

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
October 19, 2016
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair; Dave Brown; Joanne Kiebler; Williams Santos; Jonathan Gresham

Members Absent:

Tom Franklin; Dan Tracy; Christine O'Connor

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; John Marshall, Chief, Bureau of Parks; Laura Wetherald, Chief, Bureau of Recreation; A. Raul Delerme, Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Mike Milani, Chief, Bureau of Administrative Services; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd announced to the Board that Laura T. Wetherald was inducted into the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administrators as a fellow. She received this at the NRPA convention earlier this month. The County Executive did a press release and everyone is excited for Ms. Wetherald. Mr. Byrd continues on by reading information on what the award entails. The Academy is limited to 125 members.

Bureau of Parks:

Mr. Marshall announced Celebration of Partners in Parks will be held at the Robinson Nature Center on November 13, 2016 from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Mr. Marshall reminded everyone about the Bollman Truss Bridge tree lighting event on December 3, 2016. This is also the same day as Holiday Mart.

Mr. Marshall stated that we are currently waiting on MHT approval to replace the two elm trees at the Belmont Manor and Historic Park. He is hoping to have them replace by the middle of November.

Mr. Marshall stated that there is going to be a public meeting on the Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge on November 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the Howard building.

Mr. Marshall announced the County employees that were recognized for being heroes and actually saving lives. The first employee, Josh Fisher, saved a life by rescuing someone from a burning car. The second employee, Greg Fiala, performed CPR on a person and saved her life as well.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme stated that Troy Park construction is coming along well. Blandair is also coming along well and the roundabout is being paved.

Mr. Delorme reported on the Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan update and stated that we will be receiving a draft of the plan this week to review and then a draft Executive Summary by the end of November.

Mr. Delorme reported that we are starting the Capital Budget process.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani stated that we are starting the budget process for FY18. He is hoping to get some of our part-time staff into full-time positions. After the budget meeting, it looks like we are going to have a flat budget. He stated that our one concern is that we have employees that work forty hours but are considered part time employees. Mr. Milani is working with Human Resources to convert them into full-time employees.

Dr. Goodman asked if contingent workers are the lifeline of programs running and certain jobs getting done.

Mr. Milani responded by stating that we have different types of contingent workers. We have contingent workers that work in mostly Recreation and work 10-20 hours a week. We have contingent workers that work in the Parks that basically work 40 hour weeks all year round. We also have people that are considered part-time with some full-time benefits that work in Recreation and in our Recreational Licensed Childcare division.

Mr. Goodman responded by asking what challenges do you see having with contingent and part-time staff.

Ms. Wetherald responded by saying that sometimes we do not have work for them or their hours are limited for a certain time period.

Mr. Milani stated that the good thing is that the affordable health care act offers health care to certain employees.

Bureau of Recreation:

Mrs. Wetherald reported that we are celebrating our 25th year of Wine in the Woods. We are looking to have a wine made to celebrate our 25th year. Ms. Wetherald listed the names of the 9 wineries that were with us at our very first Wine in the Woods festival.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that 30% of our staff is completing their CAPRA Standards. Everything is due November 1st. We will then have a small group who will proofread our self-assessment and our evidence of compliance. We need to get that out right before the holidays.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that the Board will be able to be a part of the process and will get a chance to meet the visitors.

Ms. Wetherald stated that the Fit4U has now included other county agencies to this program. This program allows certain county government employees to use our fitness equipment in our community centers and also use the equipment at the Ellicott City Senior Center.

Ms. Wetherald reported she will be having a meeting with the Executive Director of the Horizon foundation. There are some talks about the food that we offer in our programs, specifically our childcare programs. This meeting will be held to discuss the foods we offer and how to make sure that what we provide are healthy foods. Ms. Wetherald wants to make sure that we implement more fresh foods in our programs. We currently have something called, "Fresh Fruit Friday's", where our staff goes to BJ Wholesale Club to get fresh fruit for the kids. The Horizon Foundation may be interested in funding this for us so that we can provide fresh foods in our childcare and other programs.

Mr. Byrd mentioned that the Horizon Foundation is also interested in funding the bottleless water fountains in our Parks.

Ms. Wetherald reported that our Celebration of Sports is next Tuesday starting at 5:00 pm at Turf Valley Country Club. The event already has about 600 people attending. This year we are adding sports/action art.

Ms. Wetherald reported that 6 of our programming staff, including Ms. Wetherald, will be going to a LERN conference free of charge. We provided webinars regarding camp operations ranging from programming, training, marketing, and administration logistics. This was done in a bartering format; therefore the 6 staff get to go to the LERN conference in Baltimore for free. The LERN conference is normally \$700 per person.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd said that there is no new information on the settlement at Savage Mills. There is a meeting scheduled with the developers, the County Executive, and the community representatives during the first week in November.

Mr. Byrd stated that we sent back a final version of the lease for Timbers of Troy Golf Course. Our hope is to go to the County Council in November and get a vote in December so that we can execute the lease in January. If we have to delay, we will just extend their contract on a month to month basis. The work has started on the project.

Dr. Goodman presented his, flag from "The First Tee" to the Board. This was given to him and his wife for the donation they made.

Ms. Wetherald explained that "The First Tee" program is a nationwide organization that promotes golf at an early age.

New Business:

Mr. Byrd stated that the meeting schedule for 2017 is finalized and will be sent out to the Board.

Mr. Byrd stated that next month Seth Hoffman will present the annual report that he does every year. If anyone on the board would like to see it in advance, we can get that for you.

Mr. Byrd reported that we now have an official stationary for the Board. He passed around a sample copy.

Mr. Byrd reported that a meeting has been set up to discuss the pool at the North Laurel Community Center.

Mr. Santos announced that this meeting would be his last Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Santos thanked Recreation and Parks for all the work they have done in the county and was thankful for being a part of the Board.

Ms. Santos made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A seconded motion was made by Dave Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary