

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
June 1, 2021**

Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Decker, Pat Porter

Meeting called to order at 6:03 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes:

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 18th meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

LHP Admissions update:

Lara provided a summary of Lighthouse Park Admissions for the month of May. Admissions were the highest they have ever been for May. The following is a breakdown of the last five years for May:

2017 - \$11,037

2018 - \$12,129

2019 - \$11,352

2020 - \$5,442

2021 - \$17,080

Beach Opening:

The Beach opens on Saturday June 5th. The group discussed whether to open the showers this year. Clyde said to open everything, and all agreed.

Tammy Legault purchased a sandwich station for the Snack Shack for \$1,978.95. The Parks Department would either reimburse her or apply it to the rent that is due. She also spoke with the Health Department who did the Snack Shack inspection that said the kitchenette would need changes before being allowed to sell ice cream. It would need a handwashing station and a mop sink.

The new signs have come in and are being installed. They are a big improvement. Lara put “Cash or Check only” on the big glass sign so people see that coming through the beach entrance, rather than getting unpacked and finding out at the booth.

Some beaches are using a flag sign to show when there have been shark sightings. These sightings do not have to be verified but just provide info that a shark had been seen. The flag can help keep people vigilant. Clyde made a motion to purchase one of these flags, Sandra seconded, and motion carried. Clyde suggested attaching a flagpole at the end of the boardwalk that could be displayed to people on the beach.

Ellingwood Hours:

Ellingwood has been very busy this year. People are coming in up to 3:00-3:30 and the staffing hours may need to be increased. The Commissioners decided to bring the staffing hours back to 9 to 4 while so many people are getting passes effective right away – or as soon as staff can do this. Sundays are slower so the hours will stay the same 9 to 2:30.

Ukulele Group:

Heidi Lane contacted Lara about starting a ukulele group. She does not want to give lessons; she just wants to help new beginners get started. Heidi said it would be about getting people playing the same music and learning new strum patterns. She hoped people would learn from each other during these sessions. She suggested playing Monday nights at the Beach, Point or Ellingwood. Monday nights are when people play instruments at King Ro so another night might work better. The Commissioners thought it was a great idea and the beach would be a fun place to have it. Lara will talk to Heidi about getting this started.

Grants Update:

Land and Water Conservation Fund grant was submitted last week for the Swimming Hole and Fish Ladder Park for \$194,614. The Belvedere Historic Preservation grant was submitted for \$12,658.82 to help fund the replacement of the cedar shingles on the bell tower.

LHP Well Overflow:

The gathering of stagnant water overflow near the well has been fixed. A drain was installed, and the water now flows to a drainage ditch. Once the bill has been paid, Lara will submit the documentation needed to get reimbursed through the Public Water System grant.

Other Business:

Clyde is going to talk to the crew about painting diagonal parking spaces in the parking lot at the beach. The Commission thought this would make parking easier for visitors.

Sandra is concerned about the memorial tree at the swimming hole being removed. It is dedicated to someone killed in Vietnam and she believes a memorial should remain, even if the tree needs to be removed. Sandra does not think it should be moved even though people had inquired about planting another tree at the new Veterans Memorial. Sandra thought a rock with the plaque mounted on it would work.

The Commission discussed the town attorney's opinion which was that storing floats at the town landings is not considered a "commercial" activity so there are no deed restrictions prohibiting this activity.

A paranormal investigator has asked to visit the lighthouse tower and museum. They would like to investigate at night, but this would require Parks paying for staff to be there for hours. The Commission would allow it if a donation was made to help cover the staffing fees.

Public Comments:

Clyde made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.