

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
November 16, 2016  
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters  
Conference Room #1  
7120 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Joanne Kiebler; Dan Tracy; Christine O'Connor

Members Absent:

Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair; Williams Santos; Jonathan Gresham; Tom Franklin

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; John Marshall, Bureau of Parks; A. Raul Delerme, Bureau of Park Planning and Construction; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were not approved due to not having enough board members present.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd proposed giving a tour to the Board so that they can see our many sites.

Mr. Byrd mentioned revising the Board's bylaws so that they are up to Code.

Mr. Byrd gave the floor to Seth Hoffman from our Marketing Department for the Annual Report.

Bureau of Recreation:

The report was given by Raul Delerme. Mr. Delerme reported that Holiday Mart will be celebrating their 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Approximately 130 crafters scheduled for Dec 3, 2016 event at Gary J. Arthur Community Center. Hours are 10:00 am-5:00 pm and the cost is \$5 per person. There will be door prizes, children's craft corner, hot cocoa bar, horse and carriage rides, and refreshments available for purchase.

Mr. Delerme stated that Christmas in the Park will be held on December 5, 2016 from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at Centennial Park South. The event is free for all ages. County Executive will light the tree and Howard High School choir will be caroling. There will be hot chocolate, coffee, popcorn, apples, and a special visit from Santa. Our sponsors include Donuts Cruiser, Whole Foods, and Giant.

Mr. Delerme reported that much of the past month was spent in review meetings with the 10 CAPRA teams. Self-Assessment will be sent at the end of December 2016. The Board will be briefed in January and February meetings to review process and evidence of compliance for 151 standards.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delerme reported that the road transition at Blandair will probably happen on January 9, 2017.

Mr. Delerme reported that the lighting for the new lights on Oakland Mills Road near Blandair Park will be activated soon.

Mr. Delerme stated that the ball fields at Troy Park are now under construction.

Mr. Delerme reported that he will email a draft copy of the FY 18 Capital Budget next week.

Mr. Delerme reported that had a good meeting with the town of Sykesville about South Branch Skate Park.

Bureau of Parks:

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Mr. Marshall mentioned the Celebration of Partners in Parks event was held at the Robinson Nature Center. Everything went really well.

Mr. Marshall reported that Scott Bowen, Bryan Moody, Megan Handshu-Mills, Dan McNamara and David Keane were awarded the *2016 Great Idea Award* at the County awards for the Natural Resources READY Initiative.

Mr. Marshall stated congratulations to Jim McCoy who was awarded the Customer Service Award (Public) at both the Department and County levels.

Mr. Marshall stated that there is a public meeting on the Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge. The information can be found on the County's website.

Mr. Marshall stated that the Heritage program coordinated two large programs at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park: "Trick or Treat among the Trees" and "Enchanted Trick or Treat for Tots." Trick or Treat almost to capacity with 150 participants and the tot program filled to capacity with 300 participants.

Mr. Marshall reported that the Heritage program collaborated with the Ellicott City Partnership for the third annual *Ellicott City Haunted House*, on the grounds of the Fort Heine property during the nights of October 28 and 29, 2016.

Mr. Marshall reported that the October MPEA Conservation Stewardship Program was well-attended with 24 volunteers, including corporate volunteers from Lotame (a data management solutions company), and MPEA's core Master Gardener volunteers. The volunteers cleared one-half acre of invasive autumn olive from the understory near South Wind Trail.

Mr. Marshall stated that the department hosted EAAA Haunted Experience and Happy Haunted Hayride Event at Rockburn Branch Park on October 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30, 2016. There were 1,422 paying customers that attended making this year's event a great success.

Mr. Marshall stated that HLMD conducted a tree planting at the Western Regional Park arboretum for Family Volunteer Day. This brings the number up to 100 trees in the collection (70 new and 30 existing.)

Mr. Marshall stated that HLMD is working with the Columbia Gardeners on installing additional bins at Long Reach garden plots. Gardeners are paying for materials and staff will construct the bins over the winter.

Mr. Marshall also stated that HLMD is helping to hang the holiday lights at Centennial and Baldwin Commons Parks. The Bollman Truss Bridge Lighting is scheduled for December 3, 2016.

Mr. Marshall reported that five employees passed the Roadside Tree Expert Certification.

Lastly, Mr. Marshall reported that we are re-installing the Memorial benches at Tiber Park on Monday, November 21, 2016 in memory of the two girls that passed away in the train accident in Ellicott City.

Old Business:

Dr. Goodman asked if there was still an oyster reclamation program near the end of the parking lot at the Robinson Nature Center.

Mr. Byrd and Mr. Marshall responded by saying that they were not sure.

Mr. Byrd reported that we are going to start eliminating the "Free Day Wednesday" at the Robinson Nature Center. Certain groups and organizations are taking advantage of the free day and are running a program at the Center during that day. The Center is being overwhelmed with the amount of people that come into the Center during that day and parking is a huge issue. This change will take effect on March 1, 2017.

Mr. Marshall mentioned that it is costing us \$600 a day to shuttle people across Cedar Lane Road for this "Free Day Wednesday" event.

Mr. Tracy stated that Santa will be at Rockburn Branch Park on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm-5:00 pm at the Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse. It will only cost you a can good.

Mr. Byrd stated that normally we do the election of officers in November but since we do not have a quorum we will vote next month.

Mr. Tracy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Joanne Kiebler. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

  
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Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman

  
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John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary