

Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
November 7, 2023

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Laurie Mahan, Sandra Lane

Also present: Shelley Gallagher, Pat Porter, John Porter

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 October 17 meeting, approval, Clyde seconded, and motion carried.

New Business

- A. Vinh Lu, a location scout working with Avalere Health on behalf of several organizations working to raise awareness for individuals living with Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (CIDP), contacted me to ask about using the lighthouse to be part of an event “Awareness from Sea to Shining Sea.” For the event, they would use lights to shine on the lighthouse to turn it blue, which is the color for the awareness campaign. He said to kick off the campaign they would have a drone video show that showcases all of the lighthouses they are using for the event, presenting them as a beacon of hope to the community. He wanted to know if we would be interested in participating. He said they do have a budget so would pay to use the park, and it would be sometime between March and May. Shelley contacted the Coast Guard to make sure that would be allowed. They Coast Guard said since it is shining on the side of the tower it shouldn’t interfere with the light that goes out to the mariners. He said as long as it does not affect that we can do it. The Commissioners were all very interested in doing this event, and due to it being for a non-profit group we would not charge a traditional location fee, though they can make a donation in lieu of a fee. After discussing this, Shelley mentioned that it might be interesting to get some of the colored lights for ourselves and maybe we can light the lighthouse for different events. In the evenings in October before we close we can do breast cancer pink, and we can do red and green around Christmas, etc. The lights are under \$100 for a set of 4 so it may be something we look to do.
- B. There are a few events upcoming, though not all involve us. Saturday Nov 11 the Veteran’s Committee is planning to do an event for the new Veteran’s Memorial River Walk. They will meet this week to finalize what time it will start as well as what the plans are for it and what they need from us. They will use the Ellingwood building as well as the park itself in case it is cold. Flying Santa will be coming to the lighthouse on Saturday Nov 25. Scott does not know the time yet, but once he has the time he will let us know so we can be there. Pat asked if the gate can be opened between the park and the Seagull Shop again this year so people can get free hot chocolate and the Commissioners all said it can be opened. The following day, Nov 26, there will be a Caring for Kids/ Fire Dept open house with Santa and a reindeer from 2-4pm.

- C. A few of our signs are looking old and need to be replaced. The ones that are looking bad are the ones at Moxie Cove (do a picnic area and kayak launch sign and remove the float/ boat storage sign since it is no longer done there), Hanna Landing (will reword the sign for float storage), and the Swimming Hole (both signs need to be replaced). Shelley has measured them and will contact the sign company to get those started.
- D. Shelley brought up some ideas for off season programs. When Shelley went through the phone list with Holly to look for sports camp help, they also talked about other skills our staff have that maybe they would like to teach. Charlie said he would be interested in teaching a photography class as he has taught them before. We have several staff members with unique skills that we may be able to use for other programs. The question on how to pay staff for those specialty programs came up and it was discussed doing a revenue split with the instructors. They would get a certain percentage of all of the registrations, and parks would get a percentage. Shelley is going to reach out to the staff to see what they think and if that would work with them. We could also do yoga and Tai Chi here at Ellingwood under the same structure so the teachers would be able to teach year round, and we would get additional revenue. This will be followed up on at a future meeting.

Old Business

- A. The roofing project for the Rock School House and the Bell Tower has been in limbo with the dates changing. Shelley had spoken to Rachel to see what our options are with the end of the budget year approaching. She said if the company that won the bid is not able to do it, we can contact the other bidder to see if they are still interested. If they are, we can reopen the bid process. After those discussions, Levi from ABL Roofing, the company that won the bid, contacted Shelley Monday to say he may be able to change his schedule around a little and start the school house that week. As of this meeting, they have begin the school roof project and it is coming along well. They will do the horse trough as soon as the school is done. The Bell Tower will begin after both of those are done.
- B. A lady called inquiring about a set of chairs or a picnic table at the lighthouse. She said it is a special place for her and her husband and she wants something there to remember it. Shelley explained she didn't think there was any space left for additional tables or chairs there, but she would ask the Commissioners. Clyde said he would go out to look to see if there was space. He said we definitely don't need more tables, but he would check on the chairs. Shelley said that he said we had no more space after the last one where we removed a bench to make space, and at what point are we going to just say no and that is the end of it. Everyone has special memories there and there just isn't a lot of space to add additional tables and chairs. Shelley will call the woman back to let her know we are checking, but that we really don't know if there is space.

Public Comments

The next meeting will be November 28th due to the regular meeting being a holiday week with Shelley out of town.

Clyde moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm.