

KANAWHA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING
August 16, 2023
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday; August 16, 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 2:00pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Andrew Jordon, Chris Hamilton, Steve Koepsel

OTHERS

Jeff Hutchinson, Director

Leslie Koepsel, Commissioner Wheeler

Brad Maschari, Chief Amburgey

Jordon Herrick (lawyer) (phone)

Donna Carney, Jeanne Chandler, Nancy Sloan, Greg Strom (WV Gazette/Mail)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Haddad made a motion approve the minutes from July with two corrections. Commissioner Koepsel used the word litigious instead of prestigious and Chief Amburgey was not at the meeting. Commissioner Drumheller seconded the motion with the corrections. All were in favor.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Drumheller reported that we have two temporary positions and a permanent mechanic opening at Big Bend. She told us that Sarah Menefee will be leaving us and she will hang around until the after the audit. Commissioner Drumheller said she will be allowed to work remotely for up to six months and cannot be longer than six months. She said that it may not be this long and will depend on what it takes to get the other person up to speed. This is effective after the audit and we will give her until February to work remotely and to train her replacement.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Commissioner Smith reported that school is starting and we are going to move along with help from Carver with the light displays. Jeff reported that the ditch line is in for the pump at Coonskin and we expect to run power any day.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jeff reported a draft of the financials for Sarah and all facilities from July 2022 – June 2023 had an income of \$2,295,455 and last year we had an income of \$2,330,455. The expenses last year were \$2,286,186 and this year they are \$2,629,130. Jeff said that these are unaudited numbers. The utilities are up \$98,722, contract services are up \$26,177 and payroll is up \$251,850 from last year. Coonskin alone from July–June had a revenue of \$44,764 and expense of \$50,847. Last year the revenue was \$16,566 and the expenses were \$41,609. This year in the month of July 2023, Coonskin gained almost \$22,859. Jeff said last year in July we did \$4,420 in green fees and this year we did \$27,279 in green fees and that is your big difference on the income. We are up in utilities \$4,600, Up in part time wages \$3,680 and up in maintenance and repair \$2,500 and we are still \$19,000 better than last year. Coonskin golf course year to year comparison from June 2022 – July 2023 we did a total \$50,285 and last year we did \$47,965 and we were closed from Aug 15th – the end of May. The expenses this year were \$386,000 and last year was 277,000. Utilities are up \$27,000. Maintenance and repair are up \$51,000. Golf chemicals are up \$17,000. Fertilizer and seed are up \$9,000. Big Bend from June 2022 – July 2023 the total income was \$429,316. The total expenses were \$456,696 with a loss of \$(27,379). All facilities consolidated comparison from July 2022 and July 2023 total income in July 2022 was \$81,358 and in July 2023 was \$270,101 a difference of \$188,742.

The expenses in July 2022 were \$143,668 and in 2023 was \$145,324 and that is an increase of \$1,656. Jeff said the difference is last year we were short \$62,309 and this year we were ahead by \$124,776. One of the big reasons that number is so big is that you look at the income and contributions from the KCC and last year we didn't receive our check until August or September and this year it came on time and that's the big difference in numbers. Commissioner Robertson was concerned about utilities being up from last year and he assumed its watering of the golf course at Coonskin. Jeff said that we found another meter in the park that was running extremely high and they replaced it and we got reimbursed \$30,000 this week from WV Water. They put a new meter in and it's been fine since. Commissioner Robertson questioned the difference on \$46,000 on material and supplies. Jeff said that he would have Sarah look into it on maintenance and repair. He also asked if the WVGA is on our utility bill and how that works. Jeff said Sarah has that separated and they are paying us back. He said he talked to Mr. Jordan and they been directed to put a meter on their building that is separate from us. Jeff said they are suppose to do that and start working on landscaping. Commissioner Haddad asked how long until the pump is ready. Jeff answered that were waiting on the power company and they had come in and we showed them our cabinet and stuff and they left us with a meter base. Gary will install that at the end of the week and they will come back to inspect and as soon as they inspect it will be 2-3 weeks before we get power. Commissioner Haddad made a motion to accept the finances and Commissioner Donahoe seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Robertson said that Coonskin is doing great as you can see by the numbers. This July we did 1,700 rounds as to 550 rounds last year. The income this year was \$27,000 and last year was \$5,000. At Big Bend in July, we did 2,500 rounds and last year we did 1,400 rounds. The big reason for that was the poor conditions we had last year. The revenue difference this year was \$39,000 and last year was \$23,000. Jeff said that we went from November – June with our value and discounted rates.

COONSKIN FOUNDATION

No report

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Amburgey reported that the vehicle count so far this summer was 53,996 and last year total was 54,503 and the difference is in the golf course. He reported that WQBE Movie night was a success and there were about 100-150 people here. He said everyone did great and KRT helped shuttle people. Chief was happy to report that a visitor spotted a racoon near the clubhouse with a band wrap around it and was concerned. She went to the clubhouse and asked for help and we got a racoon trap and was able to catch it and cut the band off and release the animal.

Commissioner Wheeler shared an email that he received from the concern visitor and he was thankful of the staff for taking care of this. Commissioner Haddad said that shows what kind of concern people have for the park.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff reported preliminary numbers for the pool from the YMCA and in May in June last year we had 9,000 swimmers and this year we did 5,800. Last year in July we did 3,200 and this year we did 1,800. Swim numbers were up at East Bank and last year they had 483 and this year was 525 for May and June. July had 817 swimmers last year and this year was 1,100. They are working on August number and will get that to us. Jeff commented that anyone who worked here can see that numbers were way done. Brad said he has never seen the pool as slow as it was in 19 years. He said on 90-degree days we may get 50 people. The YMCA brought kids from their day camps which help with numbers and made it look busy at times, but when the kids left the pool was nearly empty. The City of Charleston was also down and there was an article in the paper about pool attendance. Commissioner Wheeler said that the Nitro pool had the same issue with guards and had to close early. Jeff this is something that we will have to make a determination on what we are going to do in the future. Jeff said that we have a 60-year-old and the only aluminum pool in the country and it has taken its wear and tear. We got lucky this spring with some cracks, welding, and repairs that weren't expected when we opened. We had a pool expert in and he looked at East Bank which done well after repairs and Coonskin Pool. He advised us to keep water in Coonskin Pool because of the aluminum bottom and when it drains completely the weight of the water is not on the bottom to keep the aluminum flat. When it empties the aluminum buckles and causes cracks and issues. We left the water in it and its turns green within a couple weeks.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LEGAL REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Written notes available upon request.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn.

President Tackett called the meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 2:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director