



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Minutes
May 18, 2023

Called to Order by Preston Peper

Members in attendance were Dave Fisher, Kurisha Hoffman, Walter Chase, David Adams, Jeff Harrison, Tom Klein, (Tim Kearns – replacing Kim Kearns), Councilman Dave Stepp and Parks and Recreation Director, Preston Peper

Previous Meeting Minutes

Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved, motion by Hoffman, second by Harrison

Presentation by Carol Bean, Rob Straebel – POS request for purchase of property in St. Michaels

The Town of St. Michaels is interested in acquiring the property in St. Michaels known as Environmental Concern to be used as a park, water access, etc. They are searching for a Program Open Space assist from Talbot County (Easton woods property) for an undisclosed amount. The Town of St. Michaels would match this amount and request the remaining portion from the State of Maryland stateside POS. Park Board recommendation was to contribute the same amount as previously given to the Town of Easton in the amount of \$100,000 Program Open Space acquisition funds. Voted in Favor 6-0.

Presentation by Cameron McTavish – Request for grant co-application for bike path design

McTavish with Talbot Thrive is interested in having professional designs for a bike path from Causeway Park to the Conservation Park in Oxford. This would predominantly travel along Pier Street and connect to Oxford Conservation Park along a connector trail. After discussion, it was decided that the Park Board would recommend a letter of support for Talbot Thrive to apply for the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Grant Program.

Chairperson Report/County Council Representative – Progress being made at TCCC is exciting. Fisher commended Peper on managing many projects that started all at once.

Old Business

Parks and Recreation Projects Update:

Gym Expansion: Willow has commenced foundation work.

Pickleball Courts: ATC has commenced foundation work.

Dugouts: Completed

Playground in BCP: Work has begun.

Playground at TCCC: Work has begun.

Budget (Dave Stepp): No many movers or shakers as to the budget for Parks and Recreation. COLA and step raise for all full time employees.

New Business

Ice Admission fee increase discussion: Discussion was held as to a fee increase for ice admission/skate rental for public skate. The current price is \$7 admission and \$3 skates, proposed increase would be to increase admission to \$10 while skate rental remains at \$3. Current price has been in place for nearly 10 years. This price is still less than Harrington public skate and rinks across the bridge. *Voted in Favor 6-0*

Parking fee for ramp sticker violation discussion: Current violations for no having a ramp sticker is \$50; however, since the permit is only \$45 there is not a lot of incentive to purchase a permit. By increasing the violation amount to \$75 it would incentivize individuals to obtain a ramp permit. The discussion was to lower the fine to \$30 if the violator purchased a ramp permit for \$45. This was the final recommendation. *Voted in Favor 6-0*



Back Creek Park Discussion: Discussion was held as there appears to be a minor cat sanctuary located at the park. Cats have been spayed/neutered and relocated to the park over the years without authorization or permission; brings into question whether the cats located in close proximity to the new playground is a safe/healthy environment? Decision was made to approach those individuals involved with the cat sanctuary and hopefully move the cat houses/feeding further back into the park where people tend not to recreate.

Concession Stand Discussion: Since funds were removed from the budget request for the concession stand rehab at TCCC; there doesn't appear to be enough funds. Peper proposed using Program Open Space funds to rebuild/rehab the structure with only a 10% obligation; and subsequently use the capital funds for other small projects that have come to light since the budget submission.

Paving at SMES/HS alert: Just a notice that TCPS will be milling/paving/stripping the Bay Hundred Pool parking area which may disrupt swim lessons, aerobics, public swim and pool parties.

Member Reports: Tball teams using TES field according to Harrison.

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