

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 7, 2008
BUCKEYE RECREATION CENTER

- I. **Call to Order** – Chairman Mr. Pfohl called to order the regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory committee at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Buckeye Recreation Center. Present were Chairman Mr. Pfohl, and Advisory Committee Members Ms. Piquet, Mr. Brooks, Ms. Simms, and Mr. Adams; Mr. Mettee and Mr. Smoot were not present. Mr. Hughs and Mr. McNay from Outdoor Recreation were present as well as Interim Recreation Director Ms. Broderick, Town Manager Michael Boaz and Town Councilman Pete Chamberlain. Rich Parker and Leonard Hyatt were present from the community.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes were approved as presented with the exception of number IV section a., “A Cool 5”. Mr. Pfohl mentioned that we received \$5,000 from Mountain Electric and not the \$10,000 as was noted.
- III. **Recreation Report** -
 - a. **Recreation Report** – The report presented by Ms. Broderick demonstrated continued increase in usage from the previous year for the month of July.
 - b. **Programming** – Ms. Broderick stated that the July 4th event at Buckeye Recreation Center was a success with approximately 250 people attending for family games, live music, and cookout. The Dog Show had another successful year with nearly 100 canine participants. Summer Camps were attended by 125 camp participants this year. The first outdoor movie was not a success. There were below 10 people in attendance. Mr. Pfohl and Ms. Piquet stated that there were a lot of events going on that weekend. There is another Movie Night Scheduled for August 22nd, “The Goonies” at 8:00 p.m.
 - c. **Outdoor Recreation Report** – Mr. McNay stated that they have been doing a lot of mowing lately. They are looking into a 0 Turn Radius Mower. The Outdoor Recreation Program has made this request to the Town Manager, Mr. Boaz. They are currently working on blazing trails and getting them all individually color coordinated. He stated that Mr. Colistra had taken this idea from the New York and New Jersey Trail Conference. Mr. McNay said that they were looking into obtaining a heated building for the sled hill. Fuel costs right now are high at \$4.00 a gallon. In the past in order to have heat they have had to run their vehicle at the sledding hill. Mr. Pfohl noted that Bear Paw Path has had a large logging operation going on.
- IV. **Additional Business** -
 - a. **Fishing Parking Lot Area** – Mrs. Piquet mentioned that we need to make it understood and clear as to everyone why we need that piece of property (safety area).
 - b. **Renee Castiglione Letter** – Mr. Pfohl presented a copy of a letter written by Renee Castiglione addressing the Recreation Center’s Budget. It notes that the Outdoor Recreation Budget is included in figures previously made available to the public. This is being sent to Lee Whitman for publication through his online e-mail newsletter. Mr. Pfohl wanted everyone to take a look to make sure there were not any additions or corrections to the letter. Ms. Piquet noted that the 4%

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figure used in the letter was incorrect per information provided by Mr. Colistra and that it doesn't include something but was not sure what. Ms. Piquet also stated that Mr. Whitman's last e-mail was incorrect as to the number of pass holders that the Recreation Center has. This figure does not properly represent the amount of usage the facility is getting because the figure does not reflect the daily visitors that are paying the daily usage fee.

- c. **Carolina Sprinkler** – Ms. Broderick stated that there have been two incidents since the opening of the facility where sprinkler heads have been busted. Each incident cost close to \$2,000. Carolina Sprinkler has projected the cost around \$5,000 to put safety guards on the sprinklers. Ms. Piquet questioned Mr. Boaz as to whether or not this was in the budget. Mr. Boaz responded that there was a substantial amount of money in the budget for building maintenance. Chairman, Mr. Pfohl asked if everyone was in favor moving forward on this project. Everyone was in favor.
- d. **PARTF Update** – Ms. Broderick stated that we did not get the \$50,000 grant. Mr. Boaz stated that there will be a meeting explaining our final point total. Mr. Colistra had been informed by PARTF that there was no way for us to improve our grant. Only two projects in our region got funded this year. Mr. Boaz is going to go and find out why we didn't get funded and what our point total was. Both grants that were approved were for land acquisitions. Close to \$13,000,000 was given out in funding. The PARTF meeting will be in September to review the points. Mr. Boaz stated that we can apply again in January. Mr. Boaz also stated that a total of \$36,000 has been raised so far for the playground.
- e. **Tennis Ball Practice Wall** – Leonard Hayatt was introduced by Mr. Brooks to speak about the possibility of erecting a tennis ball practice wall. Mr. Hyatt is on the Club of Beech Mountain's Board. Mr. Hyatt estimates that the cost for the project would be \$5,000. Mr. Pfohl noted that The Beech Mountain Club had a tennis ball wall but they took it down. Mr. Hyatt proposes the tennis ball wall site to be on the basketball court off of Lake Coffey. Ms. Piquet noted that this was not put in our budget for this year. Thus it would have to be looked at next March during budget planning. Mr. Brooks noted that we have tennis opportunities here at Buckeye Recreation Center that need to be promoted, especially since we have supervision here. Ms. Broderick stated that a couple of people already use the basketball court walls to hit against. Mr. Hyatt said that the columns were in the way. Mr. Hyatt did not have a sketch of the projected wall with him. The sketches he does have show the dimensions of the wall. Ms. Piquet stated that we just bought a brand new ball machine. Mr. Pfohl stated that a formal letter and diagram should be provided to Ms. Broderick so that she could present it at the next meeting but that it is a matter to be discussed for next year's budget.
- f. **Camp Review** – Ms. Broderick stated that parents were very happy with the camps provided. There were a total of 5 camps with the total number of camp participants being 125. Day camps were strongly based on outdoor learning activities. Ms. Broderick stated that Ms. Young received numerous compliments from parents. Ms. Piquet liked the shirts that the campers received. Mr. Parker requested that the day camps be expanded next year. Mr. Pfohl made it clear that our intention is not to compete with the club upon remarks from Mr. Parker that Beech Mountain's Club Campers had stopped attending their camp to come attend ours here at the Rec. instead.
- g. **Room Rental Fees** – Ms. Broderick stated the fee increase had not posed any problems and that the website has been updated with the new fee.

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- h. **Visit to Park Properties** – Mr. Pfohl stated that Mr. Brooks had mentioned a potential visit to park properties. Ms. Piquet recommended that this idea should be put off until Buckeye Recreation Center has a new director so that this could be done together. Mr. Pfohl agreed.
 - i. **Recreation Director** – Mr. Boaz stated that a new director should be in place by the end of September. The process right now for hiring the new director will be a full day interview. In the morning a question and answer period with Mr. Boaz and perhaps a member or two from the Recreation Committee; later in the afternoon or evening a social opportunity where the candidate can interact with the committee and employees (both indoor and outdoor). Mr. Boaz will do this with the top 3-5 candidates. Ms. Piquet and Mr. Pfohl thought the idea was excellent. Mr. Boaz stated that resumes are due by the 15th of August. There have been close to 30 applications with the vast majority not meeting the requirements that were advertised; i.e. having a recreational degree or some similar type of background and some experience managing a facility. Applicants that are being considered right now are currently working at other recreational facilities. Mr. Boaz mentioned that in the state of North Carolina if you are a recreation director the standard is to give thirty days notice. Mr. Pfohl asked Mr. Boaz if they could all get together and talk this over. Everyone agreed to reconvene this meeting on the 18th, Monday at 9:00am at Town Hall.
 - j. **Facility Use** – Rich Parker mentioned to the committee that it would be a good idea to keep track of which areas of the facility are getting the most use. This information could help make decisions in the future. Mr. Pfohl asked Ms. Broderick to look into this idea.
 - k. **Profit Centers** – Mr. Parker mentioned selling or renting towels, selling sport drinks, coffee, hot chocolate and baked goods. Mr. Pfohl stated that the town had been cautious about moving in this direction. Mr. Boaz stated we would have to pay sales tax and this would be an additional burden on the finance officer. Mr. Pfohl asked Mr. Parker to write these ideas down on paper so that the committee could revisit his ideas. Mr. Pfohl also asked Mr. Boaz to do some research on the sales tax so that when the committee did discuss this in the future they would know what this would entail. Ms. Piquet did not think that reporting sales tax was that difficult. Mr. Pfohl also questioned whether or not our staff had time to keep up with the coffee machine when there is only one person working.
- V. **Speak Out Session** – Mr. Chamberlain commended the staff for keeping the facility looking as good as it does. He likes the image that is projected. Mr. Adams asked that Ms. Broderick continue to do the reports that Mr. Colistra was doing for Town Council. Mr. Pfohl discussed trail week or trail outings where volunteers come and build a trail; the labor being free. This could be considered for the proposed project this spring; building the extension on to Falls Trail. Mr. Boaz said that the Town Council would discuss the falls trail project at their next meeting. Mr. Pfohl discussed the Recreations website and improving it.
- VI. **Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Broderick