

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

## April 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Cumberland County Recreation Commission (C.C.R.C.) was held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 at The Cumberland County Administration Building in Bridgeton, New Jersey and via Microsoft Teams and/or Teleconference.

Ken Sheppard, Chair (February 2027)  
Chris Wilson, Vice-Chair (September 2025) \*  
John Fuqua (July 2025) \*  
Carman Daddario, Jr. (February 2027) \*  
J.T. Burks (July 2025)

Commissioner Victoria Lods \*  
Commissioner Donna Pearson

Omarey Williams, Shared Services Coordinator \*  
Wanda Riviera, Confidential Assistant \*  
Matt Horowitz, Recording Secretary \*

### **Guests:**

*Note: Asterisk (\*) indicates members present at the aforementioned meeting.*

### **Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023**

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for being in attendance. He asked for a motion to approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Wilson. It was seconded by Mr. Fuqua and passed unanimously by the Commission.

### **First Quarter Budget Review**

Mr. Williams explained he had included a First Quarter Budget Review of items the Commission had approved, so far, in 2023. He mentioned event sponsorships for various organizations and non-profits, including Life Worth Living Basketball, Positive Vibes, Vineland Midget Football, and Youth Love Movement. Mr. Williams mentioned fees (which had been waived by the City of Bridgeton,) costs, prizes, utilities, various services, T-shirt printing, advertisements, etc. of and relating to the upcoming Kids' Fishing Derby.

Mr. Williams noted the Kids' Fishing Derby Sub-total in 2022 was \$3,831.35 and the event sub-total for 2023 would be \$2,653.25, but assured the Commission the difference in costs related would not negatively affect the quality of the event.

Mr. Fuqua mentioned the \$29 million that had been awarded to the County in 2022 by the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) \$2 million of which had been allotted for Recreation/Tourism. He said the Commission(s) had not seen that money and asked where it was being kept and when the Commission(s) would have access to this money. Mr. Williams said some of this funding had been worked into the County Recreation Plan, as well as the County Fairgrounds Master Plan, although, it would not be used until these Plans were completed.

Mr. Williams assured Mr. Fuqua and the Commission members the Commission would have direct involvement within the creation of the County Recreation Plan. Commissioner Lods asked what the status was of the County Recreation Plan. Mr. Williams stated it was still in-process and the County Fairgrounds Master Plan was the first piece of said Plan. Mr. Williams added he would give an exact update at the following month's meeting. Both Messrs. Fuqua & Wilson raised concern with who the consultants from Clarke Caton Hintz had spoken with as representatives for the various municipalities and cities. Mr. Williams said he would follow up with the consultant to secure an accurate status of the County Recreation Plan for the May Recreation Commission meeting.

### **Sponsorship Requests**

Mr. Williams said the first Sponsorship Request was from Millville Girls Softball League, who the Commission supported last year and were Tier 1, being eligible for anywhere from \$600-750.00. Mr. Fuqua made a motion to approve the Millville Girls Softball League's Sponsorship Request of \$750.00. It was seconded by Mr. Daddario and passed unanimously by the Commission.

Next up, Mr. Williams stated was Hopewell Township on behalf of Mayor Paul Ritter, who were requesting picnic tables/benches for the Hopewell Township Park. Mayor Ritter's request would fall under Tier 2 because it did not qualify as "active" recreation and could be awarded up to \$250.00. Mr. Fuqua made a motion to award Hopewell Township their \$250.00 request. His motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson and passed unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Williams explained the third Sponsorship Request would be for the Bridgeton Invitational Tournament. He said this would be a Tier 1 request of up to \$750.00 and they had been awarded \$500.00 in 2022. Mr. Fuqua made a motion to award the Bridgeton Invitational Tournament the \$750.00 requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wilson and passed unanimously by the Commission.

Lastly, Mr. Williams said was the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce (B.A.C.C.)'s 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament. He explained in 2022, the Commission had given the B.A.C.C. \$150.00 for a Tee Sign sponsorship and had previously agreed to cap all golf sponsorships at Tee Sponsorships, \$150.00 or less. Mr. Fuqua made a motion to award the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce's Golf Tournament \$150.00 for a Tee Sponsorship. It was seconded by Mr. Daddario and passed unanimously by the Commission.

### **41<sup>st</sup> Annual Bob Busnardo Kids' Fishing Derby**

Mr. Williams shared some additional details about the upcoming 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Bob Busnardo Kids' Fishing Derby. It would be held on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 8-1:00pm at Mary Elmer Lake in Bridgeton. Mr. Williams added that the age group was raised up to 15 and split from two age groups up to three. Mr. Williams thanked all of the staff and volunteers that would be working the event and the 5th Ward Athletic Club of Bridgeton for their continued help and support. Mr. Williams stated the donated rods would be used as loaners for children who wanted to participate but did not have their own rods.

Mr. Wilson asked if the free rods for loan were being advertised. Mr. Williams replied it was not being advertised on the flyer, but he could do so when re-sharing within a post he planned to share on Facebook. Mr. Daddario asked if the rods were being borrowed or returned after the completion of the event. Mr. Williams explained the rods had not been returned, but only two were given out in 2022. Mr. Williams emphasized he would put on the flyer that the intent was for the rods to be "borrowed." A discussion ensued about the donating, borrowing, and returning of the rods ensued amongst the Commission members.

Mr. Fuqua suggested using money the Commission was awarded to continually buy fishing rods for each year's event. He said organizations, such as his own, Life Worth Living, could purchase and donate rods years after year to help encourage children who may not attend the event every year, who may not have attended otherwise. Commissioner Lods suggested holding an annual fishing rod and reel maintenance course at the event(s). Mr. Fuqua recommended having the Fishing Derby flyer translated into Spanish before re-distributing.

### **Update On the Website (ExploreCumberlandNJ.com)**

Regarding the new ExploreCumberlandNJ.com website, Mr. Williams explained it was now live online. However, it was not 100% and was being updated and transferred over piecemeal by vendor, Joyce Media. Mr. Williams encouraged the Commission members to, please, look over the website and said it would be promoted soon. He planned to do a multi-media blitz across social media and within newspapers as soon as the site was updated and completed.

### **Planning Department Updates**

Mr. Williams shared, as far as a Planning Department update on behalf of Mr. Pisarski, this would be the last Recreation meeting to be held at the County Administration Building. He explained, starting in May, staff would be at their new location, the 4-H/Extension Center located at 291 Morton Avenue in Millville, where all future meetings would be held moving forward. Mr. Williams said staff were all in various phases of moving their offices and Departmental supplies. Staff planned to move in the following Thursday and Friday and would be fully moved into the 4-H Building by Monday, May 1, 2023.

### **County Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Lods shared she had recently met with Bruce Porter, and members of the Fair Association. She said they voiced concerns about the proposed Fairgrounds Plan: they requested for it to include the fence around the Demolition Derby field, as it would be needed to hold the annual event. Mr. Williams said when he followed up with consultants about the Recreation Plan Draft, he would surely mention replacing and/or including the fencing around the Demolition Derby field at the County Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Lods expressed members of the Fairgrounds Association felt as though they had been “pushed out a little bit” in the midst of the County Fairgrounds Master Plan. Some of the 40-year volunteers requested a storage building, meeting space, etc. for 4-H/the Fair Association be included within the Plan, as well. Mr. Williams assured Commissioner Lods he would follow up with the consultants and pass along this information to Mr. Pisarski, who had recently met with the parties mentioned.

Both Messrs. Fuqua & Wilson agreed with Commissioner Lods’ sentiments, and thought the local Leagues, who had been established and operating for 40+ years, be serviced and tended to, as well. Messrs. Fuqua & Wilson said they wanted to help cross-promote 4-H and their events at their organizations’ upcoming community events.

### **Recreation Commissioners Comments**

Mr. Fuqua shared he recently attended a meeting with the Violence Reduction Committee with many great events to be held within the upcoming months. He said the Credible Messenger program would be starting up within the next two weeks. Mr. Fuqua said he would send information to Wanda Riviera to add onto the County’s Calendar of Events.

Mr. Wilson mentioned the Harm Reduction Committee would be rolling out a big program to be tied in with summertime employment for the youth. He added the Vineland Midget Football League would be holding a cornhole tournament fundraiser on May 7, 2023 at 3:00pm and invited anyone from the Commission available to attend after the Kids’ Fishing Derby. Mr. Wilson said his organization was working on something to fund youth sports throughout the county and would share additional details soon enough.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the April 13, 2023 Recreation Commission meeting was made by Mr. Fuqua, seconded by Mr. Daddario, and passed unanimously by the Commission.