

The regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Board was held at Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol at 2 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members:

- **Present:** Craig Bowen, Vice-Chair; Nelson Clements, Charles Raudenbush, Chair, Steve Saddle mire, and William Wert, Secretary
- **Absent:** Thomas Marino, Lowell Musselman, and Kristen Winters
- **Staff:** Gerald Kozlansky, Director Naturalist, Silver Lake Nature Center, PattiAnn Cutter, Assistant Naturalist, Silver Lake Nature Center, Angela Nagle, Executive Director, and Jodi Reimold
- **Guests:** Kevin Spencer, Division Leader, General Services, Hannie Banister, Bucks County Horse Park, Bob Pearson, Barbara Campbell, Marty Shively

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021, meeting by Mr. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Clements. Motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Core Creek Park

Conservation Pool

- Project with Bucks County Conservation District to address the excess sediment issue within the conservation pool portion of Lake Luxembourg. The conservation pool was created in 1977 to manage sediment.
- Distributed a FAQ’s sheet provided by the Conservation District.
- Removal of about 15,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the Conservation Pool
- Regrading portions of the pool to restore original function and facilitate future maintenance
- Planting of over seven (7) acres of wetland plants to provide cleaner water and improve habitat available for birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.
- Installation of wooden structures within the pool to provide resting and feeding areas that will enhance habitat quality and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Aerial Adventure Park

- Seeking board consideration for creation of an Aerial Adventure Park in Core Creek Park adjacent to Pavilion 11.
- Opportunity to increase park attendance and provide an outlet to engage in healthy outdoor recreation.
- Will create an RFP to invite proposals to include the following services:
 - Design
 - Construction
 - Management
 - Maintenance

PEACE VALLEY – LAKE GALENA DAM - NWRA – Kevin Spencer

- In response to the Commissioners Approval and subsequent newspaper article regarding the agreement between the County and Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCWSA)
- BCWSA will be granted a conservation easement over the entire park property and lake to provide future conservation and water quality improvements.
- BCWSA will be leasing the dam from the County for 50 years. They will be responsible for all maintenance and operation of the dam. BCWSA also is assigned the liability associated with the dam.
- BCWSA valued the water storage in the lake for emergency water use purposes rather than building water towers.
- County Park operations and recreation activities in the park remain unchanged. The trail remains the responsibility of the County.
- The County will receive \$24,700,000 as a one-time payment. The funds will be deposited into the General Fund.

Comments from the Parks & Recreation Board

This board is supposed to advise, and we have been excluded from a few things recently – Tile Works

Rangers transferred out of Parks & Recreation

Lake Galena Dam

This is a systemic problem. Decisions that affect the Parks Department are being made without consultation of the board. Why is there a board if there is zero inclusion?

There is no respect or common courtesy.

Why wasn't some or all the 24 million dollars given to the Parks?

We are appointed to the board by the Commissioners.

Response – Kevin Spencer – “I apologize that you were not included in the conversation.” Regarding the Rangers move from Parks to Emergency Services Division – the Rangers will remain as the number one ambassadors for the parks. This is a reporting change only – there are funds and resources available for training that the Parks don't have. There will continue to be communication throughout the day between the Rangers and Parks. This will remain business as usual.

BUCKS COUNTY HORSE PARK – Hannie Banister

- All events are complete.
- Very busy and successful season
- Two major donors have approached us regarding donations.
- 2022 memberships are available.
- All is going well

Comment – Mr. Raudenbush – you do a great job at the Horse Park.

Comments from the Public –

- *Bob Pearson* – volunteer Silver Lake Nature Center
 - Silver Lake Needs to be dredged. There is a lot of silt.
- *Response – Ms. Nagle* – that project is on our radar.
- *Barbara Campbell* – volunteer Silver Lake Nature Center
 - we have a great summer camp here and would love to participate in the ropes course.

- *Response – Ms. Nagle* – we will be sure to reach out when the time comes.
- *Marty Shively* – Silver Lake Park Patron
 - Will there ever be a permanent outdoor restroom at Silver Lake for winter use?
- *Response – Ms. Nagle* – we do agree that there is an issue with rest rooms.

SILVER LAKE NATURE CENTER – Jerry Kozlansky

- Director of the Center
- We are thriving. Attendance has increased by 15%.
- The nature center receives so much usage.
- We could use a pavilion and a year round restroom.

Comment – Mr. Wert – this is a gem of the county. Our role is to make it easier.

Questions and Comment from the board

Mr. Raudenbush – still trying to determine the best time for our meetings. Jodi to send another survey regarding different scenarios – different day of the week, different time of day.

Thank you to Silver Lake Nature Center for hosting us today.

Happy Holidays!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 2 pm on January 12, 2022, at Churchville Nature Center, 501 Churchville Lane, Churchville

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Recording Secretary
Jodi Reimold