

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

**July 21, 2021
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday; July 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 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Allen Tackett, Pat Donahoe, Andrew Jordon, Dave Pope, Janet Drumheller, Chris Hamilton, John Huddleston, John Robertson

ABSENT: Doug Tench, Karen Haddad, Stuart Smith,

OTHERS

Leslie Koepsel

Jeff Hutchinson, Director

Brad Maschari, Chief Amburgey, Sarah Menefee,

Jordan Herrick

Lori (Charleston Gazette Mail)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Drumheller reported that we are having the same problem that we have been, with hiring seasonal employees. She said that we need people to cut grass badly. Sarah said that she hasn't heard from Kathy at the DOC, but our guys have already been in for training this year.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

President Tackett reported that we are looking to redo the back nine holes at Coonskin. He said he saw the people from the Economic Development Plan and they seem to be supportive and excited and they are now in the process of finding funding. He said they may support some and the County Commission may support the rest. We have a drawing that shows a walking path around the developed area and everything were it was flooded was left blank. There are tennis courts near the parking lot and six large shelters with a splash pad in the middle. He thinks it's a good design and the front nine holes will be turned into a short course that you can play within an hour to an hour and 45 minutes. It is an approximately \$6 million dollar project. President Tackett said the airport has started their environmental impact study for the area and that it will be a couple years down the road before they are finished. He said that he asked for forestry to come in and

look at the trees and that before we give the property to the airport, we will timber. Nothing in the drawings has the clubhouse renovations, that is separate and that is something Commissioner Haddad and Smith are working on.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah reported that it's the end of the fiscal year and deferring the finances to next month as reports are still coming in.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Pope reported that it has been good weather for golf and we are averaging \$2,800 per weekday and \$4,500-\$6,000 during the weekends, which is great for golf. He said that it has been hot during the afternoons and golf slows down some then. This is the first year we have had decent weather and no disasters to affect golf business. He said the courses are in good shape. Jeff stated that he hasn't heard back from Aspen as they are working on a large project out of state right now. Commissioner Pope said that Coonskin was up 210 rounds which is about \$1,700 and Big Bend is up 76 rounds which is about \$700.

COONSKIN FOUNDATION

Commissioner Pope reported that the benches for the range are on hold because we are short staffed and we may not be able to build them until maybe winter. We will build them inhouse out of composite decking. They should last longer and be cheaper doing it inhouse. We are just low on staff. Commissioner Pope stated, the range has been busy and they are hitting a lot of balls with the weather cooperating like it has been.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Amburgey reported that we have had 28,240 vehicles come through the park since Memorial Day. He also reported that he had two people stealing range balls at the driving range and he got them stopped. He said there has been an uptick in complaints but you'll have that this time of year.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff reported that we are trying to get through with the limited staff that we got. He said that the greens at Coonskin are in the best shape they been in 5-6 years. He said that JP has done a great job and having Adam with the chemicals is a huge help as well. Jeff said that he even got a compliment from a golfer at Big Bend who usually complains and he was saying how great the course is. Jeff said that we are getting the irrigation straightened out at Coonskin and we are expecting a hot August. Jeff reported that the YMCA does not have enough lifeguards to stay open past August 8th. He said they finally got 10 guards but most are school kids that start back to school on August 9th. The pool we be closed for the season after August 8th. Jeff stated that public pool attendance is down nationwide. Jeff said that we are upgrading some computers, Quick Books, and internet because of our insurance. He said that we have been fighting with the range machine and called the company to try to get them to work on the software, because it's shutting down. He put them in touch with our IT people and they need to work it out together to solve the issue.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LEGAL REPORT

Jordan reported that a woman fell at Coonskin in April along a ditch line and broke both of her ankles. He said she got an attorney and we will be dealing with that and referred them to our insurance carrier.

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 2:26 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director