



Talbot County Department of Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Minutes
January 25, 2024

Called to Order by Preston Peper

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

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

Chairperson Report/County Council Representative Report – None

Old Business

Parks and Recreation Program Update: Peper explained that programs are progressing with year-round ice rentals beginning, already had many users requesting both ice slots and gym slots.

New Business

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Wednesday 6pm, presentation in Wye Oak Room and then transition to Gymnasium for actual ribbon cutting.

Fee Increase for new FY year: Discussion was held as to the increase in fees for recreation rentals and programs of 15% across the board due largely to the \$2/hour increase in minimum wage in January 2023. Explanation that the increase would only cover increase of wages and not utilize commodities as an additional cost increase as that could make use of facilities and program cost prohibitive. *Recommendation made by Park Board to increase fees 15% across the board, unanimous vote in favor.*

Curling Club Discussion: Discussion was held as to the fee increase to be passed along to the Curling Club which rents the curling room and Chesapeake room for the months of December, January, February, and March. They currently pay rent of \$29,000/season which has only increased by \$1,000 in the past 10 years. The board proposed following the above 15% across the board amount as they incur many more expenses than common programs and rentals while generating revenue for themselves through liquor sales and sponsorships (two areas other groups have been prohibited). Also, the total value of the two rooms is over \$192,000 during the allotted time. Acknowledged that that revenue amount will never be completed, but \$29,000 is a far cry from face value. Recommendation made by Park Board to increase rent for Curling Club the same 15% as other users, unanimous vote in favor.

Outside User Group Responsibilities: Discussion was held as to passing costs along to specific groups that utilize facilities exclusively such as HRB concession stand, Neavitt Community Center, Community Center baseball concession stand, etc. Many of these facilities incur a high cost of operation for groups that don't pay any costs such as electricity, water, repairs, etc.

Identity of Parks and Recreation (community center): Discussion tabled for future meeting.

Member Report

None

Adjournment: Next meeting will be March 21, 2024, 6:00pm