

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019- 7:00pm  
Department of Recreation Headquarters  
Conference Room #1  
7120 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Tom Franklin; Dave Grabowski, Joanne Kiebler; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Daryl Anthony; Mavis Ellis

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert E. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administration; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Proposed Pickleball Courts Discussion and Recommendation:

The board made the recommendation to proceed with pickleball courts at Alpha Ridge Park and at Rockburn Branch Park. They recommended not to proceed with pickleball courts at the Centennial Skate Park until the Blandair Park Skate Park is opened, and not proceed with the Atholton Park pickleball courts.

A motion was made by Mr. Grabowski to approve this recommendation. Ms. Kiebler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Ramsey to approve the minutes. Mr. Coleman and Ms. Kiebler seconded a motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

## Director's Report:

No Director's Report

## Bureau of Parks:

- Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park – construction has begun
- Department of Recreation & Parks FY19 Environmental Initiatives Report has been completed
- Pesticide Use Policy to be signed soon which all but eliminates use of glyphosate
- Horticulture and Land Management designing a pollinator garden for headquarters
- Managed hunts have begun
- Archaeologists found a trove of artifacts and an early foundation while monitoring digging for Belmont's fence lighting installation
- The first Sensory-friendly Sunday program was held at Robinson Nature Center with 56 people in attendance. Melissa Rosenberg and several Howard County Autism Society Board members attended along with Raul Delerme and County Executive Ball. Feedback was very positive from attendees and we are looking forward to future events. The program is being submitted by Raul for a MACO award.
- Cheryl Farfaras began working on a new MPEA initiative to support the Bee City USA designation, entitled "1,000 Monarch Waystations for Maryland". This will be an outreach and education program aimed at increasing habitat for Monarch butterflies and native pollinators.

## Upcoming Events:

- Bollman Truss Bridge lighting and Savage community tree lighting (12/7)

## Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Centennial Park Red Bridge Replacement-** The new fiberglass bridge has been installed, staff are working on the bridge approach areas, preparing them for the asphalt approach paths. They are also working on new railing installations. We anticipate completion in 2 weeks, weather pending.
- **Oakland Mills Tunnel-** The drainage work has been completed. Tunnel painting will begin this week with solar lighting to follow.

- **Worthington Dog Park-** Two new shade structures have been installed in the large dog area. A concrete ADA sidewalk was constructed to the upper shade structure. Staff have sodded and reseeded the entire area. The large dog area will reopen the first week of December.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Huge flood from a roof leak at Roger Carter Community Center. Facility closed for several days and required new ceiling and ServePro cleaning.
- Succession Planning team put on “All in a Days Work” last week to give staff an opportunity to try out equipment or compete to be the champ in that event.
- Personal Training program at Roger Carter Community Center has had over 100 training sessions scheduled for both September and October.
- May consider hiring a second trainer.
- Ovan Shortt is launching a “Roger Carter Reads” initiative to attract guest readers to the Homework Club. His first reader this school year will be the CEO of Busboys and Poets on November 21.
- First Encore Showcase was held on Oct. 2 at the MAC. Approximately 70-75 people attend. Evaluations are still being collected, but preliminary comments are positive.
- 157 sections of programs scheduled to begin in October 2019 for the 024 Early Childhood & Youth Team (9 more than Oct 2018). 105 classes were successful (13 more than Oct 2018)
- Department will host two National Cricket events next July.
- Residents near Cedar Lane Park expressed concerns with parking October 5 as the Columbia Ravens had significant larger crowd.
- Mike Blevins worked with Mike Milani to move our October 19<sup>th</sup> softball event to avoid issue at Raven’s homecoming.
- Horizon afterschool sports program (RISE) has been postponed until early February. Staff are working on identifying coaching staff and working with HCPSS on identifying school liaisons to the program.
- Celebration of Sports
  - The golf tournament was held on October 11, 2019 at Timbers of Troy. There were 29 foursomes in the tournament this year. This is the most participants ever for the event.

- Jameel McClain was the keynote Speaker. His message was relatable and inspiring.
- 77 Good Sports recipients this year.
- Inducted four members into the Community Sports Hall of Fame.
- Approximately 600 attended.

**Bureau of Administrative Services:**

- January 1, 2020 new payroll system is being rolled out. December will be testing month for new system.
- At the budget meeting potential cuts may be coming
- Reviewing staffing to cover costs in the future

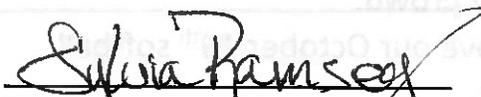
**Old Business:**

- Mr. Grabowski commended the sports staff on another successful Celebration of Sports Event.
- He also commended the high number of volunteers from the department who helped with the EAAA Haunted House experience.

**New Business:**

- Next meeting will be a public hearing for the FY21 Capital Budget
- Ms. Ramsey was re-elected as Advisory Board Chairperson. Unanimous selection.
- Mr. Coleman was re-elected as Advisory Board Co-Chair. Unanimous selection.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

  
 Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson

  
 A. Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary