

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

The July 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.

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 July meeting. Mr. Horvath reported that Thomas Layden, Special Activity and Social Media Director, would be providing a progress report under Park Operations.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021 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 Mr. Forgay to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of June totaling \$52,497.76, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

2nd QUARTER BUDGET REPORT – Mr. Horvath provided the board members with the 2nd Quarter Budget Performance Reports for review. Mr. Horvath noted that the park has met or exceeded budget projections for Family Memberships, Individual Memberships, Boat Mooring, and Pavilion Rentals. Mr. Horvath reported that a total of 519 memberships have been sold which is the most dating back to since 1993. Mr. Horvath reported that 93% of projected cabin rentals and 70% of tent site rentals have been collected to date. Mr. Horvath reported that departmental revenues are up 214,017.53 when compared to last season. Mr. Horvath reported that overall expenses are up slightly when compared to last season.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Lukasevich reported that the County was notified of planning for a September 11th National Memorial Trail which would connect Washington D.C. to New York City and Shanksville, PA. The trail includes a portion of the Switchback Trail from Hill Road in Jim Thorpe to Stoney Lonesome Road in Summit Hill in which he stated the County fully supports and that the County will be adopting a resolution to join the trail at an upcoming Commissioners meeting.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Special Activities Director/SLIP Program – Thomas Layden provided the board members with an update on his program planning for the park. Mr. Layden reported that the Carbon County Environmental Education Center will be holding Wild Wednesdays at the beach pavilion once again this year beginning July 21st. Mr. Layden reported that he also has a Black Bear program with the PA Game Commission scheduled on July 22nd and a Story Time and Craft with the Dimmick Memorial Library on August 05th. Mr. Layden reported that he will be promoting the events on the new Facebook page that was created for the park. Mr. Layden explained that he created a google account to respond to park user reviews. Mr. Layden also shared results of a survey that he sent out to current members on what type of events they would be most interested in attending. Mr. Layden reported that Star Gazing and

Environmental Education were the most popular choices.

July 04th Holiday Weekend – Mr. Horvath reported that Beltzville State Park closed at approximately 8:50 a.m. on Sunday, July 04th. Mr. Horvath stated that traffic was heavy coming into the park and explained that most everyone was entering the park to go to the picnic area. Mr. Horvath reported that he had to open the park at 9:00 a.m. that morning to relieve the parking and traffic congestion. Mr. Horvath noted that park rangers had a difficult time keeping up with the traffic. Mr. Horvath reported that the park was closed for a period of time and then re-opened due to the amount of parking available at the beach area. Mr. Horvath reported that traffic was much more manageable on Monday, July 05th even though Beltzville had closed on that day as well. Mr. Horvath reported that six separate groups were evicted for alcohol violations on July 04th and the JTPD was requested to assist with a PFA complaint. Mr. Horvath stated that park rangers responded to several noise complaints in the picnic area as well.

Beltzville Closures – Mr. Horvath reported that the park has been experiencing overflow from Beltzville State Park on a much more regular basis due to the new parking limitations and restrictions that were put in place. Mr. Horvath stated that the park would normally experience two to three Beltzville closures a season, whereas, this season there have already been five closures. Mr. Horvath reported that he has been scheduling two park rangers at the admissions booth on weekends and that they have been arriving as early as 9:00 a.m. in the event the park needs to open early. Mr. Horvath reported that once the beach parking lot is nearing capacity the park is closed for a few hours until enough people leave and the park can safely re-open. Mr. Horvath noted that those with beach tags, pavilion guests, and campers are still permitted in the park.

Camp Store – Mr. Horvath reported that the camp store has not been operating according to the hours as set forth in the lease agreement and was asked to revisit the matter with the park board to clarify their previous recommendation. Mr. Horvath reported that the camp store has been open weekdays, however, park rangers have reported that it has been closed as early as 7:00 p.m. Mr. Horvath reported that the store should be open from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Horvath reported that the store hours posted for Sunday are from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. which are also not consistent with the agreement. Mr. Horvath explained that most campers are checking in beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays. Following discussion, the board recommended that Mr. Horvath contact the County Commissioners and request that the County Solicitor send the Concessionaire a final notice of violation with a 30-day notice of termination should the camp store fail to comply with the hours as set forth in the agreement.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that (2) Part-Time Seasonal Park Maintenance and (1) Seasonal Park Maintenance position has been filled. Mr. Horvath reported that the recent hires have been extremely helpful with assisting with park clean-up, cabin cleaning, mowing and trimming. Mr. Horvath reported that Brian O'Donnell, Part-Time Seasonal Park Maintenance, is also now available weekdays again.

Mr. Horvath reported on several plumbing issues encountered at the main shower building and beach restrooms where toilets continuously flushed causing the high-level alarms to go off at the pump stations. Mr. Horvath reported that those problems have been resolved.

Mr. Henninger requested that a replacement picnic table be placed at Hunter Spring along the Switchback Trail. Mr. Horvath reported that he would discuss the need with the Lead Maintenance Worker.

Mr. Henninger asked for a status on the kayak racks. Mr. Horvath reported that a budget transfer was submitted and believed the kayak racks were ordered, but have not yet been delivered at this point.

Mr. Horvath reported that pothole and washout repairs were made to the camping area roads. Mr. Forgay suggested using the remaining material at Boat Launch A for the road leading to the Switchback Trail from the mooring spaces.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath provided an update on the July 04th holiday weekend and discussed scheduling shortages for the month of July. Mr. Horvath discussed the need to fill (2) Seasonal Park Ranger II positions. Mr. Horvath stated that unfortunately it has been difficult to fill the positions.

Mr. Horvath stated that the park is in better position with lifeguards with a total of (8) lifeguards for the season. Mr. Horvath reported that he has (4) scheduled on most days during the month of July.

Mr. Horvath reported that JTPD assistance was requested for two intoxicated males that arrived at the beach area. Mr. Horvath reported that neither were permitted to drive home from the park. Mr. Horvath reported that one of the individuals had been swimming outside the designated rope/buoy line and had ignored the lifeguard signals.

Mr. Horvath reported that SHPD assisted with a campsite eviction due to alcohol and noise violations the night prior. Mr. Horvath reported that there have been a couple of instances this season where campers were informed by park rangers to leave in the morning.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A request was submitted by Melissa Berwick and Shawn Heard for use of park property to hold a wedding ceremony on Wednesday, October 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the beach area. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter was received from Ellen K. Gauger-Strouse on behalf of the EOS Therapeutic Riding Center requesting a donation for their on-line auction to be held November 11-14, 2021. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to donate a two-night mid-week cabin stay, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

A letter was received from Emily Connors on behalf of Valley Youth House requesting a donation of summer fun, learning activities, or family meals. The board did not approve the request.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:15 a.m. by Mr. Sikorsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary