

BOTETOURT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Mr. Dean Hackett (Chairman)
Mr. John Mays
Mrs. Brittany Crigler
Mr. Steven Anderson

Members Absent: Dr. Donald Scothorn
Mr. Danny Agee
Mr. Matthew East

Others Present: Mandy Adkins, Director of Parks and Recreation
Nikki Bryant, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hackett called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Hackett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Mays motioned to approve the agenda; Mrs. Crigler seconded; the agenda was approved.

Introductions

Mrs. Adkins introduced Brittany Crigler as the new Amersterdam District Commission Member as well as Steven Anderson as the new Principal Representative. The Commission members introduced themselves. Mr. Hackett thanked them for agreeing to participate in the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mrs. Adkins thanked Mr. Snyder for his time on the Commission. Mrs. Adkins noted how much of an asset he's been to the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission. It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is in a great place and it was acknowledged that Mr. Snyder has been a big part of that. Mr. Hackett told Mr. Snyder he has enjoyed working with him on the Commission. He noted that Mr. Snyder has been very instrumental to the Parks and Recreation Department and that he's passionate about the projects he has worked on within the department. Mr. Hackett wished Mr. Snyder the best and stated that Botetourt County has benefited from his contributions.

Mr. Snyder said he was flattered and thanked the Commission for their kind words. Mr. Snyder thanked Mrs. Crigler for joining the Commission and said he knows she'll take it as seriously as he has. Mr. Snyder noted he was honored to work with Mr. Hackett and that he's happy about where the Parks Department is heading. Mr. Snyder stated he sees the youthfulness and positive leadership within the department. Mr. Snyder complimented Mrs. Adkins on her leadership and said he's happy that she has a supportive team. Mr. Snyder said "Parks and Rec looks like Mandy Adkins" and is looking forward to see all the great stuff ahead. Mrs. Crigler noted that she already appreciates Mr. Snyder's guidance and plans to stay in touch.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hackett deferred the approval of minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting due to not having enough members present for a quorum.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Hackett noted no public present to make comment.

Old Business

Mrs. Adkins provided a report on BOCO WILD. Mrs. Adkins said we hosted the event on June 10th and it was the 2nd annual event and would be the 22nd annual event of the Fishing Carnival. Mrs. Crigler asked what the difference was between the two events. Mrs. Adkins noted we don't have a lot of information about the Fishing Carnival, but stated it focused on fishing. Mr. Mays added that it was solely about fishing, but now it's rebranded for outdoor activities. Mrs. Adkins added we partner with DWR to host the event. We had over 650 attendees this year and 25 volunteers. Mrs. Adkins shared some photos from the event and stated our new tent has arrived with the current branding.

Mrs. Adkins stated the 2024 event will be held on Saturday, June 8th. Mr. Mays asked about it correlating with free fishing weekend. Mrs. Adkins said DWR was able to provide more staff by avoiding the same weekend and DWR didn't enforce fishing license at BOCO WILD.

Mrs. Crigler asked if we expected double the attendees from last year. Mrs. Adkins said we were hopeful and that it's great we're able to offer more instead of just fishing. Mr. Anderson said he likes that we rebranded because there's so much to offer in Botetourt County and a lot of ideas were churning.

Mrs. Adkins stated the department had baseball and softball games scheduled during BOCO WILD in 2022. The department didn't have any scheduled initially this year, but with the amount of games that were rained out, June 10th was used to make-up games. Mr. Hackett noted he liked that it was more of an event, not just fishing. Mrs. Adkins stated we had a great time and look forward to next year.

Department Update:

Mrs. Adkins informed the Commission about the upcoming self-defense class in Buchanan. We will offer the class in August and September. Mrs. Adkins gave a report about pickleball and stated that she proposed resurfacing the tennis courts at Blue Ridge Park and Buchanan Elementary to make into pickleball courts. Mrs. Adkins said it wasn't in the budget for fiscal year 2023, but she'll continue to ask. Mrs. Adkins said Mr. Turner at Breckinridge Elementary allowed us to tape pickleball courts in the school gym. The Tuesday classes for beginners have been booked so far. Mrs. Crigler asked if it was just open-play or a league.

Mrs. Adkins highlighted Yoga for Beginners and Forever Fit in which we partner with the libraries to offer to county residents. Jennifer Hannah is our hybrid employee and has been coordinating these classes.

Mrs. Adkins gave an update on the Recreation Incentive Fund projects. She highlighted Town of Troutville Park adding senior equipment. Mrs. Adkins said she'd love to get a class and instructor involved there. Mr. Hackett noted he visited and liked the progress made. Town of Buchanan update the

basketball courts at the town park. Buchanan Elementary updated their playground and placed it farther back from the road. Cloverdal Church of the Brethern updated their playground and said that it's open to the public. James River High School got a new scoreboard in the auxiliary gym. Read Mountain Middle School updated their concession stands and locks which helps our department and booster clubs. Lord Botetourt High School purchased a new PA system for the softball field. The projects still in progress include Troutville Elementary School- asphalt resurfacing and new outdoor equipment and Breckinridge Elementary School- new pavilion.

Mrs. Adkins noted we updated the Recreation Incentive Fund information on the website and will have fillable PDF applications added for the upcoming application window. Mrs. Crigler asked how long the application window is, to which Mrs. Adkins responded the application window is open from August 1st through September 15th. Mr. Mays asked if all the principals receive this information. Mrs. Adkins noted we send a notification to school administrators and booster clubs. Mr. Hackett asked if we could provide a summary of Recreation Incentive Fund on the website since it's a new process.

Mrs. Adkins stated we have a few days left for fall registration and that tackle football numbers are looking good to have two teams in each age group. Mr. Hackett noted it was great those numbers have grown. Mrs. Adkins said we'd give a number update after registration closes.

Mrs. Adkins noted we had two baseball teams that went to the All Stars District tournament and two softball teams are practicing to head to the State tournament. Mrs. Adkins said the department will do a post-season summary with the booster clubs about Little League. We've been with them for two years now and we'll discuss continuing with them or changing/what that change would be. Mr. Hackett noted that Little League is its own entity and to compare/contrast other options.

Mr. Hackett asked about IRONMAN leaving the area and waiting for the Blue Ridge Parkway to be paved. Mrs. Adkins said she was told it will be in the process of being paved June 2024 and unavailable for use. IRONMAN has indicated their plan is to revisit the region after two years.

Locality Reports

Mr. Hackett stated there was an "open-house" at Colonial Elementary and was asked what the space is going to be used for. Mrs. Adkins stated the process is still happening with Planning/Zoning and unsure where they are and that she'll follow up with them.

Mrs. Crigler stated she spoke with Mr. Snyder about things she should keep up with in the Amsterdam District and is aware of the One Booster Club Model.

Mr. Mays noted Buchanan is in full swing with the carnival and fireworks are tomorrow (July 4th) at 10:00 P.M. Mrs. Adkins asked about the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities meeting for Town of Buchanan. Mr. Mays stated the meeting is a continuation after 6 or 7 meetings and it's open to the public.

Adjournment

Mr. Mays motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mrs. Crigler seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.