

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

The November 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.

**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** – John Zuber attended the meeting and requested that a bench be placed along the Switchback Trail near the impoundment of the Mauch Chunk Creek near Flagstaff Road. He stated that is hard for some individuals to walk far without sitting and resting. Mr. Zuber stated he would also like to see benches placed along the Lehigh Gorge Trail as well. Mr. Wildoner thanked Mr. Zuber for his time and stated that the board would take the matter into consideration. Mr. Forgay referred Mr. Zuber to DCNR Hickory Run State Park concerning the Lehigh Gorge Trail. Mr. Zuber thanked the board for their attention.

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 08, 2021**– Motion made by Mr. Henninger to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 08, 2021 of the Carbon County Parks & Recreation Commission as written, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. 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 October totaling \$39,266.70, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

**COMMISSIONER REMARKS** – There were no Commissioners present for the November meeting.

**UNEXPIRED BOARD TERM** - The board held a discussion on the unexpired 5-year term of Kevin Zurawa. Mr. Horvath reported that his term expires December 31, 2022. The board advised Mr. Horvath to draft a letter recommending to Mr. Zurawa that he relinquish his term.

**PARK OPERATIONS** –

**Agricultural Operations Agreement** – Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. Carl Miller, Lil-Rus Farms, is requesting a three-year extension to the Agricultural Operations Agreement at the park. Mr. Horvath reported that this includes the fields around the Environmental Education Center and Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath noted that Mr. Miller has been managing the fields since 1981 and adheres to best management practices as outlined in the Soil and Water Conservation Plan. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to recommend approval of a three-year extension of the Agricultural Operations Agreement with Mr. Carl Miller, Lil-Rus Farms, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

**Boat Rental Agreement** – Mr. Horvath reported that the County approved the Boat Rental Agreement for an additional two-years. Mr. Horvath reported that the agreement will expire March 31, 2024. Mr. Horvath noted that the rental payments remained the same. Mr. Horvath stated that the current Concessionaire has done an excellent job and represents the park well.

**Boating Facility Grant** – Mr. Horvath provided an update on the status of the Boating Facility Grant

through the PA Fish & Boat Commission Statewide Public Access Program. Mr. Horvath stated that he was contacted by Scott Bollinger, Program Manager, and informed that the PFBC will be seeking federal funding for the project. Mr. Horvath stated that he was asked to reach out to Carbon Engineering, Inc. in order to review the cost estimate and revise if necessary.

**Lights at the Lake** – Mr. Horvath provided an update on the Lights at the Lake event planned for the park. Mr. Horvath reported that he met with fire police personnel and event organizers on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horvath stated that Barry Andrews of Franklin Twp. will be scheduling the fire police. Mr. Horvath reported that Mr. Andrews felt that 2 individuals at the entrance and 1 individual at the exit would be sufficient in order to coordinate and manage the traffic control. Mr. Horvath stated that Raising the House will position volunteers along the route for the traffic flow through the park. Mr. Horvath reported that the generators will be delivered on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and the light displays will be set-up beginning on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Park Maintenance** – Mr. Horvath reported that a number of trees have been marked for removal during the off-season. Mr. Horvath reported that park maintenance will be able to cut down many of the smaller trees. Mr. Horvath stated that tree removal services will be needed for some of the larger trees.

Mr. Horvath reported that the Boat Launch B dock has been removed for the season. Mr. Horvath reported that the other docks and fishing pier will remain in place until service is completed on the tractor.

Mr. Horvath reported that temporary repairs were made to the restroom at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath provided an update on the kayak racks and reported that one rack has been assembled and concrete pads will be poured in the next week or two.

Mr. Horvath reported on several maintenance issues arose at the Extension Office. Mr. Horvath noted that the well tank needed to be replaced, as well as, the downstairs restroom faucet and additional plumbing repairs. Mr. Horvath stated that sealant was placed around the chimney due to minor roof leakage that was occurring.

**Park Security** – Mr. Horvath provided an update on the ACT 57 requirements stating that the Parks Department has not yet been added to the database. Mr. Horvath reported that he was informed by Jourdan Diem, Administrative Officer with the Municipal Police Officer's Training Commission of the PA State Police, that there is an issue with the current vendor and a number of agencies have not yet been added.

Mr. Horvath reported that park ranger coverage is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights for the Lights at the Lake.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS** – Special Activity Agreement submitted by Michael Brennan on behalf of Marian Catholic High School for use of the beach and swimming area for the polar plunge to be held on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Horvath reported that PA Fish & Boat Commission approval has been granted and a valid Certificate of Insurance has been included. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request as submitted, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Mr. Horvath reported that there was no correspondence for the November meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion made at 11:25 a.m. by Mr. Henninger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

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Richard Forgay II, Secretary