

**Bristol Parks & Recreation
Ellingwood Information Center
August 3, 2021**

Commissioners present: Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan

Also present: Lara Decker, Dave Kolodin, Pat Porter

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance. At 6:01 Lara got a call from Cunningham that the alarm at the lighthouse was going off. Lara and Laurie went to investigate and turn it off and returned to the meeting which then began at 6:30.

Minutes:

Sandra made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20th meeting, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

Drone Policy:

The current policy of no drones in the parks was discussed. This policy applies to the general public and is in place to protect park visitors from drones falling from the sky. However, the Parks Commission may allow drones on a case-by-case basis if prior permission is requested. The Parks Commission will require proof of insurance and will consider the purpose of the drone request and timing of the drone usage (when park is closed).

Wedding Chairs:

There have been some large weddings scheduled for 2022 and more chairs will need to be purchased. Amazon sells similar chairs to the current ones for about \$25 each. Sandra believes Sam's Club still sells the same kind purchased years ago for \$19 each. Lara will check online for those and Sandra may check in the stores to see if she can find the same ones.

Beach Cart:

A beach visitor inquired about renting beach carts. She was looking for something to help her bring a chair, umbrella, cooler, etc. to the beach. Amazon sells a cart for \$99 (plus \$20 to ship) and Lara asked the Commissioners if they would like to buy one to rent. If there was demand for it, another could be purchased since renting it would pay for it. Laurie thought it was too late in the season for this year since it would take awhile to receive it. Both Laurie and Sandra thought it would be a good idea for next year. Sandra said if our staff used it to assist people to the beach and then brought it back afterward, then it could be used throughout the day. A donation could be requested for the service.

July Admissions:

July admissions to the parks continues to be busy. For the month of July, revenue at the lighthouse was \$60,974 which is the best July on record. Beach revenue for the month of July was \$49,013 which is down about \$7,000 from last year due to six days closed due to rain this year. In 2020, the beach was only closed one day in July. Total admissions revenue through July for the parks are as follows:

Lighthouse: \$121,467

Beach: \$ 80,134

Total number of kids ages 5-11 entering the parks this year has been 7,107 through the end of July.

Fishermen's Memorial Update:

Dave attended to provide an update on the research he has conducted on a fishermen's memorial. He made some phone calls and spoke to his neighbor who is a sculptor. Dave learned that the decision to have a Fishermen's Memorial is something the Parks Commission would decide on. Laurie thought the whole idea was great. Pat said the big issue is funding. Dave said he got some ballpark figures for a statue that would be between \$50-100,000. He will be getting a sketch of a possible statue with a final cost. He also said that there is one on Bailey's Island that was done by the State of Maine. Dave summarized that the Commission would need to decide if they want a fishermen's memorial and where it would be located. The group discussed the sculpture at the beach and the Veterans Memorial, both projects that are currently in progress and that it might be best to wait until at least one of these projects is complete before starting a new one.

Float Update:

The remaining floats have been removed from the landings with the exception of one which will be launched soon. The Parks Commission recognizes the effort that Jamie Brinkler has made to help the Parks Department get the rest of the floats off the landings. He was willing to help with floats that were not his responsibility, and he has been prompt and helpful throughout the entire season.

Other Business:

A sign at the ticket booth at the beach is needed saying, “No alcohol, smoking or vaping on park grounds”. Lara will make laminated signs that everyone sees when going through the ticket booth. Sandra suggested putting one by the Snack Shack also. Laurie suggested one on the boardwalk.

Public Comments:

Laurie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.