

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
October 3, 2023**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Laurie Mahan, Sandra Lane

Also present: Shelley Gallagher

Meeting called to order at 6:01 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19 meeting, approval, Clyde seconded, and motion carried.

New Business

- A. Gregory Gerbi, an oceanographer from UMaine that works at Darling Marine Center emailed asking if it would be possible to install an observation station at Pemaquid Point that would use low-power radio to measure ocean surface currents out to about 50 miles offshore. He said the installation would consist of two small electronics cabinets in a small shed, between one and eight wooden poles for antennas, and buried cables connecting the electronics to the antennas. The electronics could be housed in an existing building if space exists. He said they have some flexibility as far as set up, but was thinking the area by the restrooms would be a good location. Shelley had explained that the electrical capabilities and space out there are very limited as the restroom building is the only building with electricity in it, but there is not currently space to install 2 cabinets. She explained that we will be building new restrooms beginning in 2024 so it may be easier and have more space to accommodate them once the new building is up. The Commissioners had questions regarding the size of the antennas, the size of the cabinets, where they would like to put the antenna up, and more information on what exactly they would be studying. It was agreed that even if we wanted to do it now, there just isn't currently space to be able to install what would need to be installed. The discussion on the ocean observation units was tabled until the new restrooms are nearing completion and then they would like Gregory to come to the meeting to explain more thoroughly what he would like to do.
- B. We have had a request to have a wedding at the lighthouse on April 20 next year which is several weeks before opening day. We have also had a couple of weddings booked for the beach after closing day there in 2024. With that in mind, Shelley wanted to know what the outer parameters of holding events would be for the beach and the lighthouse if the people wanted the water on and restrooms working. Clyde said the water can probably go on in early April at both locations as the last freeze has probably already passed. For the beach, part of the water being turned off at the end of the season is the outdoor shower towers being drained and winterized. At the lighthouse, there isn't anything as exposed as that so Clyde said it can probably stay open a little later. After discussion on when the first freeze typically hits, it was decided that the dates for beach events will be April 15- October 15, and lighthouse events will be April 15- November 1.

Old Business

- A. Looking at the budget numbers in Trio, we have surpassed our revenue goal for the year. Our goal was \$526,010 and as of today, October 3, we have made \$532,150. Part of that is a few larger donations we received for the beach and the lighthouse, as well as the sale of the gator. Additionally, the Triathlon brought in significantly more revenue than expected, and that will go into the playground fund. We have been very careful with expenses as we were expecting a down year. Our current expenses are \$437,964, though we do still have the Bell Tower siding and the Rock School House shingling to pay for. Those two total \$47,750 so we do not have as much cushion as it appears at first.
- B. With the budget numbers looking like they do, end of the season spending was discussed. Ellingwood will close for the season Saturday October 7. We need to purchase additional tables and chairs for event rentals, but that can wait until next budget year. The Learning Center window and door trim will continue to be worked on and the hope is to finish by the end of the season. Steve Hendrix got a quote for re-glazing the art gallery windows, but the time needed seems really long. Our maintenance staff feels comfortable doing that on their own so it will be done in house in the spring. The other projects to do in the spring before opening are replace the deck at the Lighthouse museum, the bath house project will hopefully begin in the fall, the drains need to be installed in the parking lot at Ellingwood, the Fishermen's Museum will be painted (the rooms that weren't painted this spring). It is a long list, but the maintenance staff we have are very skilled and can do most of the work themselves.

Public Comments

Laurie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm.