

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – 7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046**

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Tom Franklin; Dan Tracy; Dave Brown; Edward Coleman

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler; Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair

Call to Order:

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

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Tracy to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Goodman introduced our new student member to the board. Sam Nitkin will officially start in July.

Public Comments:

Mr. Byrd read a nice letter from a customer of one of Cindy Ochs pre-school programs.

Directors Report:

Mr. Byrd reported that he was notified by the school system that we will be moved again from 3 locations. We are losing the activity rooms in the 3 locations

and being moved to portables. The programs affected are our after-school programs and pre-school programs. The schools included are Fulton Elementary, Bonnie Branch Middle School, and the new school that has not opened yet. Mr. Byrd stated that he has not met the new Howard County School System Superintendent but he is looking forward to working with him in the future.

Mr. Byrd reported that we opened Timbers of Troy Golf course Last week. The course is beautiful and the parking lot was full.

Mr. Byrd reported that we had our last work session on the FY18 Operating Budget and it went extremely well. We received nothing but compliments about the Department. Our overall budget increase is 9%. The is entirely due to fixed cost increases.

Mr. Milani continued to report that we had about 21-part time positions moved to full time positions. We also moved 5 positions from the Recreation and Parks fund to the General fund. We were also able to move some of our Therapeutic Recreation expenses to General fund. Lastly, we no longer pay out of our Recreation and Parks fund for our rental space in the annex building next to headquarters.

Mr. Byrd stated that we are still making structural corrections with these funding sources over the next couple of years to get all the auditing concerns straightened out.

Bureau of Recreation:

Mr. Milani reported that Summer Camp Trainings are in full planning mode as we train over 500 camp workers and have over 200 Contractors that we provided manuals. All our camps follow Self-Regulation Quality Guidelines.

Mr. Milani reported that it is looking like a great weekend weather-wise for the 25th annual Wine in the Woods festival. There are some changes to parking due to construction but we are anticipating 25,000 people to attend. Be sure to download the APP as it has everything you need to know. The site looks very nice and is ready for the big event.

Mr. Milani reported that The Adventure Shack at Centennial Park has

determine 33% of the choices visitors make on food are the healthy options. We are feeling good about this statistic!

Mr. Milani reported that two of our facilities are continuing to be ART SITES for two sculptures to be installed at the North Laurel Community Center and the Robinson Nature Center.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani talked about the budget for Recreation and Parks. We had a great meeting with Human Resources regarding seasonal exempt employees and working over 40 hours a week. There are a lot of employees that are working year-round and are working different jobs with the Department.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delerme stated that the ribbon cutting for Huntington Park Playground took place on April 27, 2017. We are also finishing up the design for the new basketball courts.

Mr. Delerme stated that the construction at Blandair Park is still an ongoing process. We are still looking to open in August.

Mr. Delerme reported that Troy Park is still expected to open in September. Mr. Delerme asked Mr. Brown who would be the contact person to push getting logos on our turf fields.

Mr. Brown stated that the contact person would probably be Jack Davis who is the Director of Athletics. Mr. Brown stated that it is a budget expense and would probably have to be replaced. He stated that there are two big things to consider, the expense and the equity.

Mr. Delerme stated that Belmont Manor & Historic Park is looking good.

Mr. Delerme reported regarding Howard County Bikeshare Pilot Program. They are going to be putting a bike station at Blandair Park. We were asked to put a concrete pad at the park for the bike station. It should be up and running in July of this year.

Mr. Delerme reported that the pickleball courts at Atholton Park are complete. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 31, 2017 at 1:00 pm.

Bureau of Parks:

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Deer trapping operations for the deer collar study continued throughout this month and concluded Saturday, April 29, 2017. Trapping occurred at Cedar Lane Park (11), MPEA (6) and Wincopin Trail (9). To date, all deer have been radio collared and accounted for; however, Doe #44 was killed by vehicle and collar retrieved on April 10, 2017.
- Goose management program commenced on April 3, 2017. Throughout the month, several sites have been visited weekly and eggs added. Park Ranger staff and Sam Richardson have assisted with this year's efforts.
- Jamie Wilder, with the Heritage section has resigned to go back to school.

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- We had two eagle scout plantings in Ellicott City this month. Seven hundred perennials were planted near parking lot F and a second planting at the B&O Station.
- We worked with the Linwood Center on their First Lady's Garden. We designed, purchased and prepared the grounds.

Other

- Mr. Marshall reported that the water fountain with bottle filler project is finally moving forward.
- Mr. Marshall passed out an article titled "The Buzz on Bees, Monarchs and Other Pollinators This Spring."

Old Business:

Dr. Goodman talked about the Solar System Walk ribbon cutting. The Solar System walk is getting used by families and guest.

Mr. Byrd passed out a few CAPRA giveaways to the board. Mr. Byrd explained CAPRA to our new student board member.

Mr. Byrd reported that the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan is going to the County Council in June. Hopefully, this will be the last step before we get approval.

Dr. Goodman asked for an update on the Rt29 bridge.

Mr. Marshall stated that the people in charge have been doing surveys on both ends of the bridge. The bridge will soon be shut down for several months for construction. They are currently collecting data of how many people use the bridge. The construction will start in late fall and will reopen during the late spring season.

Mr. Tracy asked how the Middle Patuxent Valley Facility is coming along.

Mr. Delorme responded by saying we are going to plan this summer and start this fall. We are pushing to get this project moving.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary