

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2018 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; Daryl Anthony; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Dave Grabowski, Joanne Kiebler, Sabina Taj

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; A. Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- The Savage land swap will not happen
- Upcoming board meetings will now have department speakers giving short presentations on their specific job duties.
- Anna Boyd has agreed to a 2nd term as student member of the Advisory Board.

- Daisy Road Pollinator Meadow folks have asked for this to be protected from a future park use
 - The County Executive is on board
 - Motion was made to protect the land 3-2 in favor
 - Second motion was made to take discussion to County Executive before making final decision

Bureau of Parks: (Presented by Mr. Byrd)

- Pam Reese, Marisa Olszewski, and Meagan Downey led groups of providers for the ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) community on a tour through the Robinson Nature Center. Josh Detweiler provided a planetarium demonstration for the providers in the NatureSphere. Members of the Leadership Howard team working with us collected feedback from these providers on their ideas for improved accommodations related to their clients and patrons. Organizations represented included the Linwood Center, Howard County Autism Society, Howard County Department of Social Services, Howard County Public Schools, Therapeutic Riding Center, Special Olympics and Howard County's Therapeutic Recreation Program.
- The Firehouse Museum, B&O Ellicott City Station Museum, Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park, Ellicott City Colored School, Restored and Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum were all featured in the Baltimore Sun Article *50 Places to Take Kids in Howard County*.
- New series of scout programs has been highly successful with four full programs this month with more booked through spring. While our Girl Scout programs are now in full swing, Kelly has reached out and is working with the Boy Scouts of Central Maryland to meet with Unit Leaders to continue Adventure and Merit Badge programs for Scouts BSA ages 5-18.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Field 1 construction at Troy Park to begin in April
 - Stadium seating next spring
- Bocce Ball court is behind schedule due to budget issues
- At Blandair Park, construction is ongoing for maintenance building, pavilion, and playground.
- Synthetic turfs at Blandair have attracted college baseball teams to use.
- Pathway at Patuxent Branch trail is complete
 - Fencing is being installed

- New drainage is being installed on Belmont Woods Road
 - Paved with new speed bump
 - Putting shoulders in
- Proposed budget was cut down to \$5.4 million

Bureau of Recreation:

- Annual MRPA Conference is soon
 - Holly Harden is President
- North Laurel Community Center is having their 8th Birthday bash in June 2019
- Spring Egghunt at Rockburn Branch Park will be run by Elkridge AAA on April 13
- Pool Egghunt at Roger Carter Community Center on April 6
- KidsFest at the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex on April 20
 - All spots filled online.
- Wine in the Woods
 - Adjusting logistics to work with ever changing layout of Merriweather Park
- Horizon Foundation Grant
 - Afterschool sports program in middle schools
 - 5 school pilot program, 2 days a week starting in the Fall 2019
- Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood Comment Card
 - Member complimented on the cleanliness of the bathroom and facility in general
- During Spring Break, free meals will be provided at North Laurel Community Center
 - Working wit Local Children's Board and Howard County Public School System
 - Weekend Warrior provided backpacks containing food to last through the weekend

Bureau of Administrative Services: (Presented by Mr. Byrd)

- New carpet in Recreation and Parks Headquarters Office

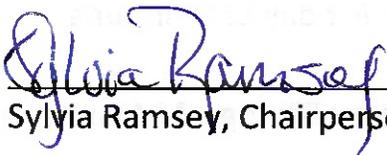
Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

No New Business

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.


Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary