

Banks County Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, August 16th – 7:00p
Recreation Center – 607 Thompson Street

Call to order: 7:03 pm

Members in attendance:

Major Hunter, Chris Baker, Chris Heath, Kulisha Beasley, Ashley Hancock & John Rylee. Also, in attendance were Recreation Director, Brooke Whitmire & Recreation Assistant Director, Kimberly McEntire.

Absent: Matthew Poole

Introduction:

- Reading of Minutes by Secretary Kulisha Beasley
- All board members in attendance approved of Minutes from 7/26/2021.

Welcome:

- Chairperson, Major Hunter thanked all members for being in attendance.
- Recreation Director Brooke Whitmire presented overview of topics to be discussed for meeting tonight which included the following:

Departmental Update on maintenance:

- A/C unit in gym-Red Gym has been replaced. Blue Gym unit is 17 years old and need to be replaced.
- Members are aware that the problem continues to have a “bandage placed over it” instead of a permanent fix.
- Assistant McEntire advised that the current recreation department building was accepted in 2005. She agreed with the concerns over the A/C units and advised the compressor for the blue gym was picked up last week, by Banks County maintenance crew. The recreation directors are aware that maintenance crew members are doing as “told” and staff is hopeful the unit will be repaired yet again.
- Director Whitmire educated board members on the difference in the two units that are currently used at the gym. In comparison of the two units, one (Red Gym) is like a Mac Truck vs the other is Toyota Yaris (Blue Gym).
- Assistant McEntire expressed concerns with leaks, lack of sealant and the increase condensation due to saturated grounds, specifically when there are multiple days of rain.
- Board Member John Rylee suggested the problem be fixed permanently not just temporary. Rylee also mentioned gathering quotes from contractors who can come in and “take care of the problem”. Rylee also discussed replacing thermostats with more advanced systems that include timers. Noting this will be beneficial and cost effective for the county.
- Director Whitmire expressed concerns for inability to adjust temperatures stating, “the older women who come in for pickle ball complain to me about being cold”, Whitmire can only empathize with participants being no BCRD staff has ability to adjust temperatures.
- Chairman Major Hunter concluded with the importance of gathering quotes to make an acceptable proposal to commissioners to push this issue for adequate funding.

Fall sports numbers & activities:

-Director Whitmire advised the registration is going well. Numbers are up by 100 kids in fall sports total registrants is 466. There are 36 teams across all sports. This year the department has added 3 y/o soccer. Cheer has increased by 26 additional participants since last season. Soccer continues to increase across the board. In 5-12 y/o as of today there are 138 kids registered, which is an increase of 30 participants, not including the newly established 3 y/o rooster. Parents are appreciative of double age group to allow my opportunity. Football registration is down only by 3 participants.

-Director Whitmire advised this is 3rd season of 3-4 y/o flag football and that registration is going well. tackle begins at the age of 6.

- Upcoming registrations for basketball season & 3-4-Year-Old Instructional Basketball.

-Director Whitmire and Board Member Ashley Hancock discussed the anticipated growth of county schools and recreation departments. Which increases the need for additional space at these facilities. Hancock stated "those new apartments are beginning to open in phases" members agreed this will continue to bring growth to the county and noted it is imperative to request and advocate for additional funding and SPLOST funds.

Getting word out for the Advisory Board:

-Chairman Major Hunter inquired from board members any suggestions for getting the word out about newly established board.

-Assistant McEntire advised members that their names were added to BCRD web page and inquired if members would like to have their personal contact info added.

-John Rylee inquired about creation of county email for members.

-Members were made aware of a possible photo op in the future to be added to board info via the BCRD web page.

Updates on SPLOST consideration for addition to Rec Center:

- John Rylee shared concerns about additional funding for Rec Center. Kulisha Beasley encouraged Rylee to compose a proposal for commissioners that will advocate for additional funding.

-Director Whitmire provided documentation of **2022 UNOFFICIAL SPLOST** Report which was via phone conversation with Director Whitmire and Commissioner Turk.

-Director Whitmire advised that the possible addition to the Recreation Center along with other Recreation Department needs will be on the November 2nd SPLOST Ballot for vote.

-This is not a guarantee the BCRD will receive the money simply that it will appear on the ballot to be voted on by the citizens.

Proposed:

-\$1.1 million for Recreation Center Addition

-50k for addition to walking trails

-\$100k for field up-keep and equipment needs

-\$54k purchase of new department vehicle

-Assistant McEntire encouraged board to "push" for SPLOST to help BCRD get the funding approved. She explored opportunities that would help advance the department.

-Director Whitmire confirmed the need for additional funding for space and storage (accessible storage) she also expressed concern of how **ALL** fields are being exhausted including the fields of school systems, there is a strong desire for more space.

-Chairman Major Hunter noted the protentional growth in the county, "they are going to have to build new schools" Director Whitmire advised recreation registrants was up 25% which confirms the growth in the county.

-All members and BCRD staff agree that whatever funding is given to enhance the current facility it does not need to be a "eye sore" instead a great representation for Banks County.

-Members were advised that Kubota like to “test” their mowers and provide free services to participants. This will help minimize the use of BCRD mowers and add additional funding for other needed services.

-Member Chris Baker advised he will inquire with Kubota being he is employed there.

Rules & Regulations of each sport:

-Kulisha Beasley reinforced the importance of members being aware of all rules to show credibility.

-Members reviewed youth basketball rules handout that was provided by secretary.

-Director Whitmire advised that BCRD collaborates with surrounding counties and meet to discuss rules and regulations. Most other county recreation departments are on the “same page” and use same set of rules and referees excluding Madison Co. Rec (they use in house volunteers).

-Assistant McEntire advised that rules and regulations for all sports are easily accessible on the BCRD website.

-Some members advised they would rather play **all in county** teams if the amount of participation continue to grow. Other members are in favor of **major/minor league teams** to promote travel ball for more advanced athletes.

Emergency Action Plan:

-Secretary Kulisha Beasley provided handouts to all in Board Members.

-Major Hunter inquired about Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and where they are located on the at all facilities.

-Members agreed that all coaches should be aware of emergency action plan in case of emergency.

Ideas on Activities for Middle School to High School aged children:

-Director Whitmire advised of special needs camp that will take place this week thanks to funding from Atlanta Hawks grant.

-Members discussed having family date night, allowing parents to go on date and BCRD staff provide games, pizza and entertainment for adolescent age kids. Other ideas included midnight madness and dance/formals.

-Chris Heath discussed BCMS Christian Learning Center and the idea of their fun Fridays. Heath also advocated for CLC to use BCRD facilities for events. This was approved pending CLC staff complete liability waivers/releases.

-Members brainstormed seasons and days that will beneficial for BCRD to host events for the adolescent population.

Other Business:

-Field rental need to remain neutral for all community members.

-Reports of teams renting fields only to discover upon arrival the field is being occupied by someone else.

-Member John Rylee inquired why is only softball the only team holding tournaments?

-Field rental for baseball and softball tournaments is an option and can generate revenue.

-Member John Rylee suggested field rental payments be kept at BCRD for “petty cash”

-Director Whitmire advised that the Commissioners office does a wonderful job of proving her with a budget, and that county funds will not be allowed to stay housed at BCRD.

-Director Whitmire discussed scheduling and coverage conflict for rental. Rentals should be primarily Monday-Thursday hours of 8:00-8:00 however all reservations are welcomed. She advised for anyone

who want to use fields to be in contact She advised for anyone who want to use fields to be in contact with Athletic Coordinator, Todd Mayfield.

Adjournment: 8:20 pm

The next 2 Recreation Advisory Board Meetings will be as follows:

Monday, September 13th@ 7:00p in the Rec Center MP Room

Monday, October 4th@ 7:00p in the Rec Center MP Room