



Belville Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2025

Belville Parks & Recreation Board Members Present:

Vince Matthews, Chairman
Lynn Gavin, Vice-Chairman
Rana LaBrunda, Member
Cindy Ruggiero, Member
Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Member

Members Absent

None

Alternate Members Present

Nancy (Nia) Moore, Alternate

Staff:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Jim Bucher, Director of Parks & Recreation
Ian McLeod, Event Coordinator
Brenda Hewlett, Secretary
Randy Collins, Grounds Maintenance

Staff Absent:

None

Items - 1 AND 2 - CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vince Matthews called the January 8, 2025, Belville Parks & Recreation Board Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item # 3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION – Vice-Chairman Lynn Gavin **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the agenda. Member Cindy Ruggiero seconded the motion. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 4– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Member Rana LaBrunda **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Belville Parks and Recreation Board Regular Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2024. Member Mark Wilde-Ramsing seconded the motion. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 5- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BELVILLE RIVERWALK PARK UPDATE

1. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher informed the board that the new garage has the bathroom roughed in and just waiting on the grinder pump. All Christmas decorations are down and stored away. He still has donations from Member Rana LaBrunda to go through label and store. He stated that Randy Collins, Grounds Maintenance is a great help. Director Bucher asked Randy to share his idea with the board. Randy would like to build a serenity garden where photo shoots and other events could take place. It will sit on a bluff overlooking the river. Randy will build the stones for the garden. The Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher stated that they would bring a drawing and a budget for the project.

2. DATE ON STORM RECOVERY/PARK REPAIR

No Storm Recovery updates. One tree was dying and was taken down. Alternate Member Nia Moore related to the board that the fire extinguishers in the Duke Pavillion were missing. Director Bucher stated that they are removed due to the cold. Member Rana LaBrunda asked if there was salt and sand for severe weather. He confirmed that there was plenty of both salt and sand.



Belville Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2025

Item # 6 - NEW BUSINESS

a. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Secretary Brenda Hewlett reported that Town Manager Athina Williams had asked her to let the board know that the Retreat/Budget Workshop will be on March 22, 2025, and that Brenda would be attending the Retreat/Budget Workshop.
2. Event Coordinator Ian McLeod informed the group about the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on April 12th from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. He informed the group that he is planning an Adult Night Easter Egg Hunt. It will be for people 18 years of age and older. They will use flashlights only to find the eggs. There will be a food truck and music on the south side of the park. The rain date will be April 19th. He presented the proposed idea of having a Movie Summer Series in the Park during May, June, July and August. He would also like to do a Summer Concert Series, but we would be competing with the local beaches. He is looking at purchasing a concession trailer for the use at events to sell drinks, popcorn and candy. He also informed the board about the "Glow Night Out". The Golf barn would be the main sponsor. We would charge \$10.00 per person for the 4-hour event. He is also planning an October Food Truck Rodeo. He informed the board that the Christmas Tree Lighting and the train will be on December 6, 2025, and that the Christmas Craft Festival will take place on December 13, 2025, and the rain date for that will be December 14th.
3. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher informed the board that he was going to retire but he has decided to take Leave of Absence for 30 days. Member Mark Wilde-Ramsing stated that Jim deserves kudos for all that he does.
4. Secretary Brenda Hewlett stated that we need to set the date for the Special Meeting to discuss park events that are being planned. Member Cindy Ruggiero asked if it could be the Saturday before a meeting or the Saturday after a meeting. Saturday, February 15th from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher and Event Coordinator Ian McLeod have discussed these meetings, and they would like to discuss the Fall Festival in April, and the Christmas Festival in June.

b. Discussion/or Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

ITEM # 8 - OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

a. Chairperson

Nothing at this time but advised the board that the 2030 vision is 5 years away.

b. Vice-Chairman

Nothing at this time.

- c. Member Rana LaBrunda** would like 25 local businesses to create their own decorated snowman to bring to the park and be placed along the path. They could be judged and one submission selected as the best decorated snowman.

- d. Member Mark Wilde-Ramsing** talked about the Rowing Club. He would like us to focus on the river when we have events. He had a boat in the river, and no one came down to see it. He would like to place signs to inform the public of the holiday on the river.

- e. Alternate Nia Moore** presented her idea of a trip to New York. She explained how it would work. She gave all members a copy of the 1st draft of the plan. She asked that it be tabled until later.

- f. Member Cindy Ruggiero** stated that everything at the Christmas Festival happened so fast that we did not have time to do a lot.

- g. Director Jim Bucher** stated that we could get 4 businesses to decorate the 4 shelters.

- h. Event Coordinator Ian McLeod** stated that train tickets for Oak Island sold out before their event.

i. Staff And / Or the Commissioners



**Belville Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025**

ITEM #9 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Chairman Vince Matthews adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Brenda K. Hewlett

SIGNED:

Vince Matthews, Chairman

ATTEST:

Lynn Gavin for Brenda K. Hewlett, Secretary