

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF APRIL 08, 2022**

The April 08, 2022 meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Mauch Chunk Lake Park Office 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.

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 April meeting. Mr. Horvath reported that Darryl Pierce, PFBC Biologist plans to attend the June meeting per the board members request.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2022– Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2022 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 March totaling \$51,852.58, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

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

PARK OPERATIONS –

PMVB Sponsorship Proposal – Mr. Horvath reported that the PMVB proposal as submitted on March 29, 2022 would include a three-year agreement for the years 2022 – 2024 to include \$50,000.00 per year and marketing support of the park in exchange for rights to mark, the placement of QR codes throughout the park, the location of six wall banners at pre-arranged locations, and travel guides for park visitors. Mr. Horvath explained that three of the proposed locations of the wall banners was at the picnic pavilions and he was unaware of where the QR codes would be placed, but noted that it had been previously discussed for the park office, camp store, beach pavilion, and boat rental. Mr. Forgay stated that he had concerns with the messaging and branding of the park in terms of ownership and operation. Mr. Sikorsky reported that many local County residents are already upset with the overcrowding of the park and felt additional marketing and support was not necessary. Mr. Forgay questioned how large the wall banners and QR Codes would be. Mr. Henninger felt that wall banners would be inappropriate for the picnic pavilions due to the fact that they are mainly rented for family reunions, graduations and birthday parties and that more information was needed in the proposal for the location of the QR Codes. Mr. Forgay stated that he would only agree to the PMVB distributing Visitors Guides at the park office and camp store. Mr. Henninger and Mr. Sikorsky agreed. Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to allow the PMVB to distribute Visitors Guides at the park office and camp store, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

Mooring Sales – Mr. Horvath reported that the first day of mooring sales on Saturday, March 19th went well. Mr. Horvath stated that not all of the mooring spaces were renewed and that mooring space is currently still available including the new kayak racks at Boat Launch B. Mr. Horvath noted that a total of 19 spaces that were not renewed for the season were issued on a first-come, first-serve basis the first day.

Camp Store RFP – Mr. Horvath reported that the County awarded the Camp Store concession lease agreement to Tricia Snisky for a two-year term. Mr. Horvath reported that the annual rental for the first year is \$1,255.00 plus utilities and for the second year is \$1,276.00 plus utilities. Mr. Horvath noted that only one proposal was received.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that park staff repairs to the Shoreline Trail leading from the camping area to Boat Launch B were completed on April 01st.

Mr. Horvath reported that the maintenance staff located a break in the underground line leading to the Agnes McArtney pavilion. Park staff made repairs to the break and power was restored on March 24th.

Mr. Horvath reported that Mountainside Tree Service has been removing the remaining trees in the group and tent camping areas. Mr. Horvath reported that work is to be completed by April 15th. Mr. Horvath reported that work has been progressing steadily.

Mr. Horvath reported that Haymen Water Systems will be at the Environmental Center the morning of April 14th to remove the water softening system in order to replace the dry wall in the closest where the mold issue was discovered. Mr. Horvath reported that Mark Haymen will return later in the day to re-install the system once repairs are completed.

Mr. Horvath reported that mooring sites 125 and 126 needed to be replaced due to tree windfall from a recent storm event. Mr. Horvath reported that maintenance staff also removed a large tree from the Switchback Trail and Mauch Chunk Creek in the vicinity of the Jim Thorpe water intake.

Mr. Horvath reported that a total of 24 boats were removed from winter storage on March 28th. Mr. Horvath noted that Seasonal Maintenance staff trimmed back the Switchback Trail on March 29th and have cleaned all of the cabins for the start of camping season. Mr. Horvath stated that the water has been turned on at the main shower building and restrooms for the seasonal staff to begin cleaning.

Mr. Horvath stated that repairs were needed to an area of the open field where the ground had subsided. Mr. Horvath reported that topsoil was added and the area was graded and seeded. Mr. Horvath noted that some minor grading and seeding was done around the new kayak racks as well.

Mr. Horvath stated that docks will be installed the week of April 11th – 15th.

Mr. Horvath reported that he hopes to have the memorial benches and PA System for the beach installed by the end of April.

Mr. Horvath reported that Boat Launch A is on temporary power and that PPL plans to fix the issue late-April or early-May.

Mr. Horvath presented the board with the monthly maintenance report for review.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that the new boat for the park rangers has been delivered.

Mr. Horvath stated that there were no incidents to report for the April meeting.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Request was submitted by Walt Schlenner on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church for use of the Switchback Trail for the Switchback Scamper to be held on Sunday, October 23, 2022. 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 Request 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 09, 2022. Mr. Horvath noted that a Certificate of Insurance has been provided and PA Fish & Boat Commission approval has been obtained. Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Request was submitted by Marlene Shoop on behalf of the Jim Thorpe Sportsmen's Club for use of the Switchback Trail for a children's fishing contest to be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request pending PA Fish & Boat Commission approval, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

A Special Activity Request was submitted by Thomas Lager on behalf of St. Mark's & St. John's Episcopal Church for use of the Switchback Trail and main park entrance for the Race Street Run to be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request pending receipt of insurance, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

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

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Sikorsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.



Richard Forgay II, Secretary

