

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board was held at Peace Valley Nature Center, 170 Chapman Road, Doylestown at 10 am

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

- Present: Eric Hinrichs, Thomas Marino, Charles Raudenbush, Chair, William Wert, Secretary; Chris Wetzal, and Kristen Winters
- Absent: Craig Bowen, Vice-Chair, Theodore Moore, Steve Saddlemire

Staff: Kelly Joslin, Director; Kirstin Gudknecht, Assistant Director, Peace Valley Nature Center; Angela Nagle, Executive Director, and Jodi Reimold, Office Manager.

Guests: Maureen Ferris, Bucks County Horse Park, Marilou Hansen, Kathy Donahue, Kerrie Garges, Dana Caracciolo, Kevin Zanolini, William Culp, Rose Ann Lutcavage, Karen Winston, Denise Maher

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022, meeting by Mr. Marino and seconded by Ms. Winters. Motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan Project
 - Awaiting committee approval by DCNR then will bring together the group of 13 to start on the scope of work for the RFP.
- Ordinance 170- enacted on January 18, 2023
- New General Services Division Leader George Hutt
- Recruiting for seasonal facilities- need to hire approximately 35 employees.
- Project Updates:
 - Oxford Valley Pool PVC Membrane Liner Project
 - Work to begin in early Spring 2023.
 - Ash Tree Removal will continue through 3/31, clean up to follow.
 - Ringing Rocks Parking & Restroom is almost out of the design phase.
 - Peace Valley Dock Replacement is out to bid.
 - Erwin Stover House Roof is out to bid.
 - Park Signage and Wayfinding RPF will be going out to bid.
 - Stover Myers-Mill cost estimate is being updated for presentation to the County.
 - Tileworks Chimney repair was awarded and is in progress.
- The following projects are in the early design stage.
 - Silver Lake Nature Center restroom addition
 - Silver Lake Nature Center Observation deck repair
 - Hal Clark Park boat launch
 - Core Creek Playground #10.
- Core Creek Park
 - Lake Luxembourg Conservation Pool Update
 - In spring 2023, equipment will be working the sediments into the agricultural field, then planting varieties of cover crops to encourage a healthy soil profile.

PEACE VALLEY NATURE CENTER – Kelly Joslin

- Nature Center Refresh
 - Thanks to all who made it happen.
 - Nature Center staff, volunteers, General Services staff, Angie
 - Fresh paint and repairs
 - New coffee bar
 - Cleaned and organized.
 - Self-guided activities and puppet theater
- University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point) Interpretive Media Project
 - Met with undergrad and grad students from University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point)
 - Projects may include:
 - Bird blind interpretation
 - Kiosk interpretation
 - Telling the story of cultural artifacts
 - Bridge (gateway)
 - Presentation May 11
- Grounds
 - General Services
 - Reclaimed meadow this winter – cleared invasive species.
 - Installed new signs and buoys.
 - Repaired footbridges displaced by Hurricane Ida
 - Partnering with Master Watershed Stewards
 - Live staking
 - Riparian buffer zone enhancements
 - Tree planting with trees supplied by the 10 million trees for PA program.
 - Workdays planned for spring.
 - Invasive plant removal
 - Clearing trails used by school groups.
- Trail Master Plan
 - Friends of Peace Valley Nature Center (FoPVNC) contracted Penn Trails to begin Phase I of a Master Trail Plan
 - Begin with arterial trails most widely used by Teacher Naturalists for programs.
 - Mitigate water.
 - Protect and enhance habitats.
 - Add additional outdoor classrooms.
 - Safe water crossing.
 - Improve accessibility.
 - Complete by May 31 – GTRP funding
 - Commence Master Trail Plan in late fall/early winter.
 - Two for the Trails - \$30k to fund it all (video of trail conditions)
- Grants
 - Foundations Community Partnership gave \$3,000 for Nature Play Zone. Indigenous Ingenuities free design and workday to install.
 - Visit Bucks County gave \$18,000 for Trail & Garden Revitalization Project/Friends \$40K, Crowdfsource \$20k, Rotary \$5k.
 - Rain garden, front, bird friendly between center and bird blind
 - Trail map and signs
 - Awaiting design for rain garden

BUCKS COUNTY HORSE PARK – Maureen Ferris

- Executed a long-term lease with the County of Bucks in November.
- Presented to the Park Board and County Commissioners a proclamation.
- To remove 45 ash trees and incorporate them into the jumps.

Questions and Comment from the Public

- Kerrie Garges 43year resident and an educator with the Peace Valley Nature Center
 - Trails, bridges, and buildings are deteriorating and are becoming dangerous.
 - Lack of storage for supplies for the educators
 - The intern cottage is not safe. The floor may collapse.
- Denis Maher, birder, habitats have been affected by the unnecessary mowing. Let them return.
 - The birds need the seed heads even from grass. Please stop cutting areas that are not as popular to the public.
 - There is no trail maintenance.
- William Culp – commented on Peace Valley Park’s septic tanks and trash removal lacking.
- Karen Winston – the number of park visitors and their pets have increased but there are no waste bags / cans for dog waste.
- Dana Caracciolo - Eastern Pennsylvania. Alliance of Climbers (EPAC).
 - Volunteers at PVNC regularly with her family
 - Regional event “We Conserve PA”

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 10 am on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Recording Secretary
Jodi Reimold