

BOTETOURT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The regular meeting of the Botetourt County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on April 3, 2023 in Room 212 at the Botetourt County Administration Center, 57 S. Center Drive, Daleville, Virginia.

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mrs. Adkins, Director of Parks and Recreation
Chris Mundy, Recreation Program Coordinator
Nikki Bryant, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hackett called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Hackett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Agee moved to approve tonight's agenda. Mr. Mays seconded; motion carried, and the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Agee motioned to approve the March 6, 2023 regular meeting minutes with the corrections of Mr. Snyder not being Chairman nor calling the meeting to order. Mr. Agee seconded the motion; motion carried; the minutes were approved with corrections.

Public Comment

Mr. Hackett noted there was no one present for Public Comment.

Old Business

New Business

Mrs. Adkins presented a PowerPoint with preliminary results for the Quality of Life Survey. She said nearly 1,000 residents started the survey, but 554 completed and submitted. Mrs. Adkins stated that full results will be made available on the county website in the future. Mrs. Adkins's goal is to read all the comments and suggestions that were provided through the open ended questions.

The survey showed a wide range of respondent ages and education demographics. Majority of respondents are full time employees with 28% being retired. The following were categories on the survey and the most popular to least popular answers:

Outdoor Amenities/Activities: Trails and Greenways, Outdoor Adventure, Outdoor Games, Outdoor Recreation Equipment, Adult Sports Leagues, Playgrounds, New Youth Sports Leagues.

Hobbies and Home Amenities/Activities: Agricultural Education, Craft/Art classes, Tools, Hands-On workshops, Interior Design/Landscaping classes, Crafting Supplies.

Learning and Culture Amenities/Activities: Arts/Performances, Educational lectures and workshops, College classes for Everyone, Tours/Field Trips, History/Military, Lunch 'n' Learns, Citizen's Academy, Critical Thinking, DIY Care for Pets.

Food or Health Amenities/Activities: Gardening or Cooking classes, Fitness classes, Café/Coffee Shop, Community Garden, Community Fridge/Pantry, Nutrition Education, Community Meals.

Social Spaces/Activities: Place to hang out, Opportunities to meet new friends/neighbors, Social events, Space to hold meetings, Games, None of the above, Parent/Caregiver Support Group.

Mrs. Adkins reiterated this is preliminary data.

Mr. Mays asked if this information will be shared with other departments. Mrs. Adkins said yes and that she will be meeting with Julie Philips (Library Director) and Tiffany Bradbury (Director of Communications) to organize/format a way to present to the public on the county website.

Mr. Hackett asked if this information will be used to create a master plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. He noted this would be a good roadmap for creating a department master plan and Mr. Mays agreed. Mrs. Adkins agreed and said this will be used for a strategic plan. Mr. Mays said this could be used to get a few ideas going to provide new things in the community.

The group discussed that a community center would address many of the comments in the data.

The group discussed and agreed there is a need for a Parks and Recreation strategic planning meeting with the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Adkins noted detailed information about the survey will be provided online once the data has been compiled. Mr. Hackett commented that Parks and Recreation is a big umbrella and hopes the public sees we're working on additional programs/activities, not just providing youth sports.

Locality Reports

Mrs. Adkins noted Shontae' Wade is at the Sports Complex because baseball and softball games began tonight. Our team continues to work on adding more games at the Sports Complex. Between Tee-ball, softball, and baseball there are 71 teams, 741 players, and about 195 volunteer coaches. Mrs. Adkins acknowledged Mr. Mundy for working hard scheduling practices/games.

Fall registration will open April 17th which is earlier than previous years. Mrs. Adkins said reported that during the 2021 season tackle football had two teams per age group, but they were small teams (18-19 kids) and some didn't have enough to play by the end of the season. Last year we changed and created one team with a max of 31 athletes. A waitlist was also used with a goal of getting two teams of 20, but not enough participants registered. This year we are trying to find the middle ground. There's a large push in the northern end of the county to create two teams to help limit travel for practices by having one northern team and one southern. Mrs. Adkins and Mr. Mundy recently met with a parent and coach to discuss this idea and are working on plans to improve registration numbers to have two teams.

Botetourt County participates in the Roanoke County tackle football league (Botetourt, Roanoke Co., Salem, Franklin Co). Roanoke manages and coordinates the league, so we have to go by their rules and regulations. Their max is capped at 31 participants and then a waitlist from there. Mrs. Adkins acknowledged that 31 athletes on a team is not ideal and that we understand it's challenging for coaches. We're looking for opportunities to get word out at schools before summer vacation. Registration opens April 17th. We will provide the opportunity for parents to register for a team that practices in northern Botetourt and southern Botetourt. If we do not enough children registered, we will create one combined team.

The group discussed marketing efforts and ways to communicate with parents. It was mentioned that the department sends flyers home with every child through the school system, but they don't always reach parents. The suggestion was made to explore sending direct mailers to homes.

The group discussed the need for pitcher/catcher clinics for baseball and softball.

Mrs. Adkins provided updates about the Botetourt Rec Club. They've met twice since the last commission meeting and are in the process of creating bylaws. They will meet with Mike Lockaby to finalize the bylaws draft. Once they work with Mr. Lockaby, the bylaws will be presented to the Commission.

Dr. Scothorn indicated he had a few questions he had received from the community. The first was regarding Roanoke College's request to use the Sports Complex. Mrs. Adkins replied that Roanoke College softball is playing home games in the Sports Complex this year due to their home field being under construction. They also practice at the Complex once during the week before each game.

Dr. Scothorn asked about the disc golf course usage. Mrs. Adkins reported that unfortunately we don't have a facility use counter at the Disc Golf course, so it's difficult to report detailed usage numbers, but that is a goal of the department to improve on. Mrs. Adkins reported that she has seen the course being used regularly and stated that two tournaments are hosted there annually.

Mrs. Adkins shared with the Commission that Botetourt County had recently created a facts page, www.bocofacts4u.info, on the website. Mrs. Adkins and Dr. Scothorn shared that this page will serve as a communication tool for community information. Dr. Scothorn acknowledged Tiffany Bradbury did great with this project and encouraged the Commission to let Mrs. Adkins know if they heard anything in the community that should be added to the page.

Mrs. Adkins noted this concludes her department report.

Mr. Hackett asked if there were any other updates. Mr. Mays asked about progress on Commission Member vacancies. Mrs. Adkins is pursuing a potential member for Fincastle. Mr. Clinton had suggested someone who is unable to participate, but she will continue working with him to find another candidate.

Adjournment

Mr. Agee motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Mays seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.