

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

**April 17, 2024
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday; April 17, 2024 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, John Robertson, Steve Koepsel, Dave Pope, Chris Hamilton, Tyler Ohm, Janet Drumheller,

ABSENT: Stuart Smith, Pat Donahoe, Andrew Jordon, Karen Haddad,

OTHERS

Jeff Hutchinson, Director

Leslie Koepsel

Brad Maschari, Eddie Amburgey, Cliff Wheeler, Sarah Menefee

Greg Stram, Donna Carney, Jeanne Chandler, Ben Carpenter, Melissa Fisher, Beth Campbell

Jordan Herrick (phone)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Koepsel reported that Coonskin Golf and grounds hired Greg Spencer and he has started part time. At Big Bend we hired David Fleck and we have Bill Martin and Jonathan Burford being scheduled to take their drug test and then be hired part time if they pass. Chief Amburgy has a part-time hire that he will talk about in his report.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

No Report

FINANCIAL REPORT

Sarah reported that from July-March all facilities had a total income of \$1,977,691 with a gross profit of \$1,935,016. The total expenses were \$1,827,611 with a net ordinary income of \$107,405. Add back the non-recurring contributions and that leaves us with \$154,378 net income. Coonskin Golf had a total income of \$111,009 with a gross profit of \$107,047. The total expenses were \$256,622 with a net loss of \$(149,574). Big Bend had a total income of \$422,553 with a gross profit of \$390,160. The total expenses were \$351,730 with a net income of \$38,430. This is an increase of \$117,263 from last year. March alone all facilities had a total income of \$206,849 with a gross profit of \$200,366. The total

expenses were \$187,405 with a net income of \$12,961. Coonskin Golf had a total income of \$12,407 with a gross profit of \$12,317. The total expenses were \$18,361 with a net loss of \$(6,043). Big Bend Golf had a total income of \$40,698 with a gross profit of \$35,277. The total expenses were \$34,568 with a net income of \$709. This income was a \$33,534 increase from last year. Sarah added that before we opened the Short Course at Coonskin, we projected to make \$100,000 and from July-March we did \$101,000. Also, March is a three-payroll month which is the same as last year. Commissioner Robertson made a motion to accept the financials and Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Commissioner Robertson reported that Big Bend lost around 40 trees during the recent storm. He said that he played last Monday and most of the trees were along the river and we were closed for about a week because we were unable to get to the debris due the ground being so wet. He added that the pond is the lowest he has ever seen and the course right now is in rough shape. The fairway grass hasn't grown yet but with better weather it will start growing well.

Commissioner Robertson said there are new mats to hit off at the driving range and we made special agreements with the middle schools that he has been observing and has been great. He said it's great to see young kids playing and doing something. He mentioned a part time employee, Cameron Fisher, who is also doing student teaching at West Side Middle, and he took it upon himself to start a golf team with they never had. He raised money to equip these kids with golf equipment and gear. He said he witnessed these kids come to the golf course with Cameron and they were well dressed and very well behaved and listening to everything he said. Commissioner Robertson said that speaks very highly of him and as a representative of the park.

Commissioner Robertson talked about Mrs. Smith and how dedicated she was to the park and us needing to do something to honor her service on the board. He recommended having a plaque made to be put in the lobby of the Clubhouse. Commissioner Robertson made a motion that we honor Stewart Smith for her years of service to the park system with a plaque to be placed in the lobby of the Clubhouse. Commissioner Koepsel seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Amburgey reported that the rule book for the park is in the attorneys' hands and waiting on him to get back with what changes need to be made. He said that he moved the traffic sign to see if we could get data and to see if we are having interference. That is also our traffic count, and we will have to add some to the count because it doesn't pick up the traffic going to Columbia Shelter. Chief Amburgey hired a new part time officer, Tom Carper, a retired deputy with Kanawha County who has had an outstanding career and a great person. From our military program we were awarded a tire machine to use at Big Bend and he also has put in for a truck which we haven't heard back about.

Chief Amburgey kept the board advised back in 2021 that Big Bend got broken into and stole a truck and did damages. This individual that we charged originally went to prison and got out on multiple felonies and two weeks after he got out, he broke into us. Chief believes he has broke in before but we couldn't prove it. But it's finally been judicated and he received home confinement for the three felonies that he pled to. He will do home confinement with drug rehab and upon drug rehab he will receive a suspended prison sentence. Chief said he got nothing for it for breaking into us and he will be back. Unfortunately, the system has let us down and not happy about the it as well as the Sheriff's Department and State Police for doing all the work to get this guy put away.

Chief talked about the Fishing Rodeo this past weekend and how nice it was to be a part of it. We had beautiful weather and a great turnout. He mentioned that Ben Carpenter and Melissa Fisher have been involved and Brad has put it on for several years. We had kids catching 18-inch trout stocked by the DNR and we assisted a 20-year-old with down syndrome. She didn't have a pole and has never fished. So, we gave her a pole and got it ready for her and she caught a 14-inch trout. Ben Carpenter spoke on the event as well. He had been volunteering in the park for over 20 years and been has working with Brad all these years with doing Santa, with his dad, Harry Carpenter, and other events, such as the fishing rodeo. He said we did the fishing rodeo this past weekend and had 90 kids registered plus parents, grandparents, and siblings. Out of those 90 kids 60 of them caught a fish. Thanks to the DNR for stocking. Ben gave Chief credit for when we needed someone to help a kid with a hook or fish he was there to help. We had some disabled adults participate this year. We also had door prizes which consisted of 20 fishing poles, hats, remote control boats and cars. There was no charge for the kids, and everything was free at this event. At the fishing rodeo we gave out awards and this year we did plaques that were hand made by the Shop department at Herbert Hoover High School. They made 8 plaques for the event and going forward we will use them for any event he is involved in. He said everything went well and Brad was great to work with as well as Sarah being on board with everything. He thanked Jeff for the opportunity to do these events in the park over the years and thanked his team for helping out. Ben is hoping to bring other community events to the park in the future. Brad thanked Ben and Melissa for helping with the event and they went above and beyond for this event as they got prizes on their own time and purchased most of this stuff on there own to give back to the community. We also had a community outreach program, Mountains of Hope, volunteer and they brought kids from the community that are underprivileged. He said it was the first time any of these kids ever fished and they all had a great time. Mountains of Hope handed out hot dogs and water for free to everyone including the parents.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jeff reported that on the storm cleanup at Big Bend with about 40 trees down and a garage door blown in at Meadowood. It has been turned into the insurance. Coonskin only lost about 8 trees and a big one went through the fence at the tennis courts. We contacted the insurance on that as well. Jeff stated that it could have been worse, and we have had worse in the past. Jeff reported that the irrigation pump will be in next month and they got delayed due to weather and put us on the next available slot in May. Jeff reported that the Kanawha County Commission approved the slip repair at Big Bend and Coonskin, and they will start

at Big Bend the first of May. As soon as they start, they will use #3 fairway to house their equipment and material. That part of the course will be shut down and then when the construction starts, we will go to our golf plan. Jeff said that we have begun pool preparation and cleaned them out and washed them. He added that there has been movement in the pool paint industry with companies being bought out and things in flux. He doesn't know if we will be able to get the supplies in time to get it painted before Memorial Day. Jeff added with part time help we are good at Coonskin and need some more help at Big Bend and Commissioner Koepsel has been trying to find help as well.

LEGAL REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Written notes available upon request.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pope made a motion to adjourn.

President Tackett called the meeting adjourned 2:54pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 2:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Jeffrey K. Hutchinson, Director