

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board was held at Peace Valley Nature Center, 170 Chapman Road, Doylestown at 2:05 pm

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:**

- **Present:** Craig Bowen, Chair; Nelson Clements, Thomas Marino, Lowell Musselman, Charles Raudenbush, Secretary, and William Wert, Vice Chair
- **Absent:** Kristen Winters
- **Staff:** Angela Nagle, Executive Director and Jodi Reimold
- **Guests:** Hannie Banister and Judi Hohmann representing the Bucks County Horse Park

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021, meeting by Mr. Clements and seconded by Mr. Musselman. Motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

***Organizational Change Updates***

- Superintendent of Recreation, Erin McPeak, resigned her position on August 13
  - Currently reviewing job description and will begin a search shortly
- Assistant Naturalist at Peace Valley Nature Center, Scott Maas, resigned his position on September 1
  - Currently reviewing job description and will post a job requisition shortly
- Historic Properties Manger position, vacated by Charles Yeske in January has been filled by a per diem, part time employee, Amy Hollander
  - Amy’s resume is exceptional, and she is planning to showcase our historic properties by holding various events and programs.

***Department website and social media***

- The County has upgraded the website and we now have direct and easy access presence on it.
  - Our reservation website is a direct link and should make for easy access to our site for the public.
  - Public will have access to the Park Board agendas and approved minutes per the Sunshine Laws.
- Social Media – started utilizing Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to showcase our parks, nature centers, activities, and facilities.

***Area Reports – Parks, Rangers, Recreation Facilities, Nature Centers, Historic Properties***

- Rangers are moving out of the Recreation Division into Emergency Services
- Direct report to Audrey Kenney
- This will consolidate all law enforcement.
- Parks will still have a working relationship with the Rangers

***Comment – Mr. Wert*** – This does not make sense.

***Response – Ms. Nagle*** – It is most important that we still have communication with the Rangers.

***Question – Mr. Raudenbush*** – Will the Rangers become responsible for other, non-park, locations?

***Response – Ms. Nagle*** – Not to my understanding.

***Recreation / seasonal help / Nature Centers***

- All salaries were raised this past summer to be more in line with the demand.
- 2022 should see an improved level of applicants.
- The pools did have issues with hiring at the original hourly rate.
- Nature Centers summer camps a huge success. All three sold out and added sessions to accommodate the need.

***Storm Damage from Hurricane Ida***

- Flooding and Tornado
- Playwicki Park is still closed
  - One of the pavilions sustained roof damage
  - Picnic tables damaged
  - The comfort station has been damaged
- Stover-Myers Mill
  - Major damage
  - Part of the wall has collapsed
  - Raceway damaged
  - Contractor coming to assess cleanup needs and cost.

***2022 Planning***

- Budget has been submitted
  - Signage
  - Requested funding for new signage to allow for consistency
  - Premier parks – Core Creek and Peace Valley are targeted as first recipients.
- Play Areas
  - Playwicki already on order
  - All parks can be updated.

***Comment – Mr. Wert*** – Have you been here long enough to see what needs to be changed? How can we as a board help with this?

***Response – Ms. Nagle*** – the Commissioners conducted a Transition Team Report and there are some areas, like signage, mentioned that need immediate attention. My Current focus is on community engagement – seeing our parks through a visitor’s eyes. I’m not native to Bucks County, so this is all new to me. Our facilities are tired and need to be refreshed.

***Comment – Mr. Raudenbush*** – the board would like to hear from Katia McGurk and the group running the Tile Work. What are their plans?

***Comment – Mr. Wert*** – the board would like to know more that is happening and planned. We are an advisory board, but there is no advising.

***Comment – Mr. Marino*** – Rails to Trails should be the responsibility of Parks and we should be consulted for the planning.

***Comment – Mr. Wert*** - The Planning Commission should handle planning; Parks should handle events and activities and General Services should take care of the maintenance for the trails.

***Election of Officers***

- After discussion it was moved by Mr. Musselman and second by Mr. Clements to elect the following to a one-year term.
  - Chair – Charles Raudenbush
  - Vice Chair – Craig Bowen
  - Secretary – William Wert

***Board vacancies***

- Andrea Coaxum term expired
- Penrose Hallowell deceased
- The board will encourage eligible candidates to apply on the website.

**BUCKS COUNTY HORSE PARK – Hannie Banister and Judy Hohmann**

- Very busy season
- Storm damage
  - driveway needed repair due to flooding
  - The cross-country course had to be closed and is still wet in places
- 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Pink Ribbon Rida
  - October 3
  - Raised funds are used to assist cancer patients from the Lehigh Valley Hospital with daily living expenses.
- Spook-a-Rama
  - 4-H rents the Horse Park
  - Costumes are encouraged for horses, dogs and people.
  - Always a lot of fun

***In Memory***

- Penrose Hallowell passed away on August 24, 2021, he was a long-time member of this board – in his memory a moment of silence was held.

**Questions and Comment from the board**

*No additional comments or questions*

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held at 2 pm on October 13, at Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Recording Secretary  
Jodi Reimold