

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF JULY 10, 2020**

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

Board Members Present – Thomas Wildoner, Chairman; Terry Warnagiris, Vice-Chairwoman; Darryl Brewster (via Conference Call), Secretary; Earl Henninger, Member.

Park Staff Present – David Horvath, Park Director.

Commissioner Chris L. Lukasevich was also in attendance.

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

HEARING OF VISITORS – Mark Janner, Seasonal Park Ranger II spoke of his concerns about the need to carry a sidearm while on duty and in performance of his duties.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mrs. Warnagiris to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS – Motion made by Mrs. Warnagiris to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of June totaling \$54,264.88, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Military/Veteran Discount – Mr. Horvath reported that the park has gotten inquiries about whether a military or veteran discount is offered. Mr. Horvath explained that there is currently no policy in place concerning a military or veteran discount. Following discussion the board advised Mr. Horvath to look into determining what discounted rates would be appropriate to offer moving forward.

Park Ranger I Training – Mr. Horvath reported that the minimum age for attending the ACT 120 training is 18 years of age. Mr. Horvath reported that the ACT 235 training is also 18 years of age. Mr. Horvath noted that applicants with ACT 120 training have been difficult to obtain. Mr. Horvath reported that he has one park ranger with ACT 235 training and potentially a second that has applied. Mr. Horvath reported that both have firearms training with the ACT 235. Mr. Janner spoke of his other training and qualifications. Following executive session and further discussion the board recommended that the County review the matter with the County Solicitor to determine if a waiver or change in training requirements would be appropriate for a Seasonal Park Ranger II with ACT 235 training w/ firearms.

Beach/Swim Area Admissions – Mr. Horvath reported that the County recently increased the Non-County residency rate for daily admissions to \$10/adult and \$7.00/child for weekdays. Mr. Horvath reported that this was in addition to the increases in the cabin rental rate, non-county camping rate, and vehicle pass fees that went into effect. Mr. Horvath reported that the County is considering keeping the beach/swim area restricted to County residents only for the remainder of the season. Mr. Horvath reported that the County has sought public comment on the matter and that there was an overwhelming response in favor of keeping the beach/swim area County resident only. Mr. Horvath reported that the camping area will remain open to Non-County residents and limited to 50% site capacity. Motion made

by Mr. Henninger to recommend to the County to extend the County resident only restriction for the beach/swim area for the remainder of the season due to COVID-19 concerns, seconded by Mrs. Warnagiris. All board members were in favor.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Lukasevich addressed the board and spoke of his time meeting with the lifeguards, park rangers, and maintenance staff. Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the park rangers expressed the need for a new patrol boat and that the EMA Director will be looking to determine if funding may be available through PEMA.

Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the lifeguards needed speakers for the PA system used for making announcements. Commissioner Lukasevich stated that the lifeguards also suggested having the Environmental Center conduct programs for the public at the beach area.

Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the maintenance staff expressed the need for a Utility Vehicle to access and maintain sections of trail throughout the park. Commissioner Lukasevich stated that other equipment needs were discussed, but he felt that expense wise the rental of such equipment would be more beneficial.

Commissioner Lukasevich stated that he would like to see the park admissions booth begin accepting credit card and debit card transactions thereby reducing cash transactions.

Commissioner Lukasevich thanked the park staff and board members for their flexibility and efforts during these difficult times.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the pump for the park office well needed to be replaced.

Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff will be ordering black top to repair pot holes at the boat launches and to repair a section of road in front of the park office. Mr. Horvath reported that some modified aggregate was left over from last year and will be used to repair the campground roads.

Mr. Horvath reported that two summer laborers were obtained through the Workforce Training program to assist with weed trimming, trash collection, cleaning cabins and restroom/shower facilities, and other routine maintenance.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that the First Aid/CPR/AED training that was originally scheduled for April 04th has been scheduled for July 31st from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Carbon County Environmental Education Center classroom where proper social distancing can be maintained.

Mr. Horvath reported on two domestic disputes in the camping area in which park rangers requested the assistance of the Summit Hill Police Department.

Mr. Horvath reported that a boat rescue was performed over the July 04th holiday weekend. Mr. Horvath reported that there were no major issues or traffic problems over the holiday weekend.

Mr. Horvath reported that there has been trespassing occurring in the buildings on the grounds of the former Gehring property. Mr. Horvath reported that Jim Thorpe police have been notified. Mr. Henninger stated that he would like to see the property preserved and eventually put to good use.

Mr. Horvath reported that Christopher Fisher and Mark Kokinda have been hired as Seasonal Lifeguards. Mr. Horvath reported that one additional applicant has been approved and is awaiting hiring also.

Mr. Horvath reported that he reached out to the County Sheriff's Department to determine if any Use of Force trainings are scheduled.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – Request received from Chief Chuck DeMund of the Lenape Nation of Northeast PA requesting permission to hold a Pow-Wow festival on Saturday, September 12th and Sunday, September 13th. Mr. Horvath reported that he informed Mr. DeMund that the event would need to adhere to CDC guidelines as well as any state mandated restrictions on crowd size and gatherings. Mr. Horvath reported that currently gatherings of 250 or more are prohibited. Motion made by Mr. Brewster to approve the Special Activity Request in accordance with CDC and state guidelines, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Mr. Horvath reported that he has had discussions with Patrick McGeehan concerning the Heritage Festival at the park. Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. McGeehan, who helps coordinate the event each year, has recommended that the event be postponed until next year due to concerns with being able to control the crowd size and being able to hold the event with respect to CDC guidelines. Mr. Horvath reported that the Hootenanny in Summit Hill and other similar type venues have been postponed as well. Following discussion, motion was made by Mr. Henninger to postpone the event until next year, seconded by Mr. Brewster. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was no correspondence for the July meeting.

Prior to adjournment board member Earl Henninger requested use of a pavilion on a Sunday morning for St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Summit Hill to hold a Sunday mass. Motion made by Mr. Brewster to approve the request, seconded by Mrs. Warnagiris. All board members were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 12:00 p.m. by Mr. Henninger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brewster. All board members were in favor.

Darryl Brewster, Secretary