



**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



Kent County Community Center * 11041 Worton Rd., Worton * MD 21678

**February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Kent County Community Center**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Greg Welch, Chair; Rick Myers, Vice Chair; Aidan Butler, Student Representative; Jill Coleman, Director, Parks and Recreation Member; Faye Little, Member; Paige Miller, Student Representative; Joyce Moody, Member; Jane Welsh, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Welch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch asked for a motion to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Ms. Welsh made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

MEETING START TIME PREFERENCE (5:30 or 6:00 PM)

Mr. Welch asked for a motion for a preferred time to start board meetings. Ms. Welsh said either time is okay for her, but her vote would be to start at 5:30. Mr. Myers made a motion to approve starting the meetings at 5:30 p.m., and Ms. Welsh seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. Moving forward, the board meetings will commence at 5:30 p.m.

REMEMBRANCE

Ms. Coleman asked the members to join her in a moment of silence in remembrance of Ms. Vanessa Maddox, who recently passed away.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks

- Program Open Space (POS) and Local Parks and Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) Grant Projects Updates (Jill Coleman reported on behalf of Carrie Klein):
 - Basketball Court renovations at Worton Park: The courts will be turned to 90° and a third court will be added. The project will also include lighting, parking, and seeding. Dan Mattson and Carrie Klein will meet with Brambles (on Rt 213) to discuss paving the new courts. The renovations are expected to begin in April.
 - Worton Park Restroom rehabilitation: The restroom enhancements include new plumbing fixtures, exterior water fountains, a bottle filler, and lighting upgrades on the outside.
 - Ballfield(s) upgrades/improvements: Both Orem and Heroes fields will receive new backstops, new sideline fencing, and new dugouts; and additional work includes regrading, sideline grass, and installation of spectators' bleachers. The Grounds Maintenance Team has been doing a great job with the demolition of the existing backstop and fencing, and Long Fence will be installing the backstop fencing and dugouts this week. Plumbing upgrades have been approved, and the

anticipated completion date for the improvements is mid-March.

- A digital sign will be installed at the entrance of Worton Park. The sign will contain information pertaining to field locations, field openings and closings, and the sporting event taking place on each field. The new sign will require some electrical work.
- Worton Park: The old concession stand will be converted into a storage area for summer camp, the old (red) shed will be removed, the dry well will be capped off, and the pump house will be demolished; all work is anticipated to be completed by the end of March.
- The Edesville Park playground demolition will be handled by the Grounds Maintenance team; the project is expected to start in the summer.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) boardwalk extension and bench project at Betterton Beach: Dan Mattson is meeting with the scheduled engineer on March 19th. The plan is to demolish the existing boardwalk, install a new concrete walkway, and add benches, including a red bench to honor the lifeguards; the red bench has already been purchased and is scheduled to be installed in the spring.
- Development Updates (Jill Coleman)
 - Ballfield(s) Signage: All of our ballfields have been renamed with a meaning behind the name, and each of our ballfields will have a new sign. E field is now called Volunteer field to honor all of our volunteers; Orem field remains the same because it is in memory of Dudley Orem; AA Field has been renamed Commissioners Field in honor of our commissioners (past and present); B Field has been renamed Heroes Field in honor of our first responders; C Field has been renamed Veterans Field in honor of those who served; and D Field has been renamed All Star Field in honor of the County's athletes.
 - Park Rules Signage: One of the FY26 capital fund requests that we will ask for is funding for new signs with basic rules for our four parks (Edesville, Toal, Turners Creek, and Worton). Ms. Coleman asked the members to review the rules that were provided in their meeting packet. After reviewing the rules, she asked if anyone would like to propose any changes or amendments, and there were no requests for changes to the rules as proposed.
 - Turners Creek/Toal Park project with Washington College: The plan is to turn the former farmland into a meadow with a natural walking trail around it. Ms. Coleman said the grant application was submitted back in December, and there are no updates on the project since we are still waiting for a response. Mr. Welch asked if it was possible to add a Story Walk to the trail, and Ms. Coleman replied yes.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman informed the Board of the new park photo collages that are now displayed on the wall outside of the meeting room at the Community Center. She said the photos display all of the parks associated with Kent County.
- Ms. Coleman announced that the Community Center lobby and hallway have recently been painted. She said the Grounds Maintenance staff completed the project within one week, and she said they did "marvelous" job.
- Kent County Parks and Recreation's Cornhole League has been renamed the Cornhole Club. Ms. Coleman said if you enjoy playing cornhole and have a Facility Access Card, on Friday nights you can come to the Community Center from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to partner up and play.

NEW BUSINESS

Parks (Jill Coleman)

- Communication Board Update: Ms. Coleman said she heard that the application we submitted requesting funding for a Communication Board for Edesville Park is getting ready to be voted on. She said we should receive a response back soon.

Recreation (Jill Coleman)

- Ms. Coleman went over the highlights of the 2024 Annual Report; a copy of the report was provided to each member in their meeting packet. Ms. Welsh commented that the report was “very nicely done.”
- Ms. Coleman asked everyone to refer to the 2025 Spring Guide that is in their meeting packet. She said the guide lists all the programs that are being offered in the spring. Ms. Coleman said the summer guide will come out the beginning of March.
- We are currently offering free CPR, AED, and First Aid classes. Ms. Coleman said it is a hybrid class and she said the March 6th class is already full, but the March 20th, April 3rd, and April 17th classes have availability.
- Kent County Parks and Recreation has a new logo. Ms. Coleman shared a picture of the new logo with the members. She said moving forward, you will see it on all of our publications.
- This year, four teams have applied for the FY25 Youth Sports Equipment Grant. We received their applications with the following funding requests:
 - Kent County Youth Baseball requested over \$2,000 to be used for batting tees, catchers gear, baseballs, and first aid kits.
 - Kent Spartans (football) requested \$1,600 to be used for practice and uniform pants.
 - Kent Youth Lacrosse requested over \$2,000 to be used for balls, helmets, chest protectors, and goalie pants.
 - Kent Youth Soccer Association requested \$1,500 to be used for goals.

Ms. Coleman announced that the Grant in total is \$7,000 and she said to be fair, she suggested the Board consider dispersing the funds as follows:

- Approve Kent County Youth Baseball for \$1,950;
- Approve Kent Spartans Football for \$1,600;
- Approve Kent Youth Lacrosse for \$1,950; and
- Approve Kent Youth Soccer for \$1,500.

Mr. Welch asked for a motion. Ms. Welsh made a motion to approve dispersing the FY25 Youth Sports Equipment Grant funds as Ms. Coleman suggested, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor.

- We will be doing a Family Nature Hike so that families can be included this year. Mr. Gilcrest will guide the event, and the event will take place in June.
- The 2025 pool season at the Worton pool will be cashless, and patrons will have to pay with a credit or debit card. Ms. Coleman informed the Board that the Millington site has been cashless for the last several years and has worked out great.
- KCPR’s summer camp groups have been renamed. Ms. Coleman announced the new names and the

number of spots that were made available in each group:

- Kiddie Adventure Camp – 16;
- Little Explorers – 24;
- Young Explorers – 50;
- Youth in Action – 12; and
- Leaders Club – 12.

Ms. Coleman said all of the groups sold out within one hour this year. She said County employees had an opportunity to sign their children up one week prior to the program being open to the public. Mr. Myers asked if there are any plans to bring back the week trip for Leaders Club. He said years ago they used to do a one-week camping and bike trip. Ms. Coleman said this year we partnered with the Sultana for some day trips for the kids to get some canoeing experience.

- A few pieces of equipment have been added to our Fitness Room. The Fitness Room is now equipped with kettlebells and a kettlebell rack.
- We held a Mario Kart Deluxe Tournament in partnership with the Kent County Health Department. The winners received gift certificates to downtown Chestertown.
- We have new vending machines at the Community Center. We switched vendors and now use a local vendor who provides a better variety of snacks and drinks. The new vendor is able to repair the machines in a timelier manner and has even lowered the prices.

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, or REPORT OUTS (All Members)

- Mr. Welch asked if the County's new grant writer can search for a grant that could provide funding for lighting around the park. Ms. Coleman said she will ask the grant writer to look into it.
- Ms. Miller asked if it would be possible to get a new playground at the AG Center. Ms. Miller said she is on the AG board, and they asked her to check with the Advisory Board. Ms. Coleman said the next POS grant is not available until July 2026, but she said she will do some research to see if there are any grants available that the AG Center can apply for.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Welch asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Myers seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, May 19, 2025, 5:30 PM, at Toal Park
13753 Augustine Herman Highway, Galena