

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2021**

The June 11, 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 June meeting.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the May 14, 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 May totaling \$44,346.48, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

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 – Mr. Horvath reported that Thomas Layden, Seasonal Park Ranger II, applied and was approved for the Special Activity Director position established through the SLIP Program administered by Carbon County Workforce Training. Mr. Horvath stated that Mr. Layden will begin working in this capacity on Monday, June 28th. Mr. Horvath reported that the program runs for 8 weeks which will last through mid-August. Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. Layden is excited about the opportunity.

Memorial Benches – Mr. Horvath reported that the County received a check donation for a Memorial Bench and received several other inquiries. Mr. Horvath reported that the County expects to receive another check donation within a few days. Mr. Horvath reported that there is currently a total of four memorial benches that will be ordered and installed. Mr. Horvath reported that the families have requested the boat launch areas as their desired locations. Mr. Horvath reported that the current price is \$1,231.00 with shipping and handling.

Mr. Horvath reported that the park was approved for three along the top of the dam. Mr. Horvath reported that the PA Fish & Boat Commission is requiring the benches to be movable and the park maintenance staff would be responsible for cutting the grass around them and moving them several times a year. Mr. Horvath reported that non-movable benches would require DEP approval.

Camp Store – Mr. Horvath reported that the County recently sent letters to Mr. Robert Brown concerning the need to adhere to the camp store hours as set forth in the Camp Store Concession Agreement. Mr. Horvath reported the camp store had not been open during the off-season. Mr. Horvath reported that the camp store is currently open, but the hours are not advertised and are inconsistent Sunday through Friday. Following discussion, the board recommended that the County seek to have the County Solicitor send the Concessionaire a final notice of violation with a specified date to comply and recommended that the County terminate the agreement if the conditions as set forth in the agreement have not been met. The board advised Mr. Horvath to have a discussion with both the boat rental and food stand concessionaires to determine if either would be interested in operating the camp store at some point this season if needed.

Jim Thorpe Trolley Tours – Mr. Horvath reported that the park has been selected as a hop-on/hop-off location for the Jim Thorpe Trolley Tours. Mr. Horvath reported that the County will be entering into an agreement with the company. Mr. Horvath reported that he met with the County Commissioners and company representative Ed Humphries in April. Mr. Horvath reported that the original location for the trolley stop was at the admissions booth in the right lane. Mr. Horvath stated that after re-assessing the location and due to recent Beltzville closures it was decided to have the trolley stop location in front of the park office. Mr. Horvath reported that the change in location was due to traffic concerns.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the pest control issue with Cabin 108 has been resolved. Mr. Horvath reported that the park maintenance staff performed the heat treatment there have been no problems since. Mr. Horvath reported that he had a discussion with a representative from Ehrlich concerning the issue. Mr. Horvath stated that he felt that Ehrlich would be better suited to handle such issues in the future.

Mr. Horvath reported that the generator at the park office has been serviced and is now functioning properly. Mr. Horvath reported that L&S Electric needs to further investigate problems that the Penn State Extension Office is experiencing during power outages. Mr. Horvath reported that both generators are going to be added to the County contract for annual service and repairs.

Mr. Horvath reported that both grinder pumps and the new power line to the pump station has been installed at Boat Launch A. Mr. Horvath reported that the restrooms have been cleaned and are now open for the season.

Mr. Horvath reported that the swim area buoy line was installed on May 27th. Mr. Horvath reported that several loads of sand were added and spread over the beach area. Mr. Horvath reported that one volleyball court was prepared and ready for Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Horvath reported that the second volleyball court was prepared the following week.

Mr. Horvath reported that modified has been added near the shoreline by the boat rental due to uneven areas from shoreline erosion. Mr. Horvath noted that repairs are also needed for the road leading from Boat Launch A to the Switchback Trail due to stormwater runoff.

Mr. Horvath reported that the PA Game Commission will be bringing a bear trap to locate near one of the dumpsters. Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff have been spending a considerable amount of time having to clean-up scattered trash in the mornings.

Mr. Horvath noted that it has been difficult to keep up with maintenance needs throughout the park with having only two full-time and one seasonal maintenance position. Mr. Horvath reported that Brian O'Donnell will soon be available full-time when his school employment ends for the summer which will be helpful. Mr. Horvath reported that Carbon County Workforce Training will be providing one individual to work at the park. Mr. Horvath reported that he also recently received an application and has sent down a recommendation to the County for the additional hire.

Mr. Horvath reported that a leak has been discovered at the water point near Site 58. Mr. Horvath reported that the water has been turned off at this location until repairs can be made.

Mr. Horvath reported an excessive amount of trash and litter resulting from the Betzville closure on Sunday, June 07th. Mr. Horvath reported that additional trash cans will be placed at the beach area for future weekends. Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff spent the entire next day cleaning the park.

Mr. Henninger suggested that additional grading be done on the Switchback Trail. Mr. Horvath stated that there is funding budgeted for additional drainage and surfacing improvements to the trail.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported provided an update on the lifeguard hires and scheduling. Mr. Horvath reported that recommendations were sent down on three lifeguards and that he is awaiting clearances on a fourth applicant. Mr. Horvath reported that this will bring the total to eight lifeguards.

Mr. Horvath reported that the park reached the capacity of 700 visitors at around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 06th following the closure of Beltzville. Mr. Horvath reported that the park was closed for several hours. Mr. Horvath noted that this will likely be happening on a more regular basis with the new parking restrictions and enforcement that Beltzville is enacting.

Mr. Horvath reported that he assisted lifeguards with a lost child on June 06th and park rangers assisted lifeguards with a visitor who had become dehydrated on June 05th.

Mr. Horvath reported that he received several complaints about a domestic dispute when conducting a morning patrol through the camping area on June 08th. Mr. Horvath notified the Summit Hill Police Department and requested an investigation. Mr. Horvath stated the campers denied any argument or shouting of profanities. Mr. Horvath stated that the S.H.P.D. investigation led to the eviction of the campers due to disrupting other campers and damage to a number of trees in the camp site. Mr. Horvath reported that the park will be filing citations.

Mr. Horvath reported that there were a few minor alcohol violations over the Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Horvath reported that the campers will receive citations. Mr. Horvath reported that he was notified on June 07th by lifeguards of several individuals swimming out in the lake. Mr. Horvath reported that the individuals were renting one of the pavilions and following investigation a citation will be filed due to alcohol violations.

Mr. Horvath reported that park rangers issued a few citations for leaving trash in fire rings at campsites following check-out.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Walt Schlenner on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church in Jim Thorpe for the 50th Annual Switchback Scamper to be held on Sunday, October 24th. Mr. Horvath noted that a Certificate of Insurance will be needed. Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the request pending receipt of insurance, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Dustin Theobald on behalf of the Kayak Anglers of Eastern PA for a kayak fishing tournament to be held on Saturday, July 17th at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath noted that PA Fish & Boat Commission approval has been obtained and the Certificate of Insurance requirements have been met. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter was received from Mary Farnschlader on behalf of the Penn Kidder Branch of Dimmick Memorial Library requesting a donation for their 3rd Annual Golf outing at Jack Frost National Golf Course. Motion made by Mr. Sikosky to donate a two-night mid-week cabin stay and seasonal membership, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

A letter was received from a concerned citizen regarding maintenance needs in the park. Mr. Horvath explained that the park is currently understaffed and is working to fill maintenance positions. Mr. Horvath reported that positions have been hard to fill.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:50 a.m. by Mr. Henninger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary