

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, July 18, 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; Joanne Kiebler; Cindy Vaillancourt

Members Absent:

Daryl Anthony; Anna Boyd

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Ramsey to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Ms. Kiebler. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd read an email from a parent praising the Summer Camp programs.

Ellicott City Recovery:

- Main Street will open Friday, July 20, 2018.
- Officially stopping volunteer operations.

Dave Grabowski has been approved as board member of advisory board. Dave will be at the Board meeting in September.

#### Bureau of Parks:

##### **Park Ranger Program**

- Park Watch Program kicked off on July 16<sup>th</sup>

##### **Natural Resource Conservation Section**

- Managed Hunt and Sharp Shoot program preparations/approvals underway
- Cheryl Farfaras worked with Master Naturalist volunteers to plant native milkweeds and nectar plants in a Monarch Waystation/Pollinator Demonstration plot at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

##### **Robinson Nature Center**

- Robinson Nature Center staff worked with Recreation Licensed Childcare (RLC) to provide outreach programming at their summer blast camps and to pilot newly-developed programs that Robinson will be offering to schools next school year. Staff piloted a Kindergarten outreach program at the Bushy Park and Elkridge Summer Blast camps and provided additional nature presentations to campers not involved in the pilots. 103 RLC Summer Blast campers took part in these programs.

##### **Living History & Heritage Section**

- Staff will collaborate with the Upper Patuxent Archaeology Group to come up with a research plan for archaeology of an area known as Camp Johnson, a Civil War era encampment along the Patapsco River. There are currently no Civil War sites listed in Howard County, so confirmation of the location may provide an asset for Howard County history. Information gleaned from this research will be used in an exhibit at the B&O Museum and potentially Patapsco Female Institute tour information since the soldiers in this encampment searched PFI for arms while they were in the area.

##### **Park Operations**

- The wayfinding marker posts on pathway system in Centennial Park should be completed by the end of August. North area is complete.

- New assignments - Zone 1 John Peach, Zone 4 Pat Wiebking, Zone 3 Rick Femiano and interviews will be conducted to fill the vacancy for Zone 2
- Thursday night movies at Belmont – Young Frankenstein, tomorrow, Aladdin (8/2), Wonder Women (8/16) and Annie (8/30) – movies start at 7:00pm

### **Horticulture & Land Management**

- Belmont - Over 200 flats of annuals have been planted and a contractor has planted most of the Western arborvitaes intended to screen off the parking lots at the barn and Heritage Shop.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Water fountain with bottle filler donation project underway – one on order for Rockburn Branch Park donated by the Patapsco Heritage Greenway and two more waiting final confirmation for Centennial Park. The Department installed a fountain at Savage Park.
- Ash trees continue to die off in the parks and we are now seeing a decline in pin oaks

### Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning, and Construction (Presented by Mr. Milani):

Blandair Phase 3 Construction will begin in August.

- The Contractor will be Bob Porter Construction Company
- Same contractors who completed Phase 2 at Troy Park

Ground Breaking for Blandair Phase 3 will be on August 22 at 9:00 am

Construction for the stadium synthetic turf field at Troy Park to start this Fall.

Construction on repairing the two bridges near Dunloggin Elementary School has begun.

Department has been working on a new pathway design to be installed along Old Guilford Road.

Heritage Staff is making great progress on renovating the caretakers house at Blandair Park.

Grading is now taking place on the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area restroom and storage project.

Replacing the synthetic turf fields at Cedar Lane Park Field 5 and Rockburn Branch Park Field 6 will take place this fall.

Bureau of Recreation (Presented by Mr. Milani):

Solar Fest on July 14, 2018 200 children registered with 500 in attendance.

Summer Camps we have 7,230 children registrations in 2018 so far. There were 7,000 in 2017 total.

On July 21-22, 2018, 118 Teams attended the Softball Tournament across 6 parks.

There were 208 participants in August Pickleball Classic.

Over 1,700 high school lacrosse players from 25 states were showcased at Blandair Park.

Presently, we credentialed 2,300 plus coaches a year.

Celebration of Sports 2018 nominees are:

- Kathy Reed, Western Howard County Youth Baseball and Softball
- Bobby Farace, Howard County Vipers Wrestling
- Rich Francis, Howard County Youth Program Softball

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Fiscal 2019 Budget has been approved.

- Slight increase from 2018
- 2 full time positions have been filled at Baltimore and Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum

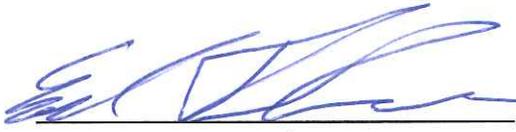
Old Business:  
No old Business

New Business:

Bylaw change proposal for the Board of Education board member.

- Remove the following language: "The Board of Education member may designate an alternate who may attend and vote in place of the Board of Education member if they are unable to attend."

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

  
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Sylvia Ramsey, Chairwoman

VICE CHAIR

  
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John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary