



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Minutes
January 19, 2022

Called to Order by Preston Peper

Members in attendance were Dave Fisher, Kurisha Hoffman, Mike Butler, Jeff Harrison, Dr. Kristen Lycett, Tom Klein, Councilman Dave Stepp and Parks and Recreation Director, Preston Peper

Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved, motion by Klein, second by Butler

Presentation by Talbot Thrive, Richard Marx and Cameron McTavish

Marx and McTavish presented the desire to create a bike trail from Oxford to Easton and ultimately from Talbot County to adjacent counties. Rail lines used to run from all major towns into Easton, including from Oxford to Easton. State still holds the right of way for the rail line running from Easton to Cordova. There was discussion held in November 2022 meeting with Cheryl Lewis, Town Administrator for Oxford, requesting Talbot County pave the walking trail connector link from the Town of Oxford to the existing walking path at Oxford Conservation Park. There is a mowed trail that has been maintained since park opening allowing users an avenue to access the park from the backside located near Pier St. A trail system may be constructed across local property owners through easements from Oxford to Easton including properties such as Chip Akridge site. The desire is to form a system such as in Queen Anne and Lewis, DE. Talbot County Advisory Board is supportive of this initiative; however, the ask for easements should come from other entities instead of the County.

Chairperson Report/County Council Representative – Welcome to Dave Stepp, new Council Representative

Old Business

Community Center Expansion Update: Willow will begin construction as soon as possible with a 275 day build out. A formal groundbreaking will be March 14, 2023.

Ice Rink Update: Floor is complete, glass in. Force test tomorrow to ensure lines are secure. Ice activities are scheduled to resume in early February and will extend until the beginning of May to allow for more use.

Sheds at Mt. Pleasant: One of the three sheds have been removed to date with the youth football program failing to remove sheds at the given requested time. Peper will reach out to reiterate the desire to have those removed as soon as possible.

New Business

Park Fees for sports organizations discussion: Discussion was held as to the fee structure for youth sports utilizing Talbot County facilities. Proposed fee structure for youth programs (18 years and under) is a flat fee of \$500/season. Daily usage and adult sports/programs would remain as previously billed. *Voted in Favor 6-0*

FY2024 Budget Items: No huge ticket items in the budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year. TCCC concession stand needs a lot of work or rebuild? Increases in park maintenance due to direct costs and unrealistic public requests. Contractual assistance. Two playgrounds, dugouts, ice plant, gym, pickleball courts were all paid with State grant funds.

Revisit Past Council Requests: Perry Cabin dumpsters need to be moved to another location, requests have been made two times prior to Council. Port Street house needed to be transfers/sold, structurally unsound and woefully in disrepair.



Member Reports: Harrison commented the request for portable toilets at landings year round, units were placed at Dogwood Harbor. Harrison commented that the field at TES looks good, games to be played this summer. Fisher expressed concerns about SMLL requests being too large and soliciting for improvements that have not been approved (ex. Lights at Perry Cabin). Ethics Reporting documents were distributed and collected from present members.

Adjournment: Next meeting will be March 16, 2023, 6:00pm