked about the current mask requirement. Mrs. Adkins responded that masks are mandatory since we are guests in school facilities and must therefore abide by school policies and regulations. Mr. East stated that the School Board is currently waiting on the decision by the Supreme Court.

Baseball & Softball registration opened on February 2nd, with 146 participants registered to date. The department anticipates 600 registrants by the start of the season.

Ricky Dowdy, Maintenance Department Director, will attend the next Commission meeting. Human Resources is working diligently to assist in the fulfillment of multiple open positions within the

Maintenance Department. In addition, a new painting robot has been purchased and employed, both improving efficiency and decreasing labor requirements.

The Fincastle Community Center has reopened and is available for public use. The public can reserve the facility through CivicRec. It should be noted, however, that this building is slated for demolition to make way for the new Courthouse.

Mrs. Adkins shared the new Botetourt County website design, an aesthetically pleasing and easily navigable platform that integrates seamlessly with the department's CivicRec software.

Mr. Hackett proposed that we add a feature on the website that allows citizens to voice comments and give feedback. Mrs. Adkins responded that we do have the capability and can look further into this suggestion.

New One-Booster-Club Model:

The survey administered to Booster Clubs in May 2021 determined that 100% of respondents supported the consideration a one-booster-club model. To implement this model, a 501(c)(3) must be formed. Mrs. Adkins has been in contact with Mr. Lockaby, County Attorney, to determine the process. The first steps are for the Commission to formally accept the one-booster-club model, select an organization name, and decide on both appointment and term specifics for the Board of Directors. Following these decisions, initial filing can commence, and Mr. Lockaby will draft MOU and bylaws for Commission approval.

Each elementary school will have one member serve on the Board of Directors following Commission approval. As members move off, new members will once again be presented to the Commission. It should be noted that Eagle Rock's booster club has been disbanded for several years, but that they should still be included in this new model and provide a representative for the Board of Directors.

Booster Club responsibilities will include the following: equipment distribution, securing coaches, outdoor practice schedules, team formation eight and below, Parks & Recreation Department feedback, uniform distribution, and providing teams with "above & beyond" services such as specialized jerseys & team photos.

Botetourt County Responsibilities will include the following: background checks, reservation platform maintenance, uniform ordering, indoor practice schedules, game day staffing, team formation nine and above, equipment procurement, game scheduling, and coordination of officials.

The goal is to launch the new model for the fall 2022 season.

Mr. Snyder expressed his opinion that a single booster club will enhance the sense of community in the County.

Scott Butler stated that he is concerned that under this new model, participants may not be able to play with their friends.

Mrs. Adkins responded that this new model does not propose the mixing of locations, just providing an experience of a similar nature for each child, regardless of geography.

Mr. Butler stated that the new model appears to lack labor and resources in comparison to the current model. For example, there are around six to seven members in the Blue Ridge Booster Club alone, which help with numerous tasks such as the distribution of uniforms. He asked who on this new board, comprised of six to seven members in its entirety, will be responsible for all the duties executed by current booster clubs.

Mr. Snyder reported that this new model will provide stability across the board, presenting an arena in which to have discussion and operate on a higher County level. This new model will not eliminate the individual booster clubs, but instead allow a type of council for representation and communication. It is essentially a safety net for the community in the event a club folds in its entirety. Mr. Snyder does not wish for these communities to lose their voice. During periods of low volunteerism, the single model will help ensure their safety. The current individual booster clubs and the new one-booster-club model are not mutually exclusive. The one-booster-club model will still require a supporting cast of affiliated members for each location, respectively. This new model will be an intermediary council and provide additional functionality to the booster club system in Botetourt County.

Mr. Mays wondered if this new one-booster-club could be viewed as an additional layer in the system.

Mr. Hackett stated that he does not view this new model as an “extra layer”, but rather as “filling the gap” where some booster clubs lack in areas compared to others.

Mr. Snyder stated that each booster club community should put forth their own vote for their representative who will serve on the new Board of Directors.

Mr. Hackett made a motion that the Commission support the proposal for the one-booster-club model and thus move forward with its formation. Mr. Snyder seconded; motion carried.

Mrs. Adkins stated that next items needing approval include the determination of the name and the selection system for members serving on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Hackett made a motion to accept “Botetourt Recreational Sports Booster Club” as the official name. Mr. Bayse seconded; motion carried.

Mr. Snyder made a motion that elected representatives for the Board of Directors serve two-year terms following their nomination by their current respective booster club governing body and subsequent approval by the Commission. Mr. Hackett seconded; motion carried.

Mr. Snyder stated that ideally, this will be communicated efficiently so nominations may be ready prior to the next Commission meeting in March.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to place an ex-officio member on the new Board of Directors. Mr. Hackett second; motion carried.

Recreation Department Report concluded.

Mr. Bayse made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Mays.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Botetourt Parks & Recreation Commission is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm.