

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2022**

The January 14, 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 – 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 present for the January meeting.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2021– Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2021 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. Henninger to recommend approval of vouchers and purchase requisitions submitted for the month of December totaling \$53,908.90, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS – Commissioner Lukasevich thanked the board for their continued service and commented on the board vacancy created by the resignation of Kevin Zurawa.

Commissioner Lukasevich informed the board of plans to update the County website which would also include having the Mauch Chunk Lake Park as a separate website.

Commissioner Lukasevich updated the board and Park Director on the status of the boat and PA system purchased through the PCORP loss prevention grant.

Commissioner Lukasevich informed the board that the County will be seeking bids for paving of certain parking lots and roads at the park. Earl Henninger questioned whether millings could be used to resurface the camping area roads. Commissioner Lukasevich noted that work must be completed by May 15th.

Commissioner Lukasevich noted that the Mauch Chunk Creek is under consideration of receiving an upgrade in designation of stream classification and expressed concerns with development involving on-lot sewage disposal, as well as, future development and potential impacts to the stream and drinking water supply for the west side of Jim Thorpe.

Commissioner Lukasevich stated that he would like to see the hotel tax agreement with Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau re-negotiated to provide for more funding for the County.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Boat Mooring & Winter Storage – Mr. Horvath reported that park staff has gotten a number of positive

remarks concerning the handling of the boat mooring over the past two seasons. Mr Horvath stated that some, however, are also upset and feel that they do not have an opportunity to get a better spot. Mr. Horvath stated that prior to the Covid pandemic, mooring spaces were issued on a first-come, first-serve basis and those who had a mooring space were not given the option to renew. Mr. Horvath reported that last year a total of 16 spaces became available for rent the first day of mooring. Mr. Horvath noted that 18 additional spaces have also been created for kayaks and canoes at Boat Launch B. Following discussion, the board felt that it would be best to continue offering the option for renewal for those who have a current space. Mr. Horvath noted that letters will be sent with a deadline of March 18th to renew for the season. Any additional spaces would become available on March 19th. Mr. Forgay suggested the letter also include that only one watercraft be permitted at each site.

The board held a discussion concerning the boat storage rates. Mr. Horvath reported that the storage rates have not been increased in a number of years. Mr. Horvath reported that the current rates are \$100.00 for County and \$125.00 for Non-County residents. Mr. Horvath stated that a total of 24 boats were placed into storage this season. Mr. Wildoner asked Mr. Horvath for his recommendation. Mr. Horvath suggested a \$25.00 increase to both County and Non-County residents. Motion made by Mr. Henninger to recommend setting the boat storage rates at \$125.00 for County and \$150.00 for Non-County beginning with the 2022-2023 season, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

Camp Store – Mr. Horvath reported that the County will be seeking proposals for a two-year agreement to operate the Camp Store. Mr. Horvath noted that the current agreement will expire March 31, 2022. Mr. Horvath stated that a number of individuals have expressed interest about the camp store. Mr. Horvath reported that a site visit will be required of any potential bidders. Mr. Horvath stated that camping season will open this year on Friday, April 15th.

Polar Plunge – Mr. Horvath reported that the 9th Annual Polar Plunge to benefit Marian Catholic High School will be held on Saturday, January 29th. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. with the event beginning at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Horvath stated that they will have food for sale and a DJ will be present. Mr. Horvath stated that the event has always been well organized. Mr. Horvath stated that he will have maintenance and a park ranger scheduled that day from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mr. Horvath stated that the beach parking lots sidewalks are being cleared from recent winter weather in preparation of the event.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that the kayak racks haven been installed at Boat Launch B.

Mr. Horvath reported that janitorial supplies will be ordered in the upcoming weeks to replenish the supplies from last season.

Mr. Horvath noted that park maintenance staff have been assisting with snow removal at the Lansford District Magistrate Office.

Mr. Horvath reported that work that was to continue on the Shoreline Trail is on hold until weather conditions permit and the snow clears on the trail.

Mr. Horvath reported that tree removal has been progressing. Mr. Horvath reported that hazard trees have been removed at the main entrance, as well as, in the picnic area and group camping area. Mr. Horvath stated that additional trees need to be removed in the family camping area and that an estimate will be sought for the removal of any larger trees that are remaining.

Mr. Horvath provided an update on Seasonal Positions and the need to fill several positions for the upcoming season. Mr. Horvath reported that Jeffrey Gallagher has resigned his position.

Mr. Horvath reported that the new PA System will need to be installed for the upcoming season. Mr. Horvath stated that he would like to have this completed in mid-April or early-May when time permits. Mr. Horvath noted that the beach/swim area will open for the season on Saturday, May 28th.

Mr. Horvath noted that an additional bench donation was received from Stanley Zuber. Mr. Horvath stated that this brings the total to eight benches that will need to be assembled and installed for next season.

Mr. Horvath reported that space was created in the maintenance garage near the Extension Office for the new boat to be delivered.

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that the park will be advertising for lifeguards again this year from February 01st – April 30th. Mr. Horvath discussed the current staffing level and the need to fill lifeguard and seasonal park ranger positions for the upcoming season.

Mr. Horvath reported that he has seen only a few ice fishermen on the lake near Boat Launch B and noted that the lake is not completely frozen over yet with open water areas still visible. Mr. Henninger suggested keeping the rescue boat and ladder unlocked at the boat launches.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Request was submitted by Kevin Steigerwalt on behalf of Scout Troop 777 for use of Camp Apple Tree for Monday evening meetings and occasional overnight campouts for the year 2022. Mr. Horvath noted that the proper Certificate of Insurance has been provided and that the scout troop does notify the park office prior to any overnight campouts. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Mr. Horvath provided an update on the Lights at the Lake and stated that the generators and light displays have been removed other than the light wrappings around the trees. Mr. Forgay requested that Mr. Horvath reach out to a representative of Raising the House to provide the board with a recap of the event.

Mr. Horvath reported that Carbon Adventure Racing would like to hold the Keystone Backyard Ultra at the park again this year. Mr. Horvath stated that he was contacted by Jake Martinez in mid-December. Mr. Horvath noted that there were 79 participants in the event last year for the run marathon.

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

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:40 a.m. by Mr. Forgay to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Henninger. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary