

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 26, 2025

Bear Branch Nature Center

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Gary Davis, Nadine Rosendale, Kristin Darby, Austin Johnstone, Mark Schmidt, Kristin Darby, Lynn Karr-Kratz, John Woodley

Members Excused: Donald Gerkin, David Ferguson, Anita Taylor, Michael Duffy

Ex-Officio Member Present: Bob Hicks, Director

Staff Present: Steve Aberts, Dawn Harry, Lisa Carroll, Will Brozy, Ashleigh Smith

Esteemed Guests: Commissioner Rothstein, Commissioner Kiler, Roberta Windham, Deborah Effingham

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on, March 26, 2025, in the Meeting Room at the Bear Branch Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Mr. Davis.

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome and Introductions were exchanged around the room.

Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the February minutes was made by Ms. Darby, it was seconded by Mr. Woodley, the vote was unanimous.

Director's Report- Mr. Hicks

Staff Introductions –

- Full-Time Park Ranger – Still working on hiring.
- Camp Counselors – Hiring is in progress.

Current Projects –

- Self Help Projects – Seven active projects
- Park Restoration Projects –
 - Rehab pavilion at Sandymount
 - Rehab the bathrooms at the Sports Complex
- Capital Projects –
 - Piney Run Park Paving – overlay parking lot near pavilion, boat trailer lot and tennis courts to pickleball courts.
 - Piney Run Upper Playground – Replacement project waiting for state approval.

Community Parks –

- Gearing up for the spring season
- Pressure washing pavilions and courts to get them ready for the season. This was not happening for several years.
- Other as needed and planned maintenance that is taking place.
- Installing Park Legacy benches – completed 3 recently.

- Prepping for the mowing season – looking to set up a meeting with Linwood before they begin.

Programs and Upcoming Events –

- Recreation
 - Bus Trips
 - April 30 – Longwood Gardens
 - June 7, Williamsburg VA
 - Aug. 17-19, Niagara Falls Overnight
 - April 11 – Adaptive Rec Dance, Easter Dance at Carroll Springs School
 - April 17, Egg Drop – Westminster Veterans
 - Fishing Rodeos – 8am-12pm
 - Westminster Community Pond – April 27
 - Krimgold Park, May 18
 - Events at the Farm Museum
 - July 12, Carroll County Car Fest – 11-3pm
 - August 18, Kidz Fest – 11-3 pm
- Piney Run –
 - Grant to plant 48 trees and shrubs in April with volunteers
 - Sasquatch Saturday, May 17 11-3
 - Fall Festival, Saturday October 11th 10am – 4pm
- Hashawha –
 - New pavilion complete across from the Nature Center for events/programs
 - Upgraded Planetarium
 - In the process of constructing a Butterfly House
 - New ceiling in Nature Center utilized with boards from Caretaker House

Marketing Update – document handed out regarding other programs or events.

Elections of Chair and Vice Chair

The motion to approve Gary Davis as Chair and Austin Johnstone as Vice Chair was made by Mr. Davis, it was seconded by Mr. Woodley, the vote was unanimous.

Commissioners Corner

Commissioner Kiler –

Interested in seeing the Recreation and Parks six-year CIP. We want to make sure we understand what the priorities are. I would like to ensure that someone from the BOE is present at all meeting if Michael Duffy can not attend. I plan to mention something to the BOE staff.

Please make sure that the commissioners know what the Advisory Board priorities are. One of the commissioners suggested putting county dollars on a capital project. We know that the primary source of funding is Program Open Space.

Commissioner Rothstein –

Budget is very important. You all are the eyes and ears at the Parks. We want to know from you all what to focus our attention on. We need that feedback. We need the candid comments. Understanding your collective requirements. There was a young lady that

received her gold award down at Piney Run and built a trail to the Nature Center. I want to make sure we are getting out to the scouts to see what they can do. Please let us about these projects so that we can participate in any recognition.

Recreation and Parks staff mentioned multiple scout projects that they have been involved in or are currently working on.

Other Business:

Ms. Carroll – Space Sub-committee created by Friends of Carroll County that will be looking at indoor space allocations. Questionnaire was sent out for indoor and outdoor space to all Rec Councils.

Mr. Woodley – Make sure they show records of programs when and when they didn't show up.

Ms. Carroll – May be difficult to get that information. May need to request that from the schools.

Mr. Schimdt – I want to make sure the board looks at the priorities of all projects and how they are set up. As a new member, it did not make sense to me how the projects were prioritized.

Mr. Johnstone – It is not based off safety based off location. We determine the priority on how they are funded.

Mr. Brozy – Based on location. This was agreed on by the Advisory Board a few years ago.

Ms. Carroll – The councils provide their own priorities. The Advisory Board can change that however they want.

Mr. Davis – Talk about the topic of parks that are owned by the schools. Mayeski Park is owned by the schools. Is there any way to get the County to own the property?

Commissioner Kiler – That would be a question for the CCPS and conversation with Michael Duffy.

Mr. Davis – The Mayeski building needs to be looked at. Always comes up that the school owns the property when it comes time to talk about replacing or repairing it. We are unsure if a new school will be built on the property.

Commissioner Kiler – There should be communication with the BOE when projects come up.

Director Hicks – We can bring that up with the joint facilities use agreement conversations.

Ms. Carroll – I believe it is in the strategic plan to address the County working towards owning the properties that are owned by the BOE.

Commissioner Kiler – That brings up a question for the school additions that are in the plan – Will these projects displace a field?

Commissioner Kiler – The BOE superintendent sent out an email confirming Outdoor School is still in place.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held May 21, 2025, at 7:00 PM, location Robert Moton Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Darby, it was seconded by Mr. Johnstone, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned, time not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hicks

Bob Hicks, Director

Ashleigh Smith

Ashleigh Smith, Secretary