

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2019- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Daryl Anthony; Tom Franklin; Sabina Taj
Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Sylvia Ramsey; Joanne Kiebler

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Acting Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T.
Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert E. Linz (Bob), Acting Bureau Chief
of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael H. Milani, Bureau
Chief of Administration; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

Belmont Manor and Park Presentation:

Cathy Allen, Manager of Belmont Manor and Historic Park gave a presentation
explaining the use of the facility.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- Ribbon cutting for new Bocce Courts at Cedar Lane Park in mid-July.

Bureau of Parks:

- Tornado damage estimated at \$150K. The Patuxent Branch Trail will be closed until hazard tree work has been completed.
- Megan Mills prepared and planted Paddocks East resulting in 300 trees and 8 acres of forest conservation.
- Katie Peet was promoted to the Robinson Nature Center Director.
- Robinson's Trout in the Classroom program - Releases went well and the program was a success.
- The Glenwood Arboretum was dedicated on May 4th. Twelve more trees were added to the collection with six more trees to be added in June.
- Strategic Plan overview

Key Dates:

- Shakespeare in the Ruins at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park, June 7 opening night – Macbeth and then Love's Labour's Lost
- HoCo PRIDE Event at Centennial Park (6/29)
- Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Howard County Veteran's Monument and Neighborhood Square (6/29)
- July 4th Celebration (7/4)

Strategic Plan:

- Current plan ends in July
- New Plan has been made, and is in process of assigning goals to be completed
- 150 tasks to be completed over the next 5 years

Bureau of Capital Projects and Planning:

- **Middle Patuxent Environmental Area**
 - The anticipated completion is scheduled for the end of July.
 - The contractor has installed the parking pavers and is currently working on the roof systems for the comfort station and maintenance shop.
- **Cedar Lane Park Bocce Ball**
 - The Bocce ball courts have been installed. The contractor is working on punch list items.

- The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for mid-July.
- **Troy Field #1**
 - Field #1 is approximately 65% complete.
 - The majority of the concrete, the stone base for the field and the retaining wall is complete.
 - The artificial turf fabric is nearing completion.
 - Once the field is complete, the fencing, gates, press box and bleachers will be installed.
- **Blandair Park Phase 3**
 - Phase 3 is 31% complete.
 - The maintenance building is taking shape with the framework up.
 - Work has started on the comfort station and shelter.
 - The playground area has been graded and the underground drainage installed.
 - Delivery of the bridge for the pathway crossing the stream is expected in August.
- **Blandair Caretakers Residence**
 - Our Heritage Construction team is nearing completion of the Caretakers residence.
 - The project should be completed by August 1st.
 - They are currently installing trim, touching up paint and finishing the remaining electrical items.
 - Carpet is scheduled to be installed in 2 weeks.
- **Font Hill Wetland Park- Stream Bank Stabilization**
 - Ecotone Contractors will begin the bank stabilization project beginning July 8th.
 - The project should take one month to complete.
 - Imbricated stone walls will be installed on (4) outside stream bends that are close to the pathway.
 - The project will prevent further erosion and improve water quality by reducing erosion rates.
 - MDE has approved our permit and the pathway will not be closed during construction.
- **Centennial Park Red Steel Bridge Replacement**
 - The red steel bridge located on the north side of the lake has badly rusted structural components.

- We had a repair design developed, but when we priced the repair, it was more than the cost of a bridge replacement.
- We are planning to replace the bridge between August and September with a fiberglass bridge.
- The bridge will meet the current weight requirements and require less maintenance and no painting, which will better protect the lake environment.
- **Centennial Park West Brown Steel Bridge Repairs**
 - The brown bridge that parallels Centennial Lane has a rusted through area in the center of the face of the bridge beam.
 - Our bridge inspector suggested performing a sonogram for the entire bridge. The test findings revealed a much larger area that requires steel plating repair due to the beams rusting from the inside out.
 - Our first repair estimate was 180K.
 - We are obtaining 2 additional repair estimates before considering replacement of the bridge.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Summer Concert Series
 - Sunset Serenades: Wednesday Nights at Centennial Park starting on July 10th
 - Travelling Bands: Friday Nights
 - Lakeside Movie Nights: Centennial Park
- National Recreation and Parks Month is July
 - July 4th Fireworks
 - Free snowballs at Community Centers
 - Stop and Play at Roger Carter Community Center
 - Free admission
 - Hall of Fame Winners announced
- Free Summer Meals
 - Howard High School
 - North Laurel Community Center
 - Phelps Luck Middle School
 - All camps at these locations will have access to these meals
- Summer Camps
 - Almost \$4 million in May

- Up \$30k from last year
 - \$300k in scholarships
 - About 1800 programs
- New Camps:
 - Dancing Artist Camp: Leadership through Hip-Hop
 - Aspiring Architect Camp
 - Star Wars Maker Camp
 - Shark Wonder Camp
- The Horizon Foundation Grant Pilot Program
 - After-school sports programs starting in the fall
 - At 6 Middle Schools
 - 2 days a week
 - Transportation is provided
- Wine in the Woods
 - About 19k in attendance

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- New payroll system
 - Working on payrate issues
 - Cannot run financial reports currently
- SAP system and ActiveNet system will now interface with each other, allowing for quicker reports

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

- Updates and adjustments being made to the Disc Golf Course at Rockburn Branch Park

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Anthony. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.



Ed Coleman, Co-Chairperson



A. Raul Delerme, Acting Executive Secretary