

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING OF APRIL 09, 2021**

The April 09, 2021 meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Carbon County Environmental Center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present** – Thomas Wildoner, Chairman; Earl Henninger, Vice-Chairman; Richard Forgay II, Secretary; Robert Sikorsky, 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** – There were no visitors for the April meeting.

**MINUTES** – Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2021 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

**VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS** – Motion made by Mr. Forgay to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of March totaling \$35,204.38, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT** – Commissioner Lukasevich noted that the County recently adjusted the rates for Seasonal Lifeguard and Seasonal Maintenance in a manner similar to the Seasonal Park Ranger pay scale.

Commissioner Lukasevich updated the board on plans to have a contactless payment system at the admissions booth for the upcoming season.

Commissioner Lukasevich provided an update on a Special Activity Director internship for the park. Mr. Wildoner questioned how much time will need to be spent with the individual. Commissioner Lukasevich stated that the position would require minimum guidance and would preferably be filled by a Recreation and Tourism major.

Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the County is looking to host a training for park staff and parking staff on public relations and conflict resolution. The training would be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> and would be provided by Lehigh Carbon Community College in cooperation with CCEDC.

Commissioner Lukasevich requested that Mr. Horvath look into brush clearing at the intersection of Route 902 and Lentz Trail due to visibility concerns at the intersection that were raised to him.

Commissioner Lukasevich recommended ordering kayak racks that can be assembled and installed at Boat Launch B. Mr. Henninger requested that assistance be provided by the County Maintenance Department for installation.

## **PARK OPERATIONS –**

**County Resident Day** – Mr. Horvath reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission was asked to render a decision on having a County resident day once a week. Mr. Horvath reported that the idea that was presented would be that the beach/swim/picnic area would be for County residents only on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday each week during the swimming season. Mr. Horvath noted that Non-County residents are already utilizing the beach area if camping, purchasing a membership, or renting a pavilion. Mr. Horvath asked the board of their thoughts concerning the County Resident day. Mr. Sikorsky and Mr. Wildoner stated that they would be opposed. Mr. Henninger stated that he would also like to see things get back to normal. Mr. Forgay raised concerns with the park rangers having to deal with possible confusion at the entrance where one week a Non-County resident was allowed access to the beach/swim area and the next week they were denied. Mr. Forgay suggested possibly having a County appreciation day instead. Mr. Forgay suggested once a year in early June as opposed to once a week. Mr. Forgay asked Mr. Horvath if this would be something that he would consider. Mr. Horvath stated that he felt a County appreciation day once a year would be a reasonable alternative. Motion was made by Mr. Forgay to have a County appreciation day in early June with the date to be determined by the Park Director. Mr. Sikorsky opposed and stated that the admission fees and membership rates are much lower when compared to other facilities and was not in favor of free admission. Mr. Wildoner agreed and also did not favor a County appreciation day in early June. Mr. Forgay then rescinded his motion. The board did not favor having a weekly County resident day for the upcoming season or County appreciation day.

**Park Maintenance** – Mr. Horvath provided an update on Seasonal Maintenance positions. Mr. Horvath reported that one Seasonal Maintenance employee has resigned and another is off for the unforeseeable future due to a medical condition. Mr. Horvath reported that a third PT Seasonal Park Maintenance employee will not be able to work weekdays until school is over. Mr. Horvath stated that the park is looking to fill several maintenance positions.

Mr. Horvath reported that the water has been turned on for the camping area and picnic area restrooms and shower facilities. Mr. Horvath reported that several flush valves needed to be replaced and buildings have been de-winterized for the upcoming camping season. The beach restrooms will remain closed for the time being.

Mr. Horvath reported that the boat rental dock, boat launch docks, and fishing pier have been installed for the season. Mr. Horvath reported that he is looking to purchase rails for the boat docks to make it easier for individuals to get into and out of their boats when docking. Mr. Horvath stated that the rails would be eligible for reimbursement through the remaining PCORP grant funds.

Mr. Horvath reported that additional cleaning is needed at the food stand and the doors and serving counter window still needs to be replaced. Mr. Horvath reported that the work is scheduled to be completed next week. Mr. Horvath reported that replacement parts have been ordered for the cabin windows.

Mr. Horvath reported that he will be reaching out to the prison Work Release Director for assistance with cleaning out fire rings and hibachis, as well as, general clean-up throughout the park, and other minor maintenance duties. Mr. Horvath reported that the park would be responsible for supervision and that he was unsure of transportation. Mr. Horvath reported that the prison had provided transportation in the past. Mr. Horvath reported that he would like to begin this work as soon as possible.

Mr. Horvath reported that the new hibachis for the Agnes McArtney and Koch-Wildoner pavilion still need to be installed and trail repairs need to be finalized on the Shoreline Trail. Mr. Horvath reported that the work release can also help with cutting back sections of this trail.

**COVID-19 Mitigation** – Mr. Horvath reported that he contacted the local state parks and was informed that their camping areas are operating at full capacity with no limitations on reservations. Mr. Horvath stated that he was considering the same. Mr. Henninger felt that the sites are safely distanced between each other. Mr. Forgay and Mr. Wildoner stated that that they would not have a problem with opening the camping area fully given the routine cleanings the restrooms and shower facilities receive. Mr. Sikorsky agreed and suggested to the board that the daily admission totals for the upcoming season also be increased. Mr. Sikorsky felt that the park could allow more visitors because many Non-County residents utilize the picnic area rather than the beach. Mr. Horvath reported that the beach area was limited to 600 visitors last season taking into account that individuals who were camping or renting a pavilion might also be using the beach area at times during the day. Mr. Horvath stated that initially the beach area was limited to 400 visitors when the park opened. Mr. Sikorsky suggested increasing the visitation to 700 for the start of the season considering that more people will be renting pavilions and using the picnic area. Following discussion, the board agreed and felt that the daily visitation should be increased to 700 for the beginning of the season.

**Park Security** – Mr. Horvath reported that he is currently reviewing several applicants for Seasonal Park Ranger I. Mr. Horvath reported that one additional lifeguard has been hired with a start date yet to be determined. Mr. Horvath reported that five of the lifeguards from last season will be returning. Mr. Horvath reported that there are five additional applicants who will be pursuing their lifeguard certification.

Mr. Horvath reported that the park office opened to visitors on Monday, April 05<sup>th</sup> in order to better assist customers due to increasing phone inquiries and visitation. Mr. Horvath reported that he is beginning to schedule park rangers during the day to assist in the office.

Mr. Horvath reported that Mark Janner, Seasonal Park Ranger I, will be attending defensive tactics refresher training on April 15<sup>th</sup> and annual firearms qualification on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Horvath reported that the PCORP grant for the purchase of a new boat for the park rangers has been approved and the boat has been ordered. Mr. Horvath stated that additional rescue supplies were also included.

Mr. Henninger requested that Mr. Horvath contact Carl Miller to determine if he might be interested in farming the fields at the former Gehring Property.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS** – A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Marlene Shoop on behalf of the Jim Thorpe Sportsmen’s Club for use of the Switchback Trail for their Annual Fishing Contest to be held on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horvath reported that a Certificate of Insurance has been provided and PA Fish & Boat Commission approval is needed. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the request pending PFBC approval, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – An e-mail was received from Holly Burkhart requesting a donation for the Young Moms Fundraiser benefiting teen moms in Southern Chester County. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to donate a 2-night mid-week cabin stay, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

E-mail received from Megan McGrail requesting a donation for the St. Thomas More School fundraiser to benefit their STEM, outdoor, and reading programs. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to donate a 2021 family membership, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

A letter was received from Tom Phillips requesting permission to clear brush and trees surrounding an old highway bridge adjacent to Route 902. The work would be done by Mr. Phillips and Bob Doerr in efforts to preserve the bridge. The letter states that work would also include establishing a designated path and signage leading to the bridge.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion made at 11:20 a.m. by Mr. Sikorsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

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Richard Forgay II, Secretary