

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF MAY 14, 2021**

The May 14, 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 – 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. Henninger 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 May meeting.

MINUTES – Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the April 09, 2021 meeting of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Forgay. 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 April totaling \$40,772.46, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Commissioner Lukasevich reported that he received requests to install benches along the Switchback Trail below the dam.

Mr. Henninger noted that there is a memorial bench located on that section of trail and suggested adding a few more if donors can be found. Commissioner Lukasevich stated that he would promote the memorial benches and seek donors through social media.

Mr. Henninger requested that Mr. Horvath reach out to the PA Fish & Boat Commission to determine if they would allow reinstalling benches along the crest of the dam.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Heritage Festival – Mr. Horvath asked the board how they felt about moving forward with the Heritage Festival this year. Mr. Horvath noted that some events are being planned while others are postponing until next year. Mr. Henninger felt that by the fall most individuals will be vaccinated. Mr. Horvath noted that restrictions on outdoor events are easing and state mandates are being lifted beginning May 31st. Mr. Horvath reported that the event would fall on Saturday, September 18th this year. Mr. Henninger requested that Mr. Horvath look into determining if Blue Mountain Antique Engines would be interested in participating. Following discussion, motion made by Rick Forgay recommending that the Heritage Festival be held this year, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

Boating Facility Grant – Mr. Horvath reported that the County was awarded funding in the amount of \$155,500.00 for restroom and paving improvements at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath reported that the County will be providing a 50% cash match towards the project. Mr. Horvath reported that the grant agreement was

approved at the May 13th Commissioners meeting and will be forwarded to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for final execution. Mr. Horvath reported that improvements need to be completed by December 31, 2023.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the generator at the park office did not work during a recent power outage that occurred. Mr. Horvath reported that L&S Electric has been contacted to look into the matter. Mr. Horvath reported that the County will be adding the park generators to their annual contract for service and repairs.

Mr. Horvath reported that two new pumps are being purchased for the restrooms at Boat Launch A. Mr. Henninger questioned whether the winterization process is causing issues with the grinder pumps.

Mr. Horvath reported that there is a pest control issue with one of the cabins which has been scheduled for treatment.

Mr. Horvath reported that the sewer line at the PSU Extension Office was blocked and All State Septic was contacted to fix the issue.

Mr. Horvath reported that the doors and locks have been changed on the food stand.

Mr. Horvath reported that sand has been ordered and delivered for the beach area and volleyball courts. Mr. Horvath reported that modified has also been delivered for work that needs to be done at the boat rental and boat launch A leading to the Switchback Trail.

Mr. Horvath reported that the work release program at the prison was contacted to assist with cleaning the fire rings and hibachis. Mr. Horvath reported that an inmate has been assisting the past few days, but will no longer be available. Mr. Sikorsky questioned whether help would be available through the Adult Probation Department through community service hours.

Mr. Horvath reported that railings have been purchased for both of the boat docks. Mr. Horvath reported that he intends to purchase kayak racks when reimbursement is received for the railings. Mr. Horvath stated that a budget transfer would then be submitted to cover the cost of the kayak racks. Mr. Sikorsky did not favor purchasing kayak racks due to the cost and other expenses that the park currently faces. A motion was made by Mr. Forgay to purchase the kayak racks, seconded by Mr. Henninger. Mr. Sikorsky was opposed.

Mr. Horvath reported that electrical work was needed at the park office and admissions booth to prepare for credit card transactions. Mr. Horvath reported that the Information Technology Department will be installing the credit card processor at a later date. Mr. Horvath reported that the device has been ordered but not yet received.

Mr. Horvath reported that the County entered into a Temporary Access Road Agreement with PPL for access to the transmission lines from the Environmental Center driveway. Mr. Horvath reported that PPL will be replacing the transmission lines and the agreement is for access if PA DOT approval cannot be obtained for access from Lentz Trail. Mr. Horvath stated that the property would be restored as a condition of the agreement.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that Mark Janner has been approved for a Change of Status to Lead Seasonal Park Ranger I. Mr. Horvath reported that Leighton Pool is conducting a lifeguard training course from May 15th to May 20th. Mr. Horvath stated that three lifeguard applicants have signed up for the training. Mr. Horvath stated that he still also needs clearances for the applicants.

Mr. Horvath reported that a citation was issued for trash being left behind inside one of the cabins. Mr. Horvath stated that the smoke alarm was also disconnected.

Mr. Horvath reported that a training will be held on May 19th at the park. The training will include customer service and public relations skills and will be attended by Seasonal Ranger and Seasonal Lifeguard staff.

Mr. Horvath reported that the County entered into an internship agreement with Bloomsburg University. Mr. Horvath reported that Alec Lauer, Jim Thorpe will be completing his internship at the park as a Seasonal Park Ranger II. Mr. Horvath reported that the internship is for 120 hours and will run from May 24th to July 09th.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Agreement was submitted by Thomas Lager on behalf of St. Mark’s and St. John’s Episcopal Church in Jim Thorpe for use of the Switchback Trail for the annual Race Street Run to be held on Saturday, July 03rd. Mr. Horvath reported that the Certificate of Insurance has been provided. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Request was submitted by Chuck DeMund on behalf of the Eastern PA Lenape Nation for use of the all-purpose field for a Pow Wow Festival to be held on Saturday, September 11th and Sunday, September 12th. Mr. Horvath reported that the event would include some crafters and vendors and admission would be free. Mr. Horvath reported that donations would be accepted. Mr. Horvath reported that a Certificate of Insurance is needed. Motion made by Rick Forgay to approve the request pending receipt of proper insurance, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Request was submitted by Kiki Peppard requesting use of the beach area for Quigong Classes to be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. during the months of June, July, and August. Mr. Horvath reported that the classes would be free and donations would be accepted. 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 Tom Phillips requesting permission to create a path and cut brush and trees from the old Route 902 bridge and adjacent area. Mr. Horvath noted that the area is a wetland area and any work would likely require permitting due to the sensitivity of the area. Mr. Horvath state he believes the DEP Chapter 93 stream classification is either Exceptional Value (EV) or Cold Water Fishery (CWF). Mr. Horvath also noted that the property is owned by the PA Fish & Boat Commission and would require approval from their Division of Property Services. Mr. Horvath reported that he will reach out to Mr. Phillips to inform him.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:10 a.m. by Mr. Sikorsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary