

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2020**

The June 12, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held by conference call at the Mauch Chunk Lake Park Office beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present – Terry Warnagiris, Vice-Chairwoman; Darryl Brewster, Secretary; Kevin Zurawa, 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 for the June meeting.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Brewster to approve the minutes of the May 08, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Zurawa. All board members were in favor.

VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS – Motion made by Mr. Brewster to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of May totaling \$44,826.31, seconded by Mr. Zurawa. All board members were in favor.

PARK OPERATIONS –

COVID-19 Update – Mr. Horvath reported that the beach area opened to County residents on June 06th at 50% capacity. Mr. Horvath reported that the County adopted a resolution that will allow the park to continue County only operations for the camping area, picnic area, and beach/swim area while in the yellow phase or through June 30th, whichever is longer. Mr. Horvath distributed the resolution and concept draft of operations to the board members for review. Mr. Horvath thanked the County Commissioners, Emergency Management Agency, and County Sheriff's Dept. for their assistance and stated that many people have been understanding and cooperative of the decision to limit admission to County resident only at this time. Mr. Horvath explained that there were only a few minor issues to deal with on the opening day for swimming and the anticipated overflow from Beltzville had not been realized. Mr. Horvath reported that tent site and cabin rentals have picked up as more County residents have been taking advantage of the opportunity. Mr. Horvath reported that the Parks Department received additional supplies including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant. Mr. Horvath reported that a plexiglass barrier has been installed at the admissions booth. Mr. Horvath reported that fencing remains around the play equipment area which will remain closed.

Park Ranger I Training – Mr. Horvath reported that he has been approached by a Seasonal Park Ranger II requesting authorization to carry a firearm while on duty. Mr. Horvath reported that the park ranger has encountered situations in the park in which he felt uncomfortable with respect to his safety and performance of his duties. Mr. Horvath reported that the current requirements for Seasonal Park Ranger I include ACT 120 training or similar law enforcement experience. Mr. Horvath stated that in order for him to carry a firearm the requirements would need to be changed to require only the ACT 235 certification with firearms. Mr. Brewster stated that he felt the training requirements should remain the same and include the ACT 120 training and law enforcement experience. Mr. Horvath questioned whether a probationary period and minimum age requirement could be considered if an employee has the ACT 235 certification with firearms. Following discussion the board advised Mr. Horvath to place the matter on the next meeting agenda for further review and discussion.

Food Stand & Camp Store – Mr. Horvath reported that the County recently executed lease agreements for the Food Stand and Camp Store. Mr. Horvath reported that the food stand agreement will be for one year and expire December 31, 2020 while the Camp Store agreement shall be for a two year period expiring March 31, 2022. Commissioner Lukasevich reported that there are addendums currently being worked out with the rental payments due to limited visitation and potential impacts on revenue due to the COVID-19 situation.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that restrooms and shower facilities are receiving additional cleanings throughout the day. Mr. Horvath reported that high touch surface areas such as faucets, door handles, and countertops are also being disinfected daily.

Mr. Horvath reported that Jeffrey Gallagher has been hired as Seasonal Park Maintenance. Mr. Horvath stated that he also requested workers through the Workforce Training Program.

Mr. Brewster questioned the status on the repairs on the pavilion roof. Mr. Horvath reported that he would be discussing the project with the Lead Maintenance Worker to determine how long the remaining repairs will take. Mr. Zurawa suggested devoting two days mid-week to try to get the project completed. Mrs. Warnagiris asked whether all of the materials have been purchased. Mr. Horvath reported that most of the materials have been purchased and delivered.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that Samantha Janner, Thomas Layden, and William Roeschmann have been hired as Seasonal Park Ranger II. Mr. Horvath reported that he will be working on a July schedule during the coming weeks.

Mr. Horvath reported that Joshua Faenza and Kelsey Ziegler have been hired as Seasonal Lifeguard. Mr. Horvath reported that this brings the total lifeguard count to four. Mr. Horvath stated that there are three other applicants going through the process of obtaining their clearances. Mr. Horvath stated that he will be working on a lifeguard schedule over the upcoming weekend. Mr. Horvath stated that with three lifeguards scheduled the east swimming section would be closed.

Mr. Horvath reported that a black bear had been approaching and disturbing campers over the weekend of June 06th – 07th. Mr. Horvath stated that park rangers responded to multiple calls from campers. Mr. Horvath reported that the bear has since been trapped and relocated by the PA Game Commission.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – Mr. Horvath reported that a Special Activity Request was submitted by Chief Chuck DeMund for a Pow-Wow festival to be held the weekend of September 12th – 13th. Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. Demund requested County approval to tentatively move forward with advertising and promoting the event. Mr. Horvath reported that he has been granted such approval and that all CDC guidelines will need to be adhered to including restrictions on gatherings which are currently limited to less than 250 people. Mr. Horvath stated that he will place the item on the July meeting agenda for formal board approval.

CORRESPONDENCE – There was no correspondence for the June meeting.

Prior to adjournment Commissioner Lukasevich thanked the PA Dept of Transportation, County Sheriff's Dept. and Summit Hill and Jim Thorpe Police Departments for their input and assistance with the opening of the park for the County resident only phase.

Commissioner Lukasevich spoke of a potential County resident only weekend for next year.

Commissioner Lukasevich asked if a prize donation such as a Family Membership would be considered for the Dimmick Memorial Library for their summer reading program. Mrs. Warnagiris requested that a letter be sent to the park board.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:30 a.m. by Mr. Brewster to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Warnagiris. All board members were in favor.

Darryl Brewster, Secretary