



**WRIGHTSVILLE
BEACH**
RECREATION DISTRICT

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Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Minutes October 1, 2014

Representatives:

Montpelier and CVRPC Staff - Daniel Currier (Present)
Montpelier - Jessica Chaves (Present)
Middlesex - Jane Dudley (Present)
Worcester - Carl Witke (Absent)
East Montpelier – Bill Merrylees (Present)
Other: Collin O’Neil – Manager (Present)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Manager’s Update

Collin updated the Board on the season. Overall the season was good; it was noticed that some of the nicer weekend were surprisingly slow. One factor as reported by a number of beach users is that their phones/mobile devices weather icons and apps forecasts reported bad weather which is contrary to the true weather outside. It was suggested that we perhaps look into partnering to create an outdoor recreation weather forecast that would be more true to the actual conditions.

WBRD was awarded a Green Mountain United Way Grant to help promote outdoor activity and fitness. This season Collin was able to start up a number of new programs including Yoga on the beach, Paddle board Yoga, and the Disk Golf Lessons. These programs and a number of others will be run next season as well.

The number of school groups using the recreation area is also on the increase. Collin will be developing a new section of the website that is geared specifically for schools. It will highlight what we can offer, how to arrange visits, and some testimonials from local schools.

It was noted that this was our highest grossing year for user fees. This is due to a number of factors including offering more recreational opportunities like the disk golf course, more boats to

rent, the extra programs, and having 69 shelter rentals. But with more revenue also comes more costs in maintenance and staffing leaving the overall funds remainder still low. The Board discussed increasing the per capita fee to \$1.00 as one revenue source that would help stabilize the budget and allow the District the means to start saving toward a capital fund. This request would need to be voted on by all the towns in the District.

Discussion of Fees

The Board has been contacted by a community member requesting that we re-evaluate our fee for pets which is currently set at \$2.50 per visit or \$10 as an addition to a season's pass. Currently pets are not allowed during the regular season Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. People may come with their pets for a fee during the shoulder seasons in May (between Mother's day and Memorial Day weekend) and in September (Labor Day to the first weekend in October). The rest of the time when the recreation area is unstaffed (October to May) there is no fee for anyone including pets to use the area and no restrictions on people bringing pets to the recreation area.

The Board first discussed the need to respond to any email questions directed at the District with a single voice and unilaterally. Also it's important that the Manager be included in all correspondence so that his knowledge and input can be incorporated.

The pet fee and policy during the shoulder season is there to manage the number of pets that are coming to the recreation area. Our key goal here is to keep people safe and minimize risk. The fee is not there to increase the revenue stream nor is it meant to displace anyone. In the end it's important to have accountability for all users of the recreation area human or animal. There are more users than ever coming to recreate many of whom are young children', so it's important to minimize risk and keep everyone safe.

The Board will continue to look at the fees and policies over the winter and will decide before the start of next season how best to proceed.

Review of New Requirement for Public Meetings

Because we are a public group and our meetings are open to the public, we have to comply with the new Open Meeting laws. These include posting our agendas at three public places 48 hours before the meeting and posting a copy of the minutes to our website five business days after the meeting. We are already in compliance with this law, but it's important for us all to know the new requirements.

Other Business

Collin and the Board discussed the possible need to change Collin's title from Manager to Executive Director. No action was taken, but the Board will take this request under consideration.

Collin is putting in a grant to Buildings and General Services for \$25,000 to help maintain the buildings and grounds. The grant is due October 10th and Collin has a good feeling that we will receive the funds. The grant requires a 50% match which will be covered by in-kind work of the District staff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Dan Currier (CVRPC)