

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

The March 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.

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 – Marylyn Kissner, PMVB Vice President of Membership and Community Relation discussed ways that the park can collaborate with the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau. Topics included advertising, messaging, and assisting with personnel needs, such as lifeguards and establishing an activities coordinator position for the park.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the February 12, 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 February totaling \$28,401.63, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Lukasevich discussed the need to establish a Summer Activities Coordinator position for the park. Commissioner Lukasevich noted that the individual would be someone who is enrolled in the Recreation and Tourism field and could be obtained through the State/Local Internship Program. Following discussion, the board recommended acquiring an internship position through the SLIP Program to develop activities and programs throughout the season.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Food Stand RFP – Mr. Horvath reported that the County received three proposals for the operation of the food stand. Mr. Horvath reported that the three-year lease agreement was awarded to Pamela Snerr of Jim Thorpe pending successful completion of the ServSafe certification. Mr. Horvath reported that the bid amount was \$8,531.00 for each year of the agreement for a three-year total of \$25,593.00.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff have started working on the Shoreline Trail repairs again. Mr. Horvath reported that some of the walkways will need to be replaced. Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff will be working on the trail daily in order to have the trail section repaired and opened by April. Mr. Horvath stated that the repairs are behind schedule due to the snow cover.

Mr. Horvath reported that on April 05th the water is scheduled to be turned on and the seasonal maintenance workers will return to clean and ready the restrooms, showers, and cabins for the start of camping season on April 16th.

Mr. Horvath reported that the full-time maintenance staff will need to make additional improvements to the food stand including the installation of a new serving window, screen door, and entry door leading to the back of the building. Commissioner Lukasevich noted that the locks will need to be changed on the doors. Mr. Horvath noted that some minor touch work is also needed to the interior.

Mr. Horvath reported that the docks are scheduled to be put in place during the week of April 12th – April 16th. Mr. Horvath stated that the boat rental plans on opening on Saturday, April 17th.

Mr. Horvath reported that a new riding mower has been purchased in the amount of \$6,700.00 from JC Small Engine and a new UTV has been purchased in the amount of \$11,931.50 from Kermit Kistler.

Mr. Forgay requested an update on boat mooring. Mr. Horvath reported that many people have been renewing their spaces for the year. Mr. Horvath stated that he expects mooring space to be sold out. Mr. Henninger asked about additional kayak racks that can be assembled and mounted into the ground. Mr. Horvath stated he would look to see when the maintenance staff can fit it into the schedule.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that a new boat is being purchased through the PA Counties Risk Pool grant. The total funding being requested is \$17,209.92 which would be for the purchase of a new boat and rescue supplies. The new boat would have a side console for steering and an automatic bilge pump.

Mr. Horvath reported that Samantha Janner and William Roeschmann will be attending the Defensive Tactics training on March 10th, 11th, and 12th at the County Courthouse. The training is being provided through the Sheriff's Department. Following successful completion both rangers will be able to carry OC spray, handcuffs, and an expandable baton.

Mr. Horvath reported that Mark Janner will be attending CPR/First Aid/AED training on March 30th at the Jim Thorpe School Administration Building located on Center Avenue in Jim Thorpe. Mr. Janner will also be attending Defensive Tactics re-certification on April 15th.

Mr. Horvath reported that he received one application for the position of Seasonal Lifeguard and has had several other promising inquiries.

Mr. Henninger suggested sending a letter to the Summit Hill Fire Department for their assistance with rescuing a deer.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Jake Martinez on behalf of Carbon Adventure Racing, LLC for use of the Switchback Trail and park grounds for the Keystone Backyard Ultra race marathon to be held on Saturday, May 22nd and Sunday, May 23rd. Mr. Horvath reported that the event has been capped at 100 participants and that the event sponsor has been working with St. Luke's University Health Network on Covid mitigation efforts for the event. Mr. Horvath reported that the course has been adjusted to eliminate crossing the dam and that a Certificate of Insurance is needed. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the request pending receipt of proper insurance, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Michael Gosselin on behalf of Slay Nation Tournament Fishing for a catch, photo, and release bass tournament on Saturday, August 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Mr. Horvath noted that PA Fish & Boat Commission approval has been obtained for the tournament to be held at Boat Launch B only. Mr. Horvath stated that a Certificate of Insurance has been provided. Mr. Forgay raised concerns with the possibility of tournaments creating too much fishing pressure on the lake. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the request for Boat Launch B only, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – A thank you letter and donation of \$100.00 was received from the Marian

Blue & Gold Club for the help and support of the annual polar plunge.

E-mail correspondence was received from Kiki Peppard of Palmerton requesting consideration for use of the beach for Qigong classes on Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. during the months of June, July, and August.

E-mail correspondence was received from Bobbie Hefferan of Lehighon regarding a request to have a food truck for catering a wedding reception at the park on Saturday, October 23rd at the Agnes T. McCartney pavilion. Mr. Sikorsky questioned why they wouldn't be able to use the beach area for the ceremony. Mr. Horvath stated that the ceremony request included a set-up with a tent and chairs for approximately 40 individuals. Mr. Horvath stated that the County does not allow for wedding ceremonies involving set-ups. Following discussion, the board requested that Mr. Horvath look into determining whether the ceremony could be permissible with submission of a Special Activity Agreement and Certificate of Insurance.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:45 a.m. by Mr. Forgay to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary