

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

The February 12, 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.

Prior to the February 12, 2021 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission the board members held the Annual Election of Officers. Officers elected for 2021 are the following: Thomas Wildoner, Chairman; Earl Henninger, Vice-Chairman; Richard Forgay II, Secretary.

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 present for the February meeting.

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

VOUCHERS/PURCHASE REQUISITIONS – Motion made by Mr. Henninger to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of December totaling \$54,083.98 and January totaling \$33,332.70, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Lukasevich provided the board members with a budget breakdown and noted that the main sources of revenue comes from camping and cabin rentals, daily admission fees to the swim and picnic area, and hotel tax funding. Commissioner Lukasevich also provided the board members with a breakdown of visitation to the camping area for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 and noted that 72% of visitation is from PA residents with Non-PA residency visitation being comprised mainly from the surrounding states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. County residents comprised 13% of overall PA residency visitation.

A breakdown of Family and Individual Membership sales for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020 was also provide to the board members for review showing sales of \$16,600.00 for 2020. Commissioner Luckasevich requested that the board provide a recommendation to the County on the thought of having a County resident only day for the beach/swim area once a week next season. A brief discussion was held concerning the matter.

Commissioner Lukasevich noted that the County is able to obtain internships through the State/Local Internship Program and suggested that it may be a way to establish a Summer Activities Coordinator for the park.

Commissioner Lukasevich asked the board to consider the thought of increasing camping fees for premium sites, such as lake front camping sites and noted that the park will likely have to begin thinking about size restrictions again for the beach and camping area given the current state of the pandemic.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Food Stand RFP – Mr. Horvath reported that the County is seeking proposals for the operation of the Food Stand Concession. Mr. Horvath reported that the County is offering a three-year term. Mr. Horvath noted that the minimum bid amount for the first year is \$5,000.00, second year is \$5,000.00, and the third year is \$5,500.00. The Request for Proposals is being advertised on 02/03/21 and 02/18/21 and proposals are due by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021. A site visit is mandatory prior to submitting a proposal and the Lease Agreement documents and forms can be found on the County website.

2020 Dam Inspection Report – Mr. Horvath presented the 2020 Dam Inspection Report to the board members for review. Mr. Horvath stated that the inspection report was submitted to the DEP Division of Dam Safety. Mr. Horvath noted that there are several areas of vegetation that the PA Fish & Boat Commission are monitoring including a worn path along the top of the dam. Mr. Horvath reported that the inspection report indicates that the areas are stable and no repairs are needed. Mr. Horvath noted that the PFBC continues to monitor a wet area below the dam and that previous investigations indicate there is no hydraulic connection between the spring and the dam. Mr. Horvath reported that the PFBC is planning a conduit and outlet works inspection in the spring of 2021.

Reservations/Camping Season 2021 – Mr. Horvath reported that the Parks Department received \$17,125.20 in camping fees on the opening day of reservations on January 04, 2021. Mr. Horvath reported that there is an increase in tent camping rentals over last year and cabin rentals have been about the same for the month of January. Mr. Horvath stated that the camping season will run from Friday, April 16th until Saturday, October 23rd.

Boat Mooring – Mr. Horvath reported that the County approved boat mooring rates for the upcoming season at \$50.00 for the first space for County residents and \$60.00 for the second space. Non-County residents will pay \$80.00 and \$100.00 respectively. Mr. Horvath stated that a maximum of two spaces per applicant has also been approved due to the popularity and high demand of the mooring space. Mr. Horvath explained that those who had mooring space last season will have until Friday, March 19th to renew their space for the season, and beginning Saturday, March 20th any spaces that have not been renewed will be made available for rent. Mr. Horvath reported that letters have been sent out explaining the new rates and procedures.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff have been spending time cleaning and organizing the food stand in between the plowing and snow removal. Mr. Horvath reported that new cabinets have been installed at the food stand.

Mr. Horvath reported that new mattresses will be ordered for some of the cabins and that several screen doors have been brought back to the shop for repairs. Mr. Horvath noted that the treadles at the exit also need to be repaired for the upcoming season, as well as, the main entrance gate.

Mr. Horvath reported that brush will be cleared along the shoreline at Boat Launch B below the mooring spaces to allow for easier access to the lake. Mr. Horvath stated that he would also like to add crushed stone to the mooring spaces.

Mr. Horvath reported that he is looking to acquire a new riding mower and UTV for the maintenance staff.

Mr. Henninger suggested adding kayak racks to allow for more mooring space. Mr. Horvath stated that Boat Launch B would be a good place to add kayak racks. Mr. Horvath stated that Boat Launch A becomes too congested and is often times overcrowded.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that he is looking into acquiring a new boat for the park rangers through the PCORP loss control grant the County is eligible to receive each year. Mr. Horvath stated that he is looking for a 16’ Lowe Boat with 25-HP motor, side console, and automatic bilge pump to make it easier for the rangers to remove water after a rain event. In addition, the boat would have multiple compartments for storing rescue equipment. Mr. Horvath provided specifications for the board members to review.

Mr. Horvath reported that there is a total of six lifeguard positions to fill for the upcoming season. Mr. Horvath stated that an advertisement has been placed in The Times News and will run from February 01st until April 30th. Mr. Horvath reported that he received a few inquiries, but has not received any applications to date. Mr. Forgay asked whether there was a need to fill ranger positions. Mr. Horvath stated that there are a few Seasonal Park Ranger I and II positions to fill as well.

Mr. Horvath reported that he will be attending a court hearing with Ranger Janner on Tuesday, February 23rd at the County Courthouse. Mr. Horvath reported that the hearing is the result of an incident that occurred in July of last season.

Mr. Horvath noted that he has seen more individuals ice fishing this year than in years past.

Mr. Horvath thanked the Summit Hill Fire Department for their assistance with a deer rescue.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – There were no Special Activity Agreements submitted for the February meeting.

Mr. Horvath provided an update on the polar plunge held on Saturday, January 30th. Mr. Horvath stated that the event raised more than \$6,000.00 for Marian Catholic High School. Mr. Horvath reported that the event this year drew the largest number of “plungers” and spectators. Mr. Horvath stated that the event was well organized and coordinated.

CORRESPONDENCE – A proposal was received from Jacob Martinez for the Keystone Backyard Ultra running event. Mr. Horvath distributed the proposal for the board members to review. Mr. Horvath stated that the event was originally going to be held at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. A brief discussion was held concerning the event. The board suggested that Mr. Horvath reach out to Lehigh Gap Nature Center to determine what concerns they may have had with the event.

A thank you letter was received from EOS Therapeutic Riding in Bloomsburg for the donation of a two-night mid-week cabin stay that was provided for their annual basket raffle fundraising event.

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

Richard Forgay II, Secretary