



Meeting Minutes

RALEIGH COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY

July 20, 2021
11:00 A.M.

1. **Call to Order** - Dave Tolliver
2. **Roll Call** – Dave Tolliver, Linda Epling, Billy Roop, Ron Hedrick, Cylde Stepp; Detlef Ulfers, Molly Williams, BJ Pritchard, Bill Calhoun, Billy Michael, Aaron Hamilton, Greg Duckworth
3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (06/22/21)** – Hedrick makes a motion to approve meeting minutes. Epling seconds. Motion passes.
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1 **Financial Statement June 2021**

All board members have observed the financial statement. Stepp makes a motion to approve the financial statement. Hedrick seconds. Motion passes.
 - 4.2 **Director's Report**

The parks are the busiest they have ever been. Staff is moving forward. On July 29th at 1:00 p.m., the ribbon cutting event for the new RCpra office will be taking place in front of the office. Tolliver requests that Carolyn be notified so that she can put it on the agenda. Williams states that it should be on there at present. Williams does not have much else to discuss. Tolliver mentions that the Lake Stephens staff appreciation dinner on Thursday was well attended. He spoke to the employees that the parks have never looked so good and that they were doing a wonderful job. Tolliver was asked about the new overflow campsites, whose finished-date is projected to be two years out. When the crew is not tearing down the buildings, they will be putting in the roads and campsites that Ulfers has drawn up.
5. **Old Business**

Yesterday, the commissioners went to look at the new RS37 tractor that WVU has purchased. They will be using field 4 at Fitzpatrick, which will be their home field. The memorandum of understanding will be signed by both parties soon. The building to place the

machine has been purchased for \$5,900.99 by the commission. The tractor will be picked up on Friday. Tolliver requests that a good lock be placed on the building, as well as that no one be placed on the machine until they are familiar with it. After 50 hours, the oil has to be changed either at Rural King or by a mechanic. Tech purchased the mower as of yesterday. Michael states that the machine is there at Rural king – it only needs paid for and picked up.

6. Public Participation

Adam Bailes, partial-owner of Adams Power Equipment, steps up to speak. There were mowers purchased for Raleigh County Parks and Recreation, which were not from the county or the state of WV. Speaking on behalf of the various dealers in Raleigh County or WV, the money should be reinvested back into the county. The bids for the mowers are going to be the same within the county, no matter which business you go to. He states that he would like to see the county's business stay within the county or the state, at least. To explain, Williams states that after multiple mowers had gone down, one being placed in the shop (at Adams Power Equipment), price checking with a few businesses, and facing some issues with availability of in-stock Skaggs Mowers, RCPRA did decide to go with The Cutting Edge of Virginia in Salem, VA, paying \$23,890 for two mowers. Which was the lowest bid from multiple companies and the only one with 2 mowers in stock. RCPRA staff attempted a couple of times to get in touch with Mr. Thompson. Kevin Cantley (maintenance staff), attempted to get into contact with Mr. Thompson a couple times. He informed the company that he required the quote by the end of the day and provided them with his email address. Kevin never received an email, and therefore, called the business the next day. On this phone call, he was placed on hold for 15-20 minutes, during which, he received a phone call that some maintenance was required at a Lake Stephens location. He hung up from being on hold and went to take care of the maintenance issues. Nothing else was ever heard from the business. Bailes states that if he had been aware, he would have accommodated the urgency of the situation. Gary Thompson, owner of Mountain State Equipment, inquires as to the purchase date of the mowers. To continue, he expresses that he feels, as a citizen of Raleigh County, to have been given the courtesy of having a visit paid to his business rather than a dropped phone call with no follow up. In his opinion, prior planning could have prevented the urgency of the situation and the responsibility of overspending on the equipment falls into the hands of those in charge of the budget. Tolliver states that, while the commission does provide the budget for Parks and Rec (alongside another 6 or so departments), their goal is not to micromanage the way that the departments spend their funds, and it is impossible to keep specific track of each department's spending. Tolliver states that the commission does its best to do business with local companies. Thompson proceeded to explain his concept of the budget's function and inquire about any misconceptions regarding the ways it is spent. He encourages the commission and Williams to look ahead in the budget and the upcoming year so that plans can be made for county tax dollars to be spent appropriately. Tammy Newhouse, a patron at Lake Stephens, states that she would like to see the 24-hour service at the Lake Stephens Marina to return in order to deter vandals from damaging boats/boat docks. Tolliver asks Williams if a security camera is in position at the Lake Stephens Marina, to which Williams responds that the camera in place is motion activated; if there is no motion detected by the camera, it will not turn on. Tolliver states that a 24-hour camera system needs to be looked at. Newhouse states that, due to the lack of availability in boat-repair shops in WV, to have repairs done, you nearly have to drive to Charlotte. With the possibility of all the things that can happen in the absence of a supervisor at the marina and the time constraints that a night-fishing permit creates (i.e., calling and waiting for security to arrive to let you out of the marina, etc.), Newhouse feels it is necessary to consider working an all-night marina shift back into the budget. Williams states that an overnight employee would definitely be preferred,

but they cannot find anyone to effectively work the shift. Newhouse states that she is prepared for forward recommendations to office staff in order to make that happen. Williams also states that night fishing permits can be obtained at the marina – up until its closing; planning the trip out on the boat ahead of time is not necessary. Newhouse states that her reservations about waiting for the security guard or depending on the security guard to be there in the event of an emergency in order for first responders to get on-scene still stands. Williams states that Pritchard is available if security guards are not. Newhouse states that she is paying to have access to her boat 24/7 and she cannot do so without planning in advance, but she is prepared to help rectify the situation (by forwarding appropriate potential employee applications to Lake staff). The commission states that they will take these things into consideration.

7. Adjournment

Epling makes a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting August 17, 2021 at 11:00am at the Raleigh County Commission Office.