

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

**April 21, 2021
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday; April 21, 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 (phone), Andrew Jordon, Dave Pope, Janet Drumheller, Chris Hamilton

ABSENT: Doug Tench, John Huddleston, Karen Haddad

OTHERS

Leslie Kopsel

Jeff Hutchinson, Director

Brad Maschari, Chief Amburgey, Sarah Menefee

Chuck Bailey (phone)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Drumheller reported that we are trying to hire seasonal employees but without much luck. Jeff said that we got two guys from last year coming back on the grounds crew and we need about 10 people total. We need four people on grounds at Coonskin, four or five people at Big Bend, and some at maintenance. They need to be old enough to operate machinery. Chief Amburgey reported that Officer Jim Butler will retire at the end of the month and Officer Rick Tincher will replace his shift.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Commissioner Smith reported that Carver Career Center is going to do some work on the Holiday Lights. Jeff met with some of the professors and students, four or five times to discuss what we need and what they are capable of doing. They showed him some dimmers and other things, that they can incorporate into the displays. Jeff said that we have a list of what needs to be ordered and it will be approximately \$30,000 to get started. President Tackett and Commissioner Smith mentioned that we need to thank the Kanawha County Board of Education for getting this meeting set up with the Career Centers. Jeff added that we may be able to get some of their kids to work part time and they have rooms set up like actual houses, that the kids learn to wire. He said that the teachers are excited to work with us and even got the math teacher involved by challenging the kids on how to do the math

to blow some of these displays up. Then they will give to the welding department to put the displays together. Commissioner Smith made a motion to spend up to \$30,000 on supplies for the Holiday Lights with the help of Carver Career Center. Commissioner Drumheller seconded the motion and all were in favor. Commissioner Smith hopes to have a report next month from Commissioner Haddad about the beautification of the Coonskin Clubhouse. Jeff reported that they are finishing the shelter at Big Bend and putting the last picnic tables in there this week and then it will be complete. President Tackett said that we need to get ZMM in here and do a design of the back nine holes at Coonskin and use our plans on the front nine to get money from the economic developing plan from the flood. He said we need to have this ready so we can present it when the time comes, when the money is ready from the economic development plan from the flood, since that is what caused the back nine to be shut down.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah reported that all facilities from July-March had a total income of \$1,519,815 with a gross profit of \$1,499,969. The total expenses were \$1,447,977 with a net income of \$51,991. All facilities at Coonskin had a total income of 100,519 with a gross profit of \$96,121. The total expenses were \$348,100 with a net loss of \$(251,978). Income from the shelters was down because we didn't start taking payments until mid-March and there was not much soccer. Coonskin golf had a total income of \$15,379 with a gross profit of \$13,641. The total expenses were \$172,443 with a net loss of \$(158,801). Big Bend had a total income of \$282,836 with a gross profit of \$269,112. The total expenses were \$361,535 with a net loss of \$(92,422). Income was up \$1,504 from last year and the difference in the expenses was from golf chemicals. March alone had a total income of \$176,346 with a gross profit of \$174,611. The total expenses were \$158,180 with a net income of \$16,430. Green fees and motor carts have increased and so did the contributions due to employee raises. Coonskin golf had a total income of \$3,462 with a gross profit of \$3,269. The total expenses were \$19,061 with a net loss of \$(15,792). This is 1,527 more than last year when we were shut down. Big Bend had a total income of \$24,402 with a gross profit of \$23,355. The total expenses were \$47,815 with a net loss of \$(24,459). This is 17,361 more than last year when we were shut down due to COVID. Jeff reported that this is the best March since he has been here at Big Bend and we are moving to regular rates. Commissioner Drumheller questioned why the bank fees were up at Big Bend. Sarah reported that the bank charges us a fee to use a credit card. The more charges we have the higher the bank fees will be. Commissioner Jordon made a motion to accept the finances and Commissioner Drumheller seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Pope reported that rounds of golf have been up and it is hard to compare year to year since we were closed last year due to covid. He said things have been picking up and the courses look good. He said Big Bend was full yesterday and that is good, especially since coming off winter rates. He said that Big Bend is the best public course that is flat in the area. There has been a slip on the bank near green #8 and someone is coming in to look into that. Commissioner Pope said that golf is looking good and only getting better and with golf being an outdoor sport, it is one thing you can do with the pandemic going on.

COONSKIN FOUNDATION

Commissioner Pope reported that the 10 Year Anniversary celebration at the Golf Learning Center did not happen. He said that we couldn't get club fitters out to demo their product and that covid put a damper on things. He appreciates what Commissioner Jordan has done for the range and park and he said that it stays busy up there and people love it. When we get the front nine done it will be a great destination for golfers. President Tackett said that we will have a discussion next month about the foundation.

PUBLIC SAFTEY

Chief Amburgey reported that the state recently passed Senate Bill 690 authorizing ATV vehicles street legal, as long as they have the proper registration and insurance. He said he doesn't recommend it in the park but the road through Coonskin is a state road. The parks by laws says no ATVs allowed and we will need to get with the lawyers and adapt the bylaws to follow the state laws. It needs to say that they are only allowed on the main roads and to stay off the trails and other parts of the park. Chief mentioned that two weeks ago one of our full-time maintenance employees, Charles, came in early and was looking for something when he noticed a person struggling at the pond. This patron was going to fish and he was using a walker due to loss of a leg. As he was getting his stuff out of his vehicle his walker broke. Charles carried his belongings for him to the pond and then repaired his walker.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff reported that we have a pool manager for East Bank and CJ Tawney will manage the pool and the YMCA will get the lifeguards to resume full pool operations. Jeff said that he is meeting with the project manager from Aspen Core about the two slips. One slip is at Coonskin just up from the old slip and the other is near #8 green at Big Bend. Jeff expects this to be about \$3 million in repairs. He said that we may need to relocate #8 green. The DNR is cutting a boat launch in Coonskin and the grading will be much more accessible. The DNR is also working on changing the parking to accommodate the boaters. Jeff reported that we are trying to hire employees and everyone here is working hard. We just need help. The DOC only has seven people incarcerated and unemployment claims from people are ruining us, even though we have open jobs. Sarah added that we are renting the amphitheater for a variety of events including graduations and dance recitals where they can be outside and social distance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LEGAL REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

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

President Tackett called the meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 2:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director