

Banks County Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13th – 7:00p

Banks County Annex – Wilson Shoals Meeting Room - 150 Hudson Ridge Rd

Call to order **7:01** 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.

Introduction:

- Reading of Minutes by Secretary Kulisha Beasley
- All board members in attendance approved of Minutes from 8/16/2021.

Welcome:

- Director Brooke Whitmire

Departmental Updates:

Recreation Director, Brooke Whitmire

- Shared about AED locations through the Rec facilities.
- Advised Commissioner Turk recommended all staff and coaches get CPR certified/recertified. Certification will be on Oct 9th 9:00-3:00 p.m. and recertification will be held on Oct 12th from 9:00-1:00 p.m.
- 30 participants for flag football (3 teams)
- T-ball multi-purpose field construction in on schedule. Only changes were made with irrigation system and concessions and restroom will now have a better quality of water.
- Staff members discussed the options of sod, grass or Bermuda for the landscaping at the field.
- Whitmire advised it will be seeded not sodded.
- Members Poole and Rylee conversed on the quality of sod vs seeds.

Departmental Updates:

Assistant Recreation Director, Kim McEntire

- Kim added there has been a request for two additional AED machines.
- Board members have been officially added to BCRD rec web page.

A/C Units in Blue Gym:

- Whitmire shared with members that a walk through was completed by Matt Jenkins. He has shared the information with his staff and an official quote is pending.

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

- 3-6-year-old basketball registration is up and going on now.
- Flyer was presented to share and spread the word about a special need basketball camp. The camp will be held on the 2nd Friday of November and December.
- Hancock volunteered to assist with the special need camp.

-Acreage on Hudson Valley Park:

- 12 acres (approximately)
- Director Whitmire shared the geographics of the land and hopeful this acreage includes the walk area and the horse arena area. The tennis courts space is approximately 1 ¼ which includes courts and hill area.

-Middle/high school aged program to start in October: Kim McEntire

- First event will be held in October; the program will focus on middle school age children.
- Kim encouraged members to advocate for more funding. The funding will take care of storage pod to hold “game room stuff” and for concessions.

-Updates on pursuing the replacement of the old playground & potential addition of a new one:

Recreation Director, Brooke Whitmire

- “3 part ask”
- Big ask is for replacement of old playground area.
- Medium ask is for adding toddler play area to current playground construction and shade.
- Small ask is to add shade to little leopard playground.

- Board Member Rylee added a “4th ask” stating he has been asked to provide quote by the end of the week. The quote is for the repair and replacement of current metal. Rylee shared his bid is for replacement of old, rusty, worn out areas. He also suggested a splash pad, sharing “many of the citizens of Banks Co have suggested this.”
- Chairman Hunter inquired about the liability of this splash pad.
- Member Poole discussed the hazard of metal in high temperature days and suggested a rubber coating be added to any stainless-steel area.

Assistant Recreation Director, Kim McEntire

- Provided handout of county budget stating “we want to be as transparent as we can be so citizens can see where their money goes”
- Reinforced the need for a new playground “old playground is from 1994”
- McEntire shared findings from probing citizens in the county and many are in favor of a toddler playground or a play area that will be neutral for all ages
- McEntire added that the field 9 playground is over 20 years old, and it has been a good investment

Covid Protocols, Gym Capacities, & Placement of Sanitation Stations

Recreation Director, Brooke Whitmire:

- BCRD is following modified quarantine of Banks County Schools.
- During games it will be suggested that same family households sit together.
- BCRD has adequate amount of sanitation stations and these stations will be transported to fields and encouraged to use at gate entrance.

Quarantine Protocols (COVID)

- Board Member Ashley Hancock shared school protocol.
- Discussion was made on if a child is out sick at school then the child should not practice.
- Whitmire advised community members are courteous and given heads up of any sickness.

Basketball Regulations Questions

Recreation Director, Brooke Whitmire

- Whitmire provided a copy of the block/substitution schedule.
- Heath added about the conflict and confusion with substitution last year.
- Chairman Hunter provided additional clarity on free sub for rec league basketball.
- Whitmire advised rules to have been revised with correct verbiage in the rule book.

Other Business:

- Board Member Poole suggested more coaches and staff have more clinics for rec age youth. He also suggested having some athletes with collegiate experience conduct clinics in the county. Poole also shared a strong desire to have BCRD participate in state level tournaments.
- Members brainstormed reinventing all-stars.
- Whitmire educated members on why the all-star program was eliminated, which was to prevent conflict. A survey was conducted and over 70% of surveys suggested omitting all stars and were in favor of end of the season tournaments.
- Poole added the importance of keeping an eye on the elderly and people who may be prone to heat exhaustion while in attendance of BCRD events.
- Brooke shared the location of tents set up through out the fields. These fields are easy way to get hold of staff for emergent or non-emergent needs.
- Rylee mentioned the possibility of BCRD providing after school program for children and adolescents of working parents.
- Members brainstormed other resources and programs that provide after school services. Rylee was encouraged to share those resources with concerned parents.

Adjournment 8:05 pm