

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2020**

The December 11, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Mauch Chunk Lake Park Office via zoom beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present – Terry Warnagiris, Vice-Chairwoman; Kevin Zurawa, Member; Earl Henninger, Member.

Park Staff Present – David Horvath, Park Director.

Commissioner Chris L. Lukasevich was also in attendance.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mrs. Warnagiris called the meeting to order and led the group in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

HEARING OF VISITORS – There were no visitors present for the December meeting.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mrs. Warnagiris. All board members were in favor.

VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS – Motion made by Mr. Zurawa to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of November totaling \$34,120.90, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Lukasevich reported that he received public input requesting that the board consider having a County resident only day for the beach/swim area once a week next season. A brief discussion was held concerning the matter.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Boating Facility Grant – Mr. Horvath reported that the submission of the Statewide Public Access Grant Application was approved at the December 03rd Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Horvath stated that, if approved, the County will be providing a 50% cash match estimated at \$155,500.00 for new vault restrooms and paving improvements at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath reported that a condition of the grant will require an extension of the lease agreement with the PA Fish & Boat Commission for the Operations & Maintenance of the park property. Mr. Horvath stated that the current lease agreement is due to expire on December 31, 2025. Mr. Horvath reported that the application was mailed to the PA Fish & Boat Commission on December 09, 2020.

2021 Budget – Mr. Horvath reported that the proposed budget for 2021 can be viewed at www.carboncounty.com. Mr. Horvath reported that the budget included requests for a new server for the park office computer network, a new riding mower and UTV for the maintenance staff, new grinder pumps for the beach area, and funding to continue with grading and drainage improvements to the Switchback Trail.

2021 Meeting Dates – The board set and approved the meeting dates for 2021 as follows: January 08th, February 12th, March 12th, April 09th, May 14th, June 11th, July 09th, August 13th, September 10th, October 08th, November 12th, and December 10th. Meetings are scheduled to be held at the park office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the new roof and repairs to the Ginder-Vermillion pavilion have been completed. Mr. Horvath reported that the pavilion was dedicated in 1984. Mr. Henninger recommended avoiding the use of plywood under the metal roofing in the future to cut down on time and expense.

Mr. Horvath reported that work is scheduled to continue on the next section of Shoreline Trail leading back to the camping area. Mr. Horvath reported that sections of walkways and footbridges will need to be repaired or replaced, in addition to, trimming and marking.

Mr. Horvath reported that the PA Outdoor Corps is a program through DCNR that specializes in trail maintenance. Mr. Horvath stated that DCNR contracts with the Student Conservation Associates, Inc. and partners with local governments to maintain trails. Mr. Horvath noted that the program is similar in nature to the PA Conservation Corps. Mr. Horvath reported that the park relied on the PCC for trail maintenance and other projects in the past, but the program is no longer available. Mr. Horvath reported that the maximum weekly cost share to participate would be \$2,324.00 for an adult roving crew for four days. Mr. Horvath stated that he would like look into obtaining a crew for trimming, marking, and signing of the Shoreline Trail on the far side of the lake

Mr. Horvath reported that several cabins are in need of window and screen door repairs and/or replacements. Mr. Horvath reported that new picnic tables are needed at a few sites in the camping area and the picnic tables and lifeguard chairs at the beach area need to be brought back to the maintenance shop, sanded down, and refurbished.

Mr. Horvath reported that the park maintenance staff will continue to report to the County Maintenance Director for snow removal when needed.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath provided a summary of incidents for the 2020 season. Mr. Horvath reported that there were a total of 21 citations filed for violations of the park ordinance. Mr. Horvath reported that violations included excessive noise during quiet hours, alcohol, littering, and destruction/damaging of plant life. Mr. Horvath reported fines ranged anywhere from \$25.00 to \$300.00 depending on the nature of the offense. Mr. Horvath reported that one summary trial was held that resulted in a guilty verdict for three separate violations.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A request was submitted by the Rev. Allen Hoffa on behalf of Marian Catholic High School for the 8th Annual Polar Plunge to be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at the beach area. Mr. Horvath reported that the PA Fish & Boat Commission approval and insurance requirements have been satisfied. Mr. Horvath noted that gatherings of 50 or more people at outdoor events in currently prohibited and that the event would need to comply with those restrictions and any other state guidelines relating to outdoor events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Zurawa. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was no correspondence for the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 10:50 a.m. by Mr. Henninger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Zurawa. All board members were in favor.

Darryl Brewster, Secretary