

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 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, Daryl Anthony; Tom Franklin; Joanne Kiebler; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Sabina Taj

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; 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.

Horticulture and Land Management Presentation:

Tim Overstreet, Superintendent of the Horticulture and Land Management Division gave a presentation explaining the duties of the division.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- John Byrd is retiring on June 7, 2019.
 - No succession plan yet

Bureau of Parks:

- The Department won the Green Leadership Award at GreenFest for the tennis ball recycling program – Krista Billingsley and John Marshall accepted the award. To date, 2,800 balls have been collected. Four more containers have been ordered, which will complete the number of identified locations for the program.
- Belmont
 - Belmont is almost completely booked for 2019 with 68 weddings or large events. This does not include programs, teas, meetings and retreats, free events, recreation classes, rental tours, open houses, rehearsals and other activities at Belmont.
 - Wedding season begins this Saturday. Staff has been working hard to make sure the site looks great.
 - Staff completed the installation of the irrigation system in the formal garden
 - Work repairing Belmont Woods Road's bridge abutments and shoulder work completed
 - Wye Oak tree planted at Belmont
- The newly remodeled playgrounds at Alpha Ridge Park reopened on March 21st
- Best wishes to Gary Doyle who retired on March 1st with more than 30 years of service to Howard County
- Throughout March, the zones have been preparing for the start of the spring sports season. Natural grass multipurpose fields have been laid out, marked and painted, ball diamonds have been graded, rolled, groomed and dressed, sports nets have been repaired and replaced as needed and goals have been sanded, primed and painted as needed, and much more.
- Ash trees continue to be a concern
- Deer count for the 2018-19 season - 156
- Earth Day tree planting at Rockburn Branch Park (4/20)
- SpringFest in Ellicott City (4/27)
- Glenwood Arboretum dedication at Western Regional Park (5/4)
- Wine in the Woods (5/18-19)

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Work repairing Belmont Woods Road bridge abutments and shoulder widening has been completed. Paving will be next.
- Construction has begun for Troy Park Multi-purpose field
- Cedar Lane Bocce court to begin construction soon
- Blandair park playground construction will begin soon
- Renovation has started on Centennial Park Baseball field #4

Bureau of Recreation:

- Egghunt at Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood
 - April 13
 - 100 participants
- Wine in the Woods
 - Final map updates before event
 - Same set-up as past events
 - 25 wineries
 - 30 crafters
- Horizon Pilot Program
 - Starting with 5-6 Middle Schools in the coming fall
 - Sports program
 - Hope to have in all middle schools after pilot program
- Recess Program
 - Twice a week at Cradlerock Elementary school
 - Looking to expand to other schools
- Celebration of Sports
 - October 29, 2019
 - Former Ravens player, Jameel McClain will be speaker

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Field rentals are on pace to top \$1.3 million mark.
- New payroll system is coming along well.

Old Business:

- General assembly is closed
- 2 bills involving synthetic turf did not get out of bill phase
 - Prohibiting open space from using the turf

- Requiring synthetic turf as a hazardous material for disposal
- Bill trying to limit tackle football in youth ages

New Business:

- Ed Coleman has been re-nominated by the Planning Board

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 8:12 pm.



Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson

VICE-CHAIR.

EDWARD T. COLEMAN



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary