



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Advisory Board Minutes  
July 21, 2023

Called to Order by Preston Peper

Members in attendance were Dave Fisher, Kurisha Hoffman, Jamie Latham, David Adams, Jeff Harrison, Tom Klein, Dr. Kristen Lycett, Tim Kearns and Parks and Recreation Director, Preston Peper

Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Old Business

**Parks and Recreation Projects Update:**

Gym Expansion: Willow is continuing construction framing and masonry, no issues thus far.

Pickleball Courts: Courts are complete and being utilized, landscaping to be completed.

Dugouts: Completed

Playground in BCP: Completed.

Playground at TCCC: Completed.

**Concession Stand:** Discussion was held as to the direction of the concession stand needing A LOT of work. The choices for remediation of the structure were to tear down and rebuild, tear down rebuild smaller or redo the structure from the studs up. For transparency, Dave Stepp has expressed interest in leaving the building with the same design. The building is used primarily by baseball during the months of March – July; otherwise used as storage. Restrooms will not be replaced due to vandalism; continued use of portable toilets. Ideas of not replacing, replacing with open ended pavilion, not replace at all. Recommendation was to tear down, rebuild smaller/condensed size with block and metal roof.

New Business

**Talbot County Pool Discussion:** Each pool operates with a budget of approximately \$200,000 with offsetting budgeted revenue of about \$50,000; bear in mind the pools only operate for 3 months a year. The Community Center loses the same amount or less while operating 12 months with mandatory compensation rooms/ice. The loss at the pools is continuing to grow, scholarships are given out with the other two counties on the eastern shore not offering scholarships. A board member recommended to explore finding a sponsor to pay for a limited number of scholarships instead of unlimited. Peper will bring more financial numbers to a following board meeting prior to next budget.

**Ice Season Discussion:** Parks and Recreation has decided to leave the ice in year round for at least one year to assess additional revenue possibility. Additional lesson sessions, clinics, open skate, rentals, etc.

**Mt. Pleasant Fields Discussion:** Discussion was held as to the possibility of selling the property to a developer to build housing. Due to the lack of parking, field conditions and the overall layout of the property, the board was amiable to exploring the sale. The desire for workforce housing was expressed and selling for market rate and not giving away for \$1 as in the past. Appraisal came back at \$515,000.

Member Report

Town of Easton is getting a dog park in town and a new skate park, two lighted fields and a storage building/concession stand at North Park.

Adjournment: Next meeting will be September 21, 2023, 6:00pm