

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 15, 2019- 7:00pm  
Department of Recreation Headquarters  
Conference Room #1  
7120 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Dave Grabowski; Daryl Anthony; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Sabina Taj; Ed Coleman; Tom Franklin; Joanne Kiebler

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; 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 7pm.

Sports and Adventure Services Division Presentation:

Allan Harden, Superintendent of the Sports and Adventure Services Division, and Derek Ludlow, Community Sports & Partnerships Manager, gave a presentation explaining the Coaches registry program.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- This is John Byrd's last Advisory Board meeting. John will be retiring June 30, 2019.
- Budget work session before county council
  - Decreases in fixed costs were able to keep in budget

## Bureau of Parks:

- The Glenwood Arboretum dedication with tree planting on May 4th. Planted/added 12 trees.
- The staff installed irrigation system in Belmont's formal garden. Rubber pavers were laid under the magnolias to reduce compaction.
- Staff also completed the exterior work at the new Howard House – opioid rehabilitation facility
- David Keane facilitated drafting of the Daisy Meadow Park protective covenants document and represented the Department at the annual thistle meeting with Maryland Department of Agriculture. The covenants will be held by the Howard County Conservancy for the pollinator meadow and forest conservation area.
- Megan Mills completed 15 Turf to Tree and Forest Conservation plantings this month: Turf to Trees - 1,500 trees planted on 127 properties, Forest Conservation - 18.5 acres planted and invasive management.
- Anna Schrad updated thistle maps and presented information at an annual thistle meeting with Maryland Department of Agriculture. She also worked with Maryland Conservation Corps to finish staining benches, pick up sticks, remove moss from steps at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park (PFI), maintain tree plantings at PFI, and remove tree saplings in the meadow area at the Ellicott City Colored School, Restored.
- Sean Poholsky conducted 19 tree inspections and scheduled 126 for removal. He also met with the Adirondack folks at Font Hill Park to indicate locations of 68 hazardous trees marked for removal.
- Reported close to 2000 lbs. of donated venison to Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- Conducted a Project Clean Stream event in Winterbrook open space with 13 volunteers and collected 720 lbs. of trash and recycling.
- Brian Campbell, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and Jaimie Wilder successfully hosted a Project Clean Stream event at the Robinson Nature Center sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Forty volunteers assisted staff with collecting 440 pounds of trash from the flood plain and forested areas of the Open Space hiker/biker paved trail corridor.
- The Chapel Oak sculpture located in front of the Robinson Nature Center is being removed.
- Katie Peet coordinated Robinson's, "Spring Eggstravaganza for Tots" special event with education team members. This year's the event welcomed 382

participants! One participant remarked, "This was the best egg hunt we have ever been to."

- In April, Robinson Nature Center's Naturalist, Katie Peet, and six Environmental Educators planned and led 45 different special events, public programs, birthday party programs, field trips and scout programs. Robinson's two HCPSS liaisons piloted 5 in-school field trips on air quality. Through these programs, they served 2,431 participants and generated \$20,886 in revenue.
- Katie Peet has been selected to replace Stacey Yankee as the manager of Robinson Nature Center.
- April is Maryland Archaeology Month. Staff worked on two public archaeology projects - one at the Living Farm Heritage Museum (prepping for Summer Camp) and one in the Triadelphia Reservoir. Started working with WSSC staff to help record and document the earliest historical site in Howard County, an early 18th century plantation along the Patuxent River. This is a Savage Archaeology project, meaning that the remains of this site will be recorded before it is threatened again by dam construction and rising reservoir water.
- Planning is underway for B&O Freight House Diorama Project and the B&O Gift Shop renovations, both expected for completion in May.
- Rockburn Branch Park restoration of fields #1 and #13 have been completed.
- EAAA Easter Egg Hunt on April 13<sup>th</sup>. 78 children attended the event.
- Earth Day was celebrated on April 20<sup>th</sup> with tree planting from volunteers at Rockburn.
- Staff assisted with Ellicott City Springfest on April 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Centennial Park field #4 infield has been re-sodded
- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area is still on schedule
  - Expected to be completed by July
- Cedar Lane Park Bocce courts
  - Turf is in
- Troy Park Multi-purpose field is still on schedule
- Blandair Park Phase 3
  - Playground construction to begin in the summer

- The Thomas Isaac Log Cabin is going to return back to its original position off Main Street in Ellicott City.
- Blandair Tenant House
  - Expected to be completed by summer
  - Renovations done by Heritage group

#### Bureau of Recreation:

- Wine in the Woods
  - May 18- May 19
- No Boundaries, Howard County Center for the Arts
  - Art Show Gallery for Therapeutic Recreation participants
- Additional Hours at the Community Centers
  - Starting in the fall
  - 3 nights a week
    - 9pm on Sundays
    - 11pm on 2 other nights
- Centennial Lake Boat Dock is now open for the summer season.
  - Healthy option menu at the Adventure Shack

#### Bureau of Administrative Services:

- New payroll system
  - Able to pay more than 2 pay rates
- Modest gains for upcoming budget.

#### Old Business:

- Luke Filar is back to work full time after injury back in the winter.

#### New Business:

- Proposal to host a Recreation and Parks Advisory Board meeting at Robinson Nature Center
- Director vacancy is open for applications
- Raul Delorme will be Acting Director until a new Director is named.
- All the board members thanked John Byrd for his time as Director.
- John Byrd thanked all the members for their services as Advisory Board Members.

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 8:04 pm.



Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson

*EDWARD T. COLEMAN*

*VICE CHAIR.*



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary

