



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Minutes
September 28, 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

Reports

Councilman Stepp:

Old Business

Concession Stand Discussion: Second discussion held regarding the size, design and construction of the proposed concession stand. A unanimous decision to construct a concession stand as agreed upon from the July 20 meeting was verified. *From the July 20 meeting: 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

Parks and Recreation Update: Both playgrounds installed, pickleball courts installed and programming started, ice is in and programs begun, summer camp, sports camps and swim lessons were successful.

Talbot Soccer Discussion (Dave Fisher): Fisher described the current state of soccer being done through the local YMCA and shared concerns/frustrations regarding communication, organization, cost. This was a program lost to the YMCA years ago due to inaccurate information disseminated to County officials; while Peper shares Fisher's concerns, as long as the program is being by the YMCA; there are not any avenues to take back the program.

Talbot County Pools Financial Discussion: Discussion of pool financial situations were discussed. Pools are losing approximately \$125,000 per pool this season, this doesn't include any off season repairs. Closing a day a week may save approximately \$20,000 per pool. Why is it acceptable for pools to lose money, but not the community center? Shortfall, should be closed at the community center in 2 or 3 years.

Oxford Conservation Park: Discussion about developing additional park space on remaining portion of Oxford Conservation Park. Free program on currently owned property. Park board unanimously voted for development.

Member Report

Peper has agreed to take on the responsibilities of administering the CPP grant given to St. Michaels for the Perry Cabin fencing project.

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