

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING OF MAY 08, 2020**  
**\*\*CONFERENCE CALL\*\***

The May 08, 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; Earl Henninger, Member; 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 May meeting.

**MINUTES** – Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2020 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Brewster. 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 April totaling \$35,604.96, seconded by Mr. Zurawa. All board members were in favor.

**PARK OPERATIONS** –

**COVID-19 Update** – Mr. Horvath reported that the park is currently operating on a limited basis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Horvath reported that the camping area is going to open to County residents only on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Horvath reported that the boat launches are open for fishing and boating and the trails are open for hiking, biking, and other forms of passive and dispersed recreation. Mr. Horvath reported that social distancing guidelines and tips have been posted throughout the park. Mr. Horvath reported that the restrooms are now open in the camping area, as well as, the boat launches. Mr. Horvath reported that the beach/swim area, picnic area, group camping area, and pavilions will remain closed. Mr. Horvath reported that group sizes of 25 or more people is prohibited at this point per the Governor's phased re-opening plan.

Mr. Horvath reported that a plexiglass barrier has been installed along the main counter at the park office to help protect employees from visitors who may be infected. Mr. Horvath reported that a hand sanitizer dispenser has also been installed for employees in the main office common area and for park visitors by the counter where campers will check-in. Mr. Henninger suggested placing hand sanitizer at the restrooms at Boat Launch B since there is no water at that facility. Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. Horvath reported that the swim area ropes have not been installed yet and construction fencing has been placed along the top of the beach to prevent visitors from accessing this area due to safety concerns.

Mr. Horvath reported that there has been some discussion with opening the beach/swim area to County residents only. Mr. Horvath stated that he has concerns with how to manage the flow of traffic coming into the main entrance from Lentz Trail while verifying residency with the limited staffing available. Mr. Horvath reported that the state park beaches are closed until at least June 05<sup>th</sup>.

**Lifeguard Incentive Policy** – Mr. Horvath reported that the County has adopted a lifeguard incentive policy for the purpose of recruitment and retention of lifeguards. Mr. Horvath reported the County will continue to reimburse the cost of background clearances upon presentation proper receipts. Mr. Horvath during the first year of employment as a lifeguard the employee will receive 50% of training expenses and would receive the remaining 50% balance of training expenses during their second year of employment as long as the employee has worked a minimum of 200 hours for the season.

Mr. Horvath reported that current lifeguards have been assigned to temporary positions for the time being. Mr. Horvath reported that Noah Rodgers will work as a Seasonal Park Ranger II and Jessica Hollenbach will work as a Park Attendant. Mr. Horvath reported that the County currently has a hold on hiring new employees.

Mr. Horvath reported that two applicants are in need of lifeguard certification but are unable to attend training due to facility closures. Mr. Horvath stated that one was attending a course at Penn State Hazleton and the other was attending a course at Greater Valley YMCA, Bethlehem Campus. Mr. Horvath stated that one other applicant that had his lifeguard training has been approved and is working towards his clearances.

**Boat Mooring** – Mr. Horvath reported that boat mooring was done by phone reservation this year due to the park office being closed to visitors. Mr. Horvath reported that individuals were given preference for their sites from last year. Mr. Horvath reported that first day of mooring sales went well. Mr. Horvath reported an increase in mooring sales over last year to date.

**Park Maintenance** – Mr. Horvath reported that one full-time maintenance staff returned to work on May 04<sup>th</sup> and the second full-time maintenance staff is scheduled to return to work on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horvath reported that the seasonal maintenance staff are scheduled to return on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Horvath reported that staff will be getting caught up on grass cutting and weed trimming throughout the park.

Mr. Horvath reported that the cottages and restroom/shower facilities will be cleaned for the May 22<sup>nd</sup> opening of the camping area. Mr. Brewster suggested additional cleaning times be implemented. Mr. Brewster asked what type of cleaning products would be utilized. Mr. Horvath reported that CDC recommended cleaning practices and guidelines would be followed that would include cleaning products such as Clorox.

Mr. Horvath reported that the water system/lines will need to be flushed and the drinking water will be tested on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Park Security** – Mr. Horvath reported that he is looking to fill several Seasonal Park Ranger II positions. Mr. Horvath reported that Daniel Sist, Lead Seasonal Park Ranger I will be transferring to the Sheriff's Department on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS** – Mr. Horvath reported that the Community Safety Day scheduled for Saturday, May 02<sup>nd</sup> had been cancelled. Mr. Horvath reported that the Children's Fishing Contest scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> has also been cancelled. Mr. Horvath reported that the Half-Marathon was postponed until September 26<sup>th</sup> pending County approval.

A discussion was held concerning the approval of Special Activity Agreements for events to be held at the park. Mr. Horvath reported that there was one Special Activity Agreement submitted for a Pow-Wow to be held September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Following discussion, the board recommended to suspend approval of Special Activities until further notice.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – There was no correspondence for the May meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion made at 11:05 a.m. by Mr. Brewster to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

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Darryl Brewster, Secretary