

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board was held at Churchville Nature Center, Churchville at 10 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

- **Present:** Nelson Clements, Thomas Marino, Theodore Moore, Steve Saddlemire, William Wert, Secretary, Chris Wetzel, and Kristin Winters
- **Absent:** Craig Bowen, Vice-Chair, Charles Raudenbush, Chair
- **Staff:** Kirsten Becker Naturalist, Churchville Nature Center, Angela Nagle, Executive Director, and Jodi Reimold
- **Guests:** Maureen Ferris, Bucks County Horse Park, Bucks County Planning Commission: Christian Regosch, Paul W. Gordon, Eric Harris, Richard G. Brahler, Michael Borovick, Evan Stone.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022, meeting by Mr. Marino and seconded by Mr. Clements. Motion was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION – RAILS TO TRAILS UPDATE

- Reviewed the current trails
- Reviewed the next phases of projects related to portions of Churchville Nature Center and Core Creek Park
- Trails soon to be constructed
 - Neshaminy Greenway Trail Core Creek Park
 - Newtown Rail Trail Extension to Churchville Nature Center
- Trail future development
 - Completion of Newtown Rail Trail to Newtown
 - Completion of Neshaminy Greenway Trail
- Trail & Bicycle planning
 - Continuing to assess trail and bicycling opportunities through the county.
 - Continued planning assistance to municipalities

Comments by the board –

- Angela Nagle – there is a suggestion that County Parks and Recreation should oversee the management of the rail trails, a plan for funding, maintenance and policy enforcement needs to also be addressed.
- Bill Wert – It has been a long time coming – I fully support the trails being taken over by the county with the appropriate funding in place
- Tom Marino – great idea – need better idea who is in charge of what
- Tom Marino – maybe create a committee for oversight (who builds it, who maintains it, etc).
 - Steve Saddlemire – there needs to be conversation between the townships and the County. There ought to be a definition of what the expectations for the Parks/Park Board. What does this mean for the County Parks and Recreation department?
 - Ted Moore– need to make sure that there is a more diverse compilation of participants in the planning and take ownership of these trails.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Playground Replacement

- Playwicki Park completed in April for a cost of \$45,000 (structures and safety surfacing).
- Lake Towhee, Tinicum, Tohickon Valley scheduled for summer 2022 replacement.
- County Parks include 12 playgrounds

Question - Steve Saddlemire – is there a replacement schedule at this time?

Response – Angie Nagle – We are creating a scheduled replacement plan to include safety surfacing.

Comment - Bill Wert – budget is a challenge

Delaware Access Area

- Applied for a water trails grant to /repair the existing Delaware River access for the public’s use.

Aerial Adventure Park

- Project location is Core Creek Park near Pavilion 11.
- Working through the bid process currently.

Conservation Pool Project

- Project located Core Creek Park, Lake Luxembourg
 - July 18, 2022, the water level of the lake will start to be lowered
 - Shore line will be affected.
 - Not sure yet how much of an impact on boating and fishing activities

Core Creek Park

- Vulture Roost
 - Over 100 birds have taken over portions of the park
 - They have begun roosting in two pavilions, impacting use.
 - They are a protected species

Question – Chris Wetzel – I have seen young people jumping off the dam area – can it be made less inviting?

Seasonal Recreation Facilities

- Open until 6/18 with limited hours. Open daily starting 6/20/22
- Still need more employees for all our facilities, particularly in Lower Bucks
- Public feedback to date has been positive.

Young Lungs at Play

- Hoping to move forward with the program this summer.

Peace Valley Nature Center

- New Director anticipated to begin on 6/21/22

BUCKS COUNTY HORSE PARK – Maureen Ferris

- Dedication of the tile for Michael Fitzpatrick June 1
- Season has opened
- Off to a good start

Questions and Comments from the board

Chris Wetzel

- I have seen young people jumping off the dam area – can it be made less inviting?

Steve Saddlemire

- Asked for Commissioner comment on the \$500 million spending bill for Parks
- Asked for update on the Greg Bullough issue for access to restrooms?

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 10 am on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at Core Creek Administrative Building, 901 E. Bridgetown Pike Langhorne

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Recording Secretary
Jodi Reimold