

Twin Rivers Paddle Club



CRAVEN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

1821 Old Airport Road, New Bern, N.C. 28562

MEETING MINUTES June 8, 2021

President: Mike Murrie, in the absence of the president and vice president, opened the meeting at the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department at 6:04 p.m. with eight members attending including new members, Debra Buckles and Michael Conely.

Vice President: No report

Treasurer: Mary Traina emailed a separate report indicating a balance of \$4954 and 96 paid members including household memberships. The club received \$440 from the county for the kayak class.

Secretary: Mike Murrie said he may have a Tuesday evening conflict starting in September and may not be able to serve as secretary. See Communications next paragraph.

Communications: Mike Murrie said he continues to keep current material on the home page and drop old material from the website. He's starting to a list of resources. Feel free to suggest any. He's dropped the classified ads for now but will restore them if there is interest. There was discussion of possible resources to list and need to update club business cards.

Craven County Parks and Recreation: Chris Worsinger said the Parks and Recreation conference room can be the site for meetings now that COVID rules are relaxed. The final session of the paddle class was postponed last week because of bad weather. If weather threatens the class this week, it may have to be cancelled because he may need to return boats to SoundRivers. Chris suggested that next year one class session be at the YMCA to demonstrate and practice safety skills. Chris said any progress on the new dock and Creekside Park will be next fiscal year after July 1.

Old Business:

Past paddles and events:

- The kayak class was delayed twice, once because of the gasoline shortage and once by weather. The last session is scheduled for this Thursday, June 10.
- Pickup paddle May 15 Jacks Island
- .Randy's school class paddled May 26 with several club members helping.
- Core Creek on May 22, about 20 participated.

New Business:

Upcoming paddles and events:

- June 10 final class. Terry cannot be present, but other members can be to lead a short paddle for the final session. Chris will notify club members and call students if bad weather forces cancellation. He will probably not try to hold another session but offer them opportunity to borrow a boat to try.
- June 11 Huggins Island weather permitting. Terry Rich is leading.
- June 26 Bear Island. Randy is leading.
- July 10 Creekside Park to Merchants. Rick Tollmann is leading.
- July 17 Bear Town Paddle Battles, a race in New Bern that Greg Bachand is entering.
- July 24 Carrot Island / Shackelford, Terry leading.

Terry Rich made a safety presentation regarding high and low water concerns. A handout is included below with these minutes.

The meeting adjourned 6:45 p.m.

Michael Murrie, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. July 13, at the conference room at the office of the Parks and Recreation Department on Airport Road next to Creekside Park.

High & low water safety concerns for paddlers

Both high and low water levels have their areas of concern for the paddler. Water levels & flash flood warnings are often posted for creeks & rivers so be aware before you go.

Lets begin w/ some of the high water concerns:

*Heavy rains often result in **flash flooding** and dangerous **currents***

*High water often brings out dangerous **wildlife** like snakes*

*High water can result in high levels of **pollution** from sewage, hog farming or agricultural runoff that is hazardous*

*High water can result in a overflowed stream which makes **navigation** more challenging (possibly getting lost)*

*High water combined w/ stronger currents make **STRAINERS** much more dangerous*

*High waters can cause kayakers to **LOG JAM** (and capsize) due to the difficulty of staying back in tight conditions (back off and wait for a clear path)*

OTHER?

Now lets look at the concerns during low water conditions:

*Low water can result in being landlocked or at least having to **drag** your boat (bring a painter rope to pull your boat)*

*Low water might mean walking in **mud or oyster shell** areas and shoe loss (wear shoes that will stay on even in deep mud)*

*Low water could mean more **underwater hazards** that would normally be submerged could damage or capsize your boat*

*Low water might **delay** your return, possibly after dark (bring a light source)*

Neither high or low water levels necessarily means that we should or should not paddle but an informed, prepared ,skilled and aware paddler is a safer paddler.

Terry Rich