

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 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; Daryl Anthony;
Anna Boyd; Joanne Kiebler

Members Absent:

Sabina Taj; Tom Franklin

Staff Present:

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 Administrative Services; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

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

Recreation Licensed Childcare Presentation:

Nicola Morgal, Superintendent of Recreational Licensed Childcare & Community Services, presented an overview of the Recreational Licensed Program.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- Fire at Centennial Park boat dock
 - Started by cigarette being put out by alcohol-based hand sanitizer
 - Minor damage
- Work session on Friday September 20, 2019 for Council Bill 38-2019, to express concerns on how this new bill will affect future park plans.

Bureau of Parks:

- Robinson Nature Center staff completed implementation of several recommendations from the Leadership Howard Community Impact Project addressing accessibility for visiting families on the autism spectrum. These include:
 - Creating the sensory-friendly backpacks that will be provided to families at the front desk and used by education staff members in programming with participants
 - Opening the center 1-hour early on certain days reducing the concerns with larger crowds
 - Creating a Sensory-Friendly visit webpage with resources for visiting families: www.howardcountymd.gov/RNC/sensoryfriendlyvisit
- B&O Ellicott Mills Station Museum - Freight House diorama restoration project now has a digital component, an Augmented Reality “tour” of the first 13 miles of track. Caitlin Chamberlain completed the research for information and photographs for new signage and the augmented reality program is now available to the public
- Horticulture & Land Management Division creating a pollinator garden for Headquarters and a 3-acre pollinator meadow is planned for Belmont Manor and Historic Park
- The Department assumed programmatic and exterior maintenance control of Waverly Mansion and grounds to include scheduling weddings
- Plans underway to install lightning alert stations in the eight regional parks
- Pesticide ban in parks – glyphosate, neonicotinoids and chlorpyrifos
- Last field at Troy Park will be completed by November 1, 2019

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Oakland Mills Tunnel** - We will have a contractor that will be performing drainage improvements on both ends of the Oakland Mills tunnel. The tunnel will be closed Monday to Friday 7am to 4pm. The schedule has not been confirmed yet, but we are looking at completion by the end of September. We are also obtaining proposals for solar powered LED tunnel lighting and the repainting of the tunnel interior.
- **Centennial Park North Red Steel Bridge Replacement** - We are replacing the 80-foot-long red steel bridge with a fiberglass bridge. The current

bridge support structure is rusted beyond repair. We anticipate the installation being completed by the end of November. A pedestrian detour should be possible during construction.

- **Tollhouse Drainage Renovation** - HTI Contractors will be installing 2 rip rap plunge pools, several rip rap check dams and a rip rap swale leading to the existing sediment pond to redirect storm water that is washing sediment downhill into neighboring back yards. An existing berm will also be rebuilt. The anticipated project duration is 2 weeks and the project should be finished by November 2019. This issue was caused by the 2018 Ellicott City flood.
- **Pickle Ball Expansion** - The Department is proposing alternate uses for several existing sports court areas that look to be under used to expand pickle ball opportunities throughout the county. A public meeting will be scheduled in October to discuss the following: Removal of 3 existing handball courts at Atholton Park and installation of an additional pickle ball court. Removal of the existing Skate Spot at Centennial Park North and installation of 3 pickle ball courts. Installation of 3 pickle ball courts on the Rockburn Park east basketball court. Staff members recently attended a pickle ball work group with multiple organizations to assist in developing a countywide pickle ball masterplan.
- **Centennial Park West Brown Steel Bridge** - We are currently evaluating the bridge condition to see if it can be repaired or if it should be replaced. Upon our evaluation with the Department of Public Works bridge engineers, we should have the details worked out in the next couple of weeks. The bridge is rusting structurally from the inside out.
- **Thomas Isaac Log Cabin** - We received approval from the Howard County Historic Commission to move the cabin back to the corner of main street. Log repairs will begin in the next week and designs for the footer and foundation will begin soon.

- **Disc Golf Follow-up** - We met with the public disc golf group on the redesign of the Rockburn Park disc golf course. The group embraced the design and made recommendations towards, signage, benches and a practice hole. Park planners and construction staff will visit the Turkey Hill Park disc golf course in La Plata to review the course design. The disc golf group felt that it was one of the best courses in Maryland.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Team Building Bocce ball event on September 4, 2019 at the new bocce ball courts at Cedar Lane Park
- National Recreation and Parks Association Convention is in Baltimore September 22- 26, 2019 – Expecting 6,000 participants
- Staffing issues – in need of staff for After School sports
- Downtown Columbia Cultural Center
 - 115,000 square feet
 - 2 levels
 - Recreation & Parks will manage the building
- Encore Showcase at Meadowbrook Athletic Complex on October 2, 2019
- Harriet Tubman Building – Recreation & Parks will manage the building
- We will take over old Columbia Center for the Arts and will be used for Lifelong Learning Center
- Bocce Ball League
 - 76 people signed up
 - Partnership with Special Olympics
- Facility Replacement Plan
 - Taking inventory on what needs to be replaced at different facilities
- Al Bumbry Camp
 - Most popular camp
 - 74 participants

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- New payroll system put on hold

Old Business:

- No old business

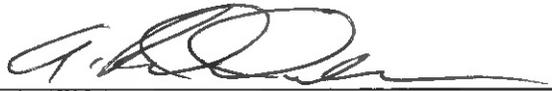
New Business:

- Showed plans for new pickleball court locations
- Next Board meeting will be a public hearing for the Pickleball Association to discuss the future of pickleball in the county.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Anthony. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.



Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson



A. Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary

New Business:

- Showed plans for new pickleball court locations
- Next Board meeting will be a profit meeting for the 2023 fiscal year. Motion to discuss the future of pickleball in the country.

Mr. Perry made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second in that was made by Mr. Griebowski and Mr. Anthony. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12.


 Mr. Griebowski, Secretary


 Mr. Anthony, Treasurer