

**KANAWHA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
COMMISSION MEETING  
March 17, 2021  
MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday; March 17, 2021 at Coonskin Park in the Oak Room. This is the monthly meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission and President Tackett called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:**

Stuart Smith, Allen Tackett, Pat Donahoe, Andrew Jordon (phone), Karen Haddad, Dave Pope, Janet Drumheller, John Huddleston,

**ABSENT:** Chris Hamilton Doug Tench

**OTHERS**

Commissioner Lance Wheeler and Leslie Kopsel  
Jeff Hutchinson, Director  
Brad Maschari, Chief Amburgey, Sarah Menefee  
Jordan Herrick (phone)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Pope made a motion to approve the minutes from February and Commissioner Haddad seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Drumheller reported that we are trying to hire seasonal employees.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Commissioner Smith reported that Big Bend Shelter is finally installed and the sewer pump should be in this week. Commissioner Smith wants to thank the Kanawha County Board of Education for meeting with us, Carver and Ben Franklin Career Centers in helping with the Holiday Lights this year. They have welding and electrical instructors that can teach the students how to build and rewire the displays so that they are bigger and use the C7 LED bulbs. Hopefully this will be big help to our light display. Commissioner Smith said that the renovation study is on going for improvements, at the Clubhouse at Coonskin. President Tackett said that there is a general economic development plan and there is money coming from FEMA. He said since the back nine holes have been closed due to flooding, that we needed to contact Nick at the airport and have ZMM do a design for the back nine and get the money from FEMA's economical plan from the flood. Jeff doesn't believe any of the money should be put into the pool. He said that the pool was built in the 70's and has exceeded the life of a pool. He said we are going to get to the point of replacing the pool and what to do with it. When the airport comes in and if we want to have a pool, fill in the area where the existing pool is and replace it to an area with more solid ground and

build something that will last another 50 years. He questioned when the airport does come in, do we want to go the route of a swimming pool or go in a different direction of having a spray ground.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Sarah reported that all facilities from July-February had a total income of \$1,343,468 with a gross profit of \$1,325,357. The total expenses were \$1,290,873 with a net income of \$34,484. Coonskin All Facilities had a total income of \$83,724 with a gross profit of \$80,000. The total expenses were \$313,046 with a net loss of \$(233,046). The income loss is from shelter rentals, field rentals, clubhouse rentals, and all the stuff that goes along with that from the effects of COVID. Coonskin Golf had a total income of \$11,917 with a gross profit of \$10,371. The total expenses were \$153,353 with a net loss of \$(142,981). The difference is in part time payroll where we had no one from the Department of Corrections working since COVID started. Big Bend had a total income of \$258,434 with a gross profit of \$245,757. The total expenses were \$317,227 with a net loss of \$(71,469). The golf chemicals were up this year to get the course back in shape. KCPRC for February had a total income of \$136,125 with a gross profit of \$135,914. The total expenses were \$123,128 with a net income of \$12,786. Payments for shelter rentals were not collected in February like they normally are because we are waiting for more information on gathering because of COVID. Coonskin Golf had a total income of \$123 with a gross profit of \$38. The total expenses were \$13,221 with a net loss of \$(13,182). The golf course did not open until the first of March. Big Bend had a total income of \$2,098 with a gross profit of \$1,989. The total expenses were \$25,101 with a net loss of \$(23,111). February had bad weather with rain and snow.

### **GOLF COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Pope reiterated that golf is weather related and we lost money in February due to the weather. He expects more nice days coming up to make up what we lost. He said we had some flooding issues at Big Bend and it straightened out pretty quickly. Jeff said he was out there last week and it was looking pretty good. He said there were two greens and two fairways under water and found two slips on the bank. The state came out and looked at that along with the slip at Coonskin. Commissioner Pope said that last year at this time we were closed for two months and hopes that we don't have any events like that again. He said the past couple years there seems to be something that has closed the course down. With the spring coming up and nicer weather he hopes to come out of the woods and have more play.

### **COONSKIN FOUNDATION**

Commissioner Pope did not have much to report on. He said that new range balls are coming May 1<sup>st</sup> and we are having a rededication of the range that's been open 10 years, on Masters Weekend.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chief Amburgey spoke about his officer's biggest problem is closing time of the park. Right now, we close at dusk and everyone perception of dusk is different. This leads to a lot of negative interactions with the guests. Last year we started closing at 8:00 and the negative interactions were down. Chief Amburgey suggested having a set closing time so park goers know what time the park closes everyday and they can get used to that. It would make it easier on the officer's when it comes to shutting down the park and help with the negative interactions. Commissioner Drumheller made a motion that from Daylight Savings Time to mid-October that the park will close at 8:00 p.m. and we will reevaluate the hours to determine a safe closing time in the fall.

Chief Amburgey added that it will also help with the kayakers when they build the new boat launch, so that they know a set time of closing and need to get to their vehicle and out of the park. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and all were in favor. Chief Amburgey reported that he did a big time clean up in the park. He said we had old vehicles and things crushed and moved and made a little money for the park. We also had a bunch of old dishes when we had a restaurant and he organized them and sold them on an auction site. So far, we collected \$950 from the dishes and also cleared out two rooms in the basement.

### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Jeff thanked Brad for his help and involvement with the disc golf and tournaments at Coonskin. He said we are making some money off of it and Steve Koepsal coordinates these events. Jeff reported on the Holiday Lights and he met with Carver, thanks to Commissioner Jordon's help in contacting them. There is a possibility of going to Ben Franklin or other trade schools for help reconstructing the Holiday Lights. He does not want to step on any toes but doesn't see any harm in friendly competition and maybe coming up with a prize or recognition. Jeff reported on the pool situation and the YMCA will run the pool and Jeff Bryant will do the scheduling and paperwork for the guards. The YMCA needs someone responsible to be in charge of the guards and Jeff doesn't have a problem doing it. The girl at East Bank is no longer managing the pool this year and Erin Dydland with the YMCA is looking for a replacement. Jeff reported that the equipment is in the last process of being ordered and we should have everything by the end of the month. He said that we have been mowing greens and tee boxes and haven't started mowing in the park yet. Sarah reported that when COVID hit, people were looking for outdoor space to social distance better and she has rented out the amphitheater for dance recitals and other events where they can't gather indoors.

Commissioner Wheeler stated the importance of social media to young persons. He saw that we didn't have any social media and got with Megan Diehl with the County Commission, to help with the park's social media and Facebook. He said it's a free resource to get information about the parks out to the public and to advertise the activities in the park. He said that COVID changed people's lifestyles and the parks are something that they can use for their wellbeing & distance from others. Social media can increase the traffic that the park gets and reminds people of what the park has and what's going on. He said that you can reach a lot of young people through social media and it generates business. Plus, it is free and able to reach a wide amount of people and agencies.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **LEGAL REPORT**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Pope made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

President Tackett called the meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 2:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director