



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



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

**August 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

In Attendance: Greg Welch Jr., Chair; Rick Myers, Vice Chair; Jill Coleman, Member; Drew Davis, Student Member; Mary Fisher, Member; Melissa Landon, Student Member; Faye Little, Member; Dan Mattson, Member; Trish McGee, Member; Joyce Moody, Member; Jane Welsh, Member; and Sandy Adams, Clerk.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the May 15, 2023, meeting were approved by the Board electronically.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Coleman called the board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The meeting began with board member introductions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Department Operations (Jill Coleman)**

- Parks and Recreation still has an opening for a full time Facility Monitor at the Community Center. The position is a customer service position at the front counter. The hours are from 9:00 am - 6:30 pm Monday – Friday from May 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup> and 12:30 pm – 9:00 pm November 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>. We have been advertising for the position, and Human Resources just informed us that they have received some applications for the position.

**Parks – Program Open Space (POS) and LPPI Grant Projects Update (Dan Mattson)**

- The following projects have been completed:
  - The swing set at Edesville Park was replaced.
  - The playground at Worton Park is currently under construction. The old playground was demolished last week, and the new one is being constructed and will be ready for use this weekend.
  - The pickleball and tennis courts have been completed (next to the pool area) at Millington, and a basketball court (half court) has been stripped out at the end of the parking lot.
  - A new roof was put on the pavilion at Betterton and Worton Park; both were completed in June.
  - The multi-purpose field lights and the lights at Orem Field have been installed and are operational; all lights are LED.

The following projects are currently in process or will be underway soon:

- The Betterton boardwalk reconstruction project is in the design phase; the plans have been received and are under review. The goal is to have this project completed by next summer.
- The bathrooms at Worton park: The plan is to update/overhaul with new toilet fixtures, modernized/touchless flushing mechanisms, replace the doors, repaint the exterior, redo the lighting

inside, and to and increase the lighting outside around the entrance.

- The following additions will be added at Worton Park and Toal Park: Install backstops, sunshades, and fencing around team benches to the various ballfields; and new dugouts at Orem Field. We are currently working with the State to incorporate grass in the infield at Orem Field for better drainage.
- We are preparing cost estimates in support of next year's POS grant applications for redoing the basketball courts at Worton Park and for developing a phased plan for Turner's Creek. These were the funding ideas identified in the LPPRP for FY24 and that were voted on and decided upon at the last Board meeting.
- ADA Trail Recreation at Turner's Creek: Ms. Coleman said the Recreational Trails Grant Proposal was submitted to the Maryland Department of Transportation in May. The newly constructed trail will be located where the small trail is currently, which is at the Kent Museum. The funding request is for \$100,000, and it comes with a 25% in-kind labor (salary) match.

### **Chair for each committee (Jill Coleman)**

- Ms. Coleman said she selected members for each committee based on what she thought each member would be the most interested in, or where she thought the member had the most background knowledge. She said the expectation will be for everyone to provide research for their committee and to make recommendations. She went over key notes for each committee and provided some guidelines for getting started. Ms. Coleman asked for volunteers or nominations for committee chairs. She said the Chair will be responsible for keeping the conversation going and everyone on track. She asked the committees to meet at least 15 minutes prior to each quarterly meeting. The following members agreed to act as Committee Chairs:
  - Drew Davis will Chair the Program Development Committee;
  - Dan Mattson will Chair the Park Development Committee;
  - Jane Welsh will Chair the Finance Committee; and
  - Trish McGee will Chair the Publicity/Marketing Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Presentation of Certificates of Recognition (Jill Coleman)**

- Parks & Recreation recognized Mary Fisher for her years of faithful service as Chair to the Kent County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; and
- Parks & Recreation recognized Faye Little for her years of faithful service as Vice Chair to the Kent County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

### **Recreation (Jill Coleman)**

#### **Summer 2023 Highlights:**

- Betterton Beach Rescue: A five-year-old child was completely submerged under water and (3) lifeguards on duty that day performed CPR and other maneuvers that saved her life. Ms. Coleman said we are proud of them and all of guards. She said everyone did a wonderful job this year.
- Summer employees were recognized by the County Commissioners for a job well done this summer.
- This year, Parks and Recreation had a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Hartford and Cecil Counties. Three of their staff members assisted with Summer Camps this year, which allowed us to

accept more children into the program. We also had a Teen Luau at the pool, and 106 teens attended the event. It turned out to be a great event, and we are considering doing two next summer.

- Meet our summer employees: The Board watched videos that were made by the Parks and Recreation summer staff (Pool Cashiers/Lifeguards/Camp personnel).
- Fall 2023 Schedule of Programs and Activities:
  - Each board member received a copy of the Parks and Recreation Fall 2023 program in their meeting packet.
  - Parks and Recreation publications are done in “Canva,” a program used to create social media graphics and presentations.
  - Parks and Recreation is currently exploring a new application called “Constant Contact” for getting programs out to the public.
  - The Before School Care program at Galena and Rock Hall has been canceled. There were not enough children enrolled to sustain the program. The Before School Care program at Garnett was not advertised because the program for that location is being ran by the Boys and Girls Club. However, the After School Program (ASP) is still being ran by Parks and Recreation.
- Attendance at Betterton Beach has been an on-going issue for the County Commissioners. Ms. Coleman asked the Board’s Parks Committee to think about how best to help the Betterton residents with the crowds.

**Parks (Jill Coleman)**

- Ms. Coleman said she has been in contact with Fin Kayak Rentals to inquire about providing kayaks for rent at Turner’s Creek. She said she is hoping to get a contract with them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. McGee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Welsh seconded the motion; the motion passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 20, 2023  
Committees meet at 5:45 PM  
Meeting will be called to order at 6:00 PM**