

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2022**

The March 11, 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; 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 – Adrian Allen representing Raising the House and Jeremy Barbosa representing Rileighs Outdoor Décor gave a presentation on the Lights at the Lake and spoke of potential ways to improve upon the event for the future. Ms. Allen and Mr. Barbosa thanked the park staff.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2022– Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2022 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. 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 – There were no Commissioners present for the March meeting.

PARK OPERATIONS –

Camp Store Request for Proposals – Mr. Horvath reported that the County is seeking proposals for the operation of the camp for a two-year term. Mr. Horvath reported that the request for proposal was advertised on February 23, 2022 and March 01, 2022 with a submission deadline of March 21, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Horvath noted that a site visit is required for potential bidders. Mr. Horvath reported that he has a site visit scheduled on Monday, March 14th. Mr. Horvath stated that both the boat rental and food stand concessionaires expressed interest in the past, but neither has scheduled a visit to date.

Polar Plunge – Mr. Horvath reported that the polar plunge scheduled for Saturday, January 29th was postponed to Saturday, February 05th due to extreme temperatures. Mr. Horvath reported that the parking lots and walkways needed to be treated the morning of the event due to a snow and ice storm the previous day. Mr. Horvath noted that temperatures were not nearly as cold however. Mr. Horvath reported that the event ran well with a total of 30 individuals taking the plunge with numerous spectators looking on. Mr. Horvath reported that a number of TV stations were present.

Park Maintenance – Mr. Horvath reported that park staff have been working on the Shoreline Trail which includes restoring the remaining walkways between the camping area and boat launch B. Mr. Horvath stated that he anticipates completing the repairs by March 25th as long as the weather cooperates.

Mr. Horvath reported that he met with Larry Cinnacola, County Maintenance Director, and Jack Herman, Lead Maintenance II for the park, concerning the power issue at the Agnes McArtney pavilion. Mr. Horvath reported Mr. Cinnacola coordinated with Diefenderfer to assist with locating the underground

line. Mr. Horvath reported that Diefenderfer was on site and that the line has been located. Mr. Horvath reported that they believe they have the location narrowed down as to where the problem is. Mr. Horvath reported that park maintenance will begin to work on fixing the issue and restoring power to the pavilion.

Mr. Horvath reported that there is a mold issue in the closet at the Environmental Center where the water softening system is located. Mr. Horvath stated that he is going to coordinate with Hayman Water Systems with removing the tanks and apparatus in order for park staff to make the repairs which would include replacing a section of drywall.

Mr. Horvath reported that he received three estimates for the remaining trees in the camping area and group camping area that need to be cut down. Mr. Horvath reported that Mountainside Tree Service will be performing the work with the work to be completed by April 15th.

Mr. Horvath reported that the pavilion roof and siding at the Environmental Center needs repairs. Mr. Horvath stated that park staff can make the repairs as time permits or the other option would be to get an estimate from a contractor. The board recommended that an estimate be obtained due to the nature and length of time involved with the repairs. Mr. Horvath reported that park maintenance installed a side porch roof at the Environmental Center.

Mr. Horvath reported that Connor Rodgers was assisting with trimming back the Switchback Trail and clearing brush below the boat mooring spaces at Boat Launch B during his spring break. Mr. Horvath noted that he was not able to get down the Switchback Trail very far due to excessive ice build-up on the trail. Mr. Horvath reported that he cleared brush below the mooring spaces at Boat Launch B instead.

Mr. Horvath reported that the memorial benches will be assembled during periods of inclement weather with plans to install during the spring. Mr. Horvath noted that the PA System for the beach will also have to be installed.

Mr. Horvath reported that boats will be removed from storage during the week of March 28th – April 01st. Mr. Horvath stated that Seasonal Park Maintenance will start on Monday, March 28th. Mr. Horvath reported that he anticipates the water being turned on for the park the week of April 04th – 08th. Mr. Horvath reported that the seasonal staff will be assigned to cleaning the cabins, restrooms, and shower facilities in preparation for the season.

Mr. Horvath reported that four new grinder pumps were ordered for the beach stations and the installation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th.

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

Park Security – Mr. Horvath reported that First Aid/CPR/AED re-certification for park rangers will be held on Wednesday, April 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and Thursday, April 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the Environmental Center.

Mr. Horvath stated that he will be coordinating with the Sheriff's Department for rangers in need of Defensive Tactics and Firearms training.

Mr. Horvath reported that the Lead Seasonal Park Ranger I position and an additional Seasonal Park Ranger I position have been abolished and two (2) Seasonal Park Maintenance positions have been created.

Mr. Horvath reported that there have been complaints about ATV and dirt bike use on the Switchback Trail.

Mr. Horvath reported that the new boat for the park rangers will be delivered next week.

Mr. Horvath stated that there were no incidents to report.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A Special Activity Request was submitted by Kiki Peppard for use of the beach area for Quigong Classes to be held Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on June 07, 14, 21, 28; July 05, 12, 19, 26; and August 02, 09, 16, 23, 30th. Mr. Horvath noted that the proper Certificate of Insurance has been provided and that PFBC approval is not required. 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 Carbon Adventure Racing for use of the open field and park trails for the 2nd Annual Keystone Backyard Ultra to be held on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Mr. Horvath noted that the proper Certificate of Insurance has been provided and that PFBC approval is not required. 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 Chuck DeMund on behalf of the Lenape Nation of PA for use of the open field for the 3rd Annual Return to Mauch Chunk Pow Wow Festival to be held on Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th. Mr. Horvath noted that the proper Certificate of Insurance has been provided and that PFBC approval is not required. Motion made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Horvath reported that a letter was received from the Office of State Representative Doyle Heffley regarding the Outdoor Expo at Penn Forest Fire Company on Saturday, March 26th. Motion made by Mr. Sikorsky to donate a 2-night mid-week cabin stay as a door prize for the event, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 11:30 a.m. by Mr. Sikorsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Forgay. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary