

Meeting Minutes

Raleigh County Parks and Recreation Authority

January 21st, 2020

11:00 A.M.

1. **Call to Order:** Dave Tolliver
2. **Present:** Dave Tolliver, Linda Epling, Ron Hedrick, Detlef Ulfres, Molly Williams, Bill Calhoun, Billy Michael, Aaron Hamilton, Gillian Cochran
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Passed
4. **New Business:**
 - 4.1.– Fitzpatrick Softball League Manager Report – Fitzpatrick softball league manager, Aaron Hamilton, delivers a report on last year’s softball season. He notes that there were 10 teams in the church league and 8 teams in the coed league, which all reserved their spots in the league by paying the \$400 fee, rather than the regular \$550 fee. He is aware of the interest that some students from WVU Tech have in playing softball at Fitzpatrick, as well as a team from Hinton. During the Fall Ball events, there were 8 coed teams, in addition to the team from Hinton and one from Charleston. Fitzpatrick also hosted the first ever Men’s Fall Classic, which consisted of 9 teams from Ohio, North Carolina, and other nearby states. Hamilton’s vision for the Fitzpatrick softball leagues in 2020 includes a lot of advertisement, on social media, radio shows, and flyers/posters. There are already 10 tournaments scheduled for the upcoming season, as well as 6 two-day AAA tournaments, which will be on Saturdays and Sundays. The leagues will rent the fields, requiring nothing from our employees other than field maintenance. The USSA is also considering hosting a one-day girls softball tournament, which would occur on a Saturday. There is an estimated number of 10 teams expected per league. Hamilton aims to make new bylaws and improvements to the fields that will garner popular support and create an environment that is safe and desirable to customers. There is a possibility of a Tuesday night men’s league being started this season. His vision for 2020 is to take advantage of the many people expressing interest in the rarity of having four fields in one park and help RCPR create a safe and fun place for those people to visit. He states that locals are beginning to return to the park because of the adjustments and improvements that have already been made and encourages the Commission to continue their work. Molly Williams states that she is getting quotes on redoing the fields and exploring the possibility of

putting the necessary jobs out for bidding. Some of the repairs are leveling the fields, fixing swampy, eroded areas, especially on field 4.

4.2.– New Blow Ups – Williams states that the blow ups that the lake already possesses are in need of upgrading, as the majority of them have suffered damage. Other than the trampoline, every blow up has holes in crucial areas, such as handles, slides, etc. Due to these issues, she fears the blowups will not make it through the upcoming season and suggests exploring the variety of new and improved blow ups. She has discovered circuit blow ups, which are safer and offer more of a variety. Blow ups can be added or taken away to circuit blow ups, depending on demand and the fluctuation of growth. The life expectancy of these blow ups is 5+ years, are safer for customers, are in stock and can arrive within a month, and would provide an opportunity for customers to visit an attraction that is unlike Pipestem State Park or ACE Adventures. The cost range from these blow ups are from \$30-50,000. Because this project would not be under state contract and is over \$25,000, it is necessary for it to be put up to bid. It is decided that this will be taken under advisory and discussed at the next meeting.

4.3.– Sand – The needed sand is \$22.05 per ton, with an additional \$18.00 for delivery per ton. The total amount is \$40,000. This expense, in addition to the blowups will require \$80,000. This and the blow ups will be discussed at the next meeting.

4.4.– Adoption of Retirement – This program is simply a service provided to RCPRA employees, without payment from the county. It is their decision as to whether or not they enroll. Motion to implement is approved.

4.5.– Financial Statement – The money for campground improvements is coming out of RCPRA's account, which comprises 72.35% of the lake's expenses. Financial statement approved.

4.6.– Winter Storage – The proposed changes to the campground's winter storage payment includes an initial payment of \$200 for site security in the upcoming season and an additional \$200 for winter storage *or* a charge of \$300 for winter storage and an additional charge of \$100 for site holding fee. This proposal is taken under advisement.

4.7.– Approval of 2020 Holiday and Payroll Calendar – approved.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting is set for February 18th, 2020 at 11 a.m. Meeting adjourned.