
Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 17, 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; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin

Members Absent:

Sabina Taj; Joanne Kiebler; Daryl Anthony; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Staff Present:

Raul Delerme, Acting Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Bob Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

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

Marketing Division Presentation:

Anna Hunter, Superintendent of Public Information & Marketing, presented an overview of the Marketing Division.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- Ribbon cutting for new Bocce Ball courts at Cedar Lane Park on July 24, 2019 at 11am.

Bureau of Parks:

- Parks Bureau staff spent a good deal of time in June supporting recreation programs (tournaments, concerts, etc.).

- The Howard County PRIDE Festival was held at Centennial Park on June 29th with an estimated crowd of 10,000. An after-action meeting will be held to discuss alternative locations for this large event.
- Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Howard County Veteran's Monument and Neighborhood Square, which will be called Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park was held on June 29th with 250 people in attendance.
- Shakespeare in the Ruins - *Love's Labour's Lost* is being held at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park. The last performance is July 28, 2019.
- Robinson Nature Center staff met with the entire Robinson Foundation to discuss mutual goals and future vision. Staff and Trustees unanimously agreed that the most important/urgent action going forward will be to hire a new Executive Director for the Robinson Foundation and the position has since been posted. Monthly meetings between Robinson staff and the Foundation are going to resume.
- Staff were given a demonstration of a new machine for combating weeds that is an alternative to using pesticides. It deploys a combination of hot water (203° F) and organic foam, which is used to hold in the heat to kill the plant. Staff are evaluating the effectiveness of the machine and its cost/benefit.
- Patuxent Branch Trail is back open from damage caused by tornados
- Hazardous Tree fund is already depleted.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Font Hill Park project is delayed
- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area delayed to October
- Cedar Lane Park Field #2 outfield fence was raised to 30 feet to ensure safe Bocce Ball play. 20-foot-tall chain link fence has been installed and the last 10 feet of netting will be installed in the next 2 weeks.
- Troy Park field #1 has been completed. Bleachers, fencing, press box, and scoreboard will be installed in the near future.
- We have received inquiries from the public on alternative routes to walk or bike from Grey Rock community to the Miller Library without travelling on Frederick Road. Our staff is meeting with the office of Transportation on site to determine possible future pathway and sidewalk routes or connections.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Staff Orioles Game was on July 12, 2019.
- Air Conditioning issues at Roger Carter Community Center- 6 camps affected.
- Adventure Camp had to stay overnight at Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood due to excessive heat and storms.
- Solar Fest on July 13 - over 350 in attendance.
- July 4th Fireworks we received comments that it was the best display seen.
- South Korean Government officials visited North Laurel Community Center for a tour of the facility.
- Rockburn Car Show we are expecting 20-25 cars.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- New payroll system - reports and payrate issues are being worked out.
- 2 major lacrosse events were held on our fields.
 - 160 college scouts came to watch
 - Teams from all over including Canada

Old Business:

- Meeting to discuss new disc golf course design

New Business:

No new business

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.


Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


A. Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary

