



**KINSTON/LENOIR COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019**  
**5:30 PM – KINSTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Amanda Sawyer (Vice-Chair) Nathan Perry  
Rosalyn Yarus Dr. James Sylvia  
Dr. Gary Wojeski Sonya Berry  
Merwyn Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Nicholas Harvey Felicia Solomon  
Sue Ellen Maddux Ed Futrell  
Steve Saint-Amand Christopher Bradshaw  
Kelly Jarman

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The June, 2019 meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, Amanda Sawyer. There was not meeting in May and the April minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Corey Povar discussed the department's Code of Conduct Rule with the commission. He stated that a coach's meeting was held and all coaches were required to read and sign the department's Coaches and Volunteers Code of Conduct at that meeting. Nathan Perry inquired about an issue that happened regarding an 8U Rookie League game held at Contentnea/Savannah concerning a coach losing his temper and pulling his team off the field and forfeiting the game. Corey Povar stated that he did contact the coach and discussed in length the situation that happened. Corey suspended the coach for the next two games, (which follows the department's Code of Conduct Rules) so he feels like this was a sufficient suspension. Amanda Sawyer was at that game and stated that there were other issues going on during the game which led the coach to pull his kids off the field. Due to the pitching coach refusing to catch the ball to stop play and also having a young inexperienced umpire who misinterpreted the rules, the coach removed his kids from the field and forfeited the game. He felt the kids were in danger of getting hurt and would be better off forfeiting the game.

Nathan Perry stated that he has a problem with a coach pulling 7 & 8 year old kids off of the field and forfeiting games. Dr. Sylvia stated that when he coached, parents were also very demanding but he does not agree with pulling a team off the field. Sonya Berry feels like the decision to forfeit should be left to the parents.

Corey Povar recommended strictly enforcing the current Code of Conduct rules (*attached*), which state that ***“no coach shall allow stoppage of play or refusal of play unless dictated by recreation staff, umpires or referees. Failure to abide will result in a two (2) game suspension.”***

Bryan Dawson updated the commission on youth baseball participation since the department switched to Little League. He stated that the kids seemed to like playing Little League. This season there were nine Rookie League teams, 9 Minor League teams and 2 Major League teams. Corey stated that he would like to work together with the schools to increase participation with the older age groups. Bryan also informed the commission that the 8-10 and 9-11 year old District Little League All-Star Tournament will be held at Fairfield Park starting Monday, June 24 and encouraged the commission to attend the games.

Corey Povar informed the commission that some improvements were being made to Fairfield Park, thanks to the Down East WoodDucks and a grant they received to help the community. Some of the improvements included new paint on the dug outs, new dirt and new bases.

Andy Spence, County Program Supervisor was at the meeting and updated the commission

on the Day In The Park event that was held at Bill Fay Park. He stated that the event went well and the participation was better than expected. Day In The Park will be held again next year and hopefully made bigger.

Corey Povar updated the commission on the Swim Club Management Team taking over the Lions Water Adventure water park. He stated that things were going good so far with very little issues. The Swim Club is not responsible for operating the concession stand. It is being run independently by the owners of Sugar Hill Pizza and they hire and pay their own employees.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Debra A. Wicker  
Secretary to the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Commission