

**KANAWHA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING**

**June 21, 2023
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at Coonskin Park in the Oak Room. This is the annual meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission and President Tackett called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Allen Tackett, Dave Pope, John Robertson, Steve Koepsel, Janet Drumheller, Stuart Smith (phone), Pat Donahoe (phone), Andrew Jordon, Chris Hamilton

ABSENT: John Huddleston, Karen Haddad

OTHERS

Jeff Hutchinson, Director

Leslie Koepsel

Brad Maschari, Sarah Menefee, Eddie Amburgey

Jordan Herrick (phone)

Brent Burton, Donna Carney, Mrs. Wolfe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Drumheller made a motion approve the minutes from May and Commissioner Koepsel seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Drumheller reported that we are status quo on personnel right now. President Tackett said that Shawnee Sports Complex had some applications from some people looking for work, that they could not use and are sending them to us. Jeff said that Leslie found us two part time employees at Big Bend.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Commissioner Smith reported that they were working Holiday Lights.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brent Burton with Assured Insurance spoke about renewing the insurance and quotes for 2023 -2024. They have been working with us for awhile and said that there wasn't a whole lot of change. It's the same insurance company as we had, and the only change is that we were able to get the current carrier to include the liquor liability. They asked us to get that as a stand-alone because it's not really what they do. There is a stand-alone quote for liquor liability, for Coonskin and Big Bend, and that is included in the \$4,688. The other difference is under the commercial package, and that the rates stayed the same, and they got detailed reports on the buildings. That increased the total replacement cost to \$8 million for all locations, and now they are picking up that cost for replacement value

that they were not charging before in the cost. A lot of buildings were undervalued and now that is reflected in the price. Worker's Comp. went down a little because of lower claims. The deductible is zero on liability and \$1,000 on property and the limit on coverage is \$23 million on total property, and \$1 million per claim, plus an umbrella of \$5 million. Commissioner Robertson asked about coverage on 23 vehicles and of the 43 vehicles, 27 if they don't have license plates. He asked if these junk cars need to be here. Sarah said that he has a list of 28 vehicles that are covered and those are in the assets, because we still have them. Brent said he included a \$3 million sabra policy. Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the insurance package and Commissioner Donahoe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sarah reported that from July – May had a total income of \$2,022,002 with a gross profit of \$1,963,692. The total expenses were \$1,959,211 with a total income of \$4,481. Coonskin golf had a total income of \$16,103 with a gross profit of \$14,024. The total expenses were \$336,496. In that income was 6 days of income in May. Big Bend had a total income of \$404,528 with a gross profit of \$361,416. The total expenses were \$397,930 with a net loss of \$(36,514). For the month of May, the total income of was \$214,452 with a gross profit of \$210,139. The total expenses were \$190,696 with a net income of \$19,443. Coonskin golf had a total income of \$8,170 with a gross profit of \$7,595. The total expenses were \$70,307 with a net loss of \$(62,711). Big Bend had a total income of \$61,676 with a gross profit of \$55,700. The total expenses were \$33,983 with a net income of \$21,717. Commissioner Donahoe made a motion to accept the financial report and Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Pope reported that we have built a great thing at Coonskin, and the rounds have been substantial. Five days in May we did 72 rounds a day, and the first 20 days in June we did 78 plus rounds a day. He said the Golf Committee meets once a month and discusses anything that pops up and this is still a work in progress. One of the first things we discussed was closing the golf course at 6:30, and it doesn't get dark until 8:53, and we have an hour and 15 minutes of daylight. He said if we extend the hours of the golf course, 30 minutes and advertise it, if we get two groups a day in that 30-minute period, that's \$160 a day, and we could do that until August 1st. If we get 8 golfers a day until then, that's 320 rounds from 6:30-7:00. He said that there will be some expenses with overtime and such, but if we cover that half hour until then, he thinks we can make that money. If they want to play 18 holes, then they have to start at 6:00 p.m. He thinks if we advertise that we close at 7:00, we can get a lot of play in that half hour. August 1st is when it gets dark sooner and would go back to closing at 6:30. He said if they need to close the park, there is a gate out there they can shut to close the rest of the park at any time, and that would limit the people to golf only. He said it's only 30 minutes over and we can bring that in over the next 40 days to cover that, and it would be a benefit to golfers in the valley. He stated that this is the consensus of the Golf Committee and not sure if this requires a vote. Sarah asked if we could hear Chief Amburgey's point of view. Chief reported that he doesn't have overtime and will have to move his officer's forward, and the problem we run into there, is not have weekend officer's until 2:00 p.m. to cover that. He said most people can play in an hour, but he is seeing that these golfers

are taking an hour and 30 minutes plus. Bad players can take longer. We already had some altercations with people leaving within the time period. He said he doesn't have a problem with it, but it pushes the officer's back in the park later, and he doesn't have the manpower to cover all shifts. One thing you will run into is that we're losing 2 minutes a day and it gets darker sooner. He said whatever you want to do, to let us know and we will do it. Commissioner Pope said it seems that the police are needed less in the morning and doesn't think a half hour will make a difference. Jeff said he had to call Chief multiple times with reports, and it has been in the mornings. Chief said what he will do, is if we're open until 9 or after, and its still day light, and we have someone that wants to walk, and that we know are here, we will let them walk. The problem that we run into is when they get on a trail and can't get back to the car in time or they get lost and we're here later as it's getting dark. Chief said if you set the time, we will go by it. We need to look at the demand and adjust, and if there's not a lot of play, then we can change it. President Tackett said to take this up with Jeff, Chief Amburgy, and the Golf Committee, to come back with a recommendation on what should be done, and if Commissioner Hamilton wants to sit in, he can. He said we will come up with a time, and don't need to vote on it. In the next couple days have a meeting and come up with the details, and then if you agree it should be done then let's try. Jeff said the board doesn't have to vote on the times of operation. Commissioner Pope said the committee has been working on some things that we decided about student play and schools, we are going to use the same thing we use at the soccer field. The students will be allowed to play for half price, and schools and teams would be half price. They are taking up a spot we can get \$20 off of and make them book a tee time. In June we had 78 plus rounds a day. The last of May and 20 days in June we did 1,005 rounds. The last thing we covered is a night tournament with lights sticks, glow balls, and such, and you can play in the dark. We want to do it on a full moon and can play up to 6 people per hole, and we have until August 1st to figure it out, and it is popular at other courses. Rounds at Big Bend are up 607 rounds from last year. Commissioner Jordon asked how many rounds we did the past two years with the old course. Jeff didn't have a number, but we are about tripling our rounds with half the holes and half the upkeep. We are going off mats right now and they have been well received.

COONSKIN FOUNDATION

No report

PUBLIC SAFTEY

Chief Amburgy reported that the traffic count from May 26th to yesterday was 19,497 and that's higher than what we had in the past. We have been busy with law enforcement and Chief has been called out the last three weekends. We have had domestics, fights, thefts, accidents, and more.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff reported that we have been passing emails back and forth with FEMA, and their consultants and our consultants. The biggest sticking point is Big Bend's part of it. They say Coonskin is fine and they are denying, as its not eligible in the program, because it doesn't have enough damage. The engineering report will tell you otherwise, and the cart

path #3, and the impoundment that we irrigate out of will end up in the river, and they don't want to pay for it. The Commissioners have sent letters to our Senators and Congress and haven't heard anything back. Jeff said that we are about done with the tree removal around the back side of the Family Center, and he got a hold of AEP and there is another tree or two that need to be cut before they can run power. Hopefully that will be done by next Friday, and start running power next week, and then we will call the pump people to connect the irrigation. All the pools are up and running and we have had no real problems, nor have we had real attendance. But we have had no mechanical problems. Attendance has not been good at all. He said it costs \$66,000 a year to operate. We are getting ready to close out our fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LEGAL REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Carney said that not everything in this park is about golf. It's always been a family park and she was raised in this community, and she has seen things like this sidewalk that has been damaged for two years and no attempt to fix it. She said now, because of the golf course we cannot access our trail, because it's been blocked off. She added that our park patrol does a wonderful job and that's as far as she can go. She said that the playground equipment has not been upgraded and is disgraceful. She doesn't see anything on the agenda that says anything about how to attract families. There is no shade or anything for people to come and sit at picnic tables. There are a lot of things that are wrong that no one is looking at. The roads are tore up by heavy equipment. She added that the golf course is being watered by WV Water and she can't get enough water to hydrate or water her flowers, but we can do it here. Jeff said that the hydrant is metered, and we are paying for it, and we are using it sparingly. She asked what is being done to help the community here as far as families. She said that this gate out here shouldn't be locked to keep the golfers happy and if the golf course is open then this gate should be open, because you have a lot of people in here that work and don't have time to get here to walk. Everyone should be under the same rule. She said she'll tell you one thing, is that our Governor really supports parks and recreation, and something needs to be done to attract families to the park. She said we will be here next month and hope to see something on the agenda to attract families. Commissioner Drumheller said that we asked for money to replace the playground and we ordered parts to fix the playground. Commissioner Jordon asked if all the shelters are booked. Jeff said yes, they are booked all the time until we shut down in October. Commissioner Jordon said there is a long-term plan that is being developed on the old back nine of the golf course. That would include picnic shelters, tennis/pickle ball courts, a splash pad, and a walking trail. Those plans were taken to the Governor's office and they turned us down for funding. She said she will personally take this to Commissioner Salango, to see why this stuff has been turned down. President Tackett said that this board has tried to improve things and make it more family friendly, and we haven't been approved for the funding. The County Commission has asked Senator Capito and Manchin for congressional money to try to build the back nine with these projects. Donna said that it is an election year and these people need to step up because of the families that are upset here. Commissioner Robertson said when you talk about families, you heard our discussion about our pool

and how much it costs to run it, and we aren't making any income off of it. He added that on August 2nd we are doing family movie night with WQBE in the park. We also have Schoenbaum Field that is used by families and schools very frequently. So, to say we aren't doing anything for families, is a little off, and we would love to do more for families and hopefully we can. He said that this building was built in 1960 and we tried to get money for upgrades for it and haven't got any money. Donna said she felt bad for the guards because they have families too and they have to stay late. She said we all try to be respectful to be out of here at 8:00 and if they have to stay out here anyways, then there is no reason why this gate out here needs to be locked.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pope made a motion to adjourn.

President Tackett called the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director