

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board was held at Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville at 1:55 pm

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:**

- **Present:** Craig Bowen, Vice-Chair; Nelson Clements, Thomas Marino, Charles Raudenbush, Chair, and Steve Saddlemire
- **Absent:** Lowell Musselman, William Wert, Secretary, and Kristen Winters
- **Staff:** Kirsten Becker, Director Naturalist, Churchville Nature Center, James Depew, Recreation Supervisor, Angela Nagle, Executive Director, and Jodi Reimold
- **Guests:** Maureen Ferris, Bucks County Horse Park and Dana Caracciolo, Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers (EPAC)

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021, meeting by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Clements. Motion was unanimously approved.

**DANA CARACCIOLO - EPAC**

***Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers***

- Fairly new organization with a 501c3 designation
- Working with Bucks County and DCNR
- Creating trails
- Reblazing existing trails
- High Rocks Area
  - Parking
  - Educational signage
  - Benches
  - Adding trail drains to aid in drainage from the cliff fronts
  - Cleaned up the trail from the high rocks to Tohickon Valley Park
- Website <https://epaclimbers.org/>
- EPAC has a twelve-person board
- Volunteer staff of six
- 100+ on the mailing list
- Workdays often draw 24 people
- Have spent approximately 400 hours on trail work

Comment - Mr. Raudenbush – It’s great to see this organization. A lot of news reports of the High Rocks can be negative.

Reply – Ms. Caracciolo – the last accident on the high rocks was 2014.

Comment – Mr. Marino – are you involved with the Haycock area

Reply – Ms. Caracciolo – yes, we have been active in that project.

Comment – Ms. Nagle – Bucks County’s General Services are working on parking needs and are working to add a much-needed rest room. EPAC has been working on graffiti removal. The County will provide the product, EPAC will provide the labor.

Comments – Mr. Raudenbush - We appreciate volunteers and your help. Thank you. Please come back and give us an update any time.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

***Reviewed Mission Statement***

- Current Mission Statement
  - The Department seeks in every endeavor to improve the quality of life and environment for all Bucks County Residents, by working to enhance existing and projected recreational and cultural needs for our County.
- Proposed Mission Statement
  - The Department of Parks and Recreation seeks in every endeavor to enrich the lives of Bucks County residents by providing well-maintained parks and recreational facilities, preserving open space and historic resources, and offering inclusive educational programs that invite people of all ages to engage with nature.

***2022 Calendar of Meetings***

- Distributed the calendar of meetings

***Storm Damage from Hurricane Ida***

- Stover-Myers Mill
  - Major damage
  - A cleaning team has been in and cleaned the facility.
  - Planning to reopen in spring of 2022

***Reservation System***

- Switching from ActiveNet to Civic Rec
- Civic Rec will be a better experience for the public
- The current website is of the same family, and they will work better together

**RECREATION REPORT – James Depew**

- Recreation Supervisor, has been employed full time for four and a half years
- Graduate of East Stroudsburg University with a Recreation Management Degree.
- Responsibilities include Recreation facilities, field rentals, special use permits, and the Core Creek Dog Park
- Staffing has been an issue for a few years.
  - Recently raised the hourly wage and expect improved interest in the future.
- Oxford Valley Pool
  - Replaced equipment this year.
  - Will replace furniture and paint the facility over the fall and winter.

**CHURCHVILLE NATURE CENTER – Kirsten Becker**

- Director of the Center, has been employed with the county for 33 years
- Peg Mongillo is the Assistant Director
- The Friends of Churchville Nature Center are a volunteer group
  - Provide five additional staff members who help run the center.
  - It’s a very good symbiotic relationship
- Survived Covid well
- School groups have returned
- Groups are here at the Leni Lenape Village four days per week bringing sixty students each day

- Butterfly house end of successful season is currently conducting a tag and release of monarch butterflies.

**BUCKS COUNTY HORSE PARK – Maureen Ferris**

- We're the northern most park in the parks system. Located in Revere.
- The Park is not funded by the county.
- Very busy season
- All is going well

**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 December 8, 2021, at Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Recording Secretary  
Jodi Reimold