Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020- 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; Tom Franklin; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:
Mavis Ellis; Joanne Kiebler

Staff Present:
Raul DeLerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Bob Linz, Acting 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.

Public Comments:
No Public Comments.

Director’s Report:
• Capital Projects budget has been approved by the Board.
• Had a meeting with Merriweather folks to finalize agreement for Wine in the Woods 2020.
• Budget meeting on January 16th in front of Spending Affordability committee.

Bureau of Parks:
• Scott Bowen issued a violation notice to the Sanctuary HOA for clearing 4,080 square feet of forest conservation easement.
• In 2019, Robinson staff, ran 524 programs, serving 21,356 participants and generating $241,092 in revenue.
• During the month of December, 7,169 people visited the annual Holiday Model Train Gardens at the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum.
• Belmont Manor and Historic Park’s Holiday Open House event in cooperation with Howard County Conservancy was held on Dec. 15th. Over 800 visitors attended over a 3-hour timeframe.
• Middle Patuxent Environmental Area maintenance shed, offices and comfort station to be open in January. Parking lot is already open.
• The Digistar 6 Planetarium renovation project at Robinson Nature Center to be open to the public in January.
• E-scooters being considered in certain specified zones in Columbia – Blandair Park and Cedar Lane Park included.
• Blandair Park Phase 3 to be open in the summer of 2020.
• Vivian C. “Millie” Bailey Park to open late spring.
• Installation of the pollinator meadow at Belmont Manor and Historic Park slated for the spring of 2020.
• Robinson Nature Center has arranged with Port Discovery to borrow the Sun, Earth Universe mini-exhibit in 2020. The exhibit will be made available October 2020 through January 2021.
• Board meeting in February will be a Public meeting addressing Lightning Alert system at parks.

**Bureau of Capital Projects and Planning**
• Brown bridge at Centennial Park cracked
  o New bridge will take 12 weeks to open
  o Currently detouring paths around bridge
• Cricket pitch at Schooley Mill Park will be installed soon
  o Grading in the spring
• A Memorandum of Understanding has been put in for Cradlerock cricket pitch.
• Belmont Mansion exterior has been renovated.

**Bureau of Recreation:**
• No Report
Bureau of Administrative Services:
• No Report

Old Business:
  • Department of Public Works is inquiring about building a Fire station on existing field space at Cedar Lane Park. Recreation and Parks would gain 2 fields from Public Works.
  • Belmont Manor and the Patapsco Female Institute won Couples Choice of the Year Award for Wedding Wire.

New Business:
• Starting in March, Bureau of Facilities will be doing a geothermal project at Belmont. Building wells in back behind ball room to be environmentally friendly
• Will be installing a fiberglass bridge at the Howard County Conservancy.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson
Edward T. Coleman, Vice Chair
A. Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary