

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2020- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present:

Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin; Mavis Ellis

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Director's Report:

- Employee Awards were held virtually
 - Danielle Bassett was named Employee of the Year
 - Tree Give-Away on September 24th and 26th at Rockburn Branch and West Friendship Parks – 2,020 trees will be given away
- Thomas Isaac Log Cabin is completed
- Ribbon Cutting for Millie Bailey Park will be held in late October

Bureau of Parks:

- Megan Mills, Peter Buppert and Kyle Crouse attended the NACO award ceremony at the Howard Building. The Forestry section won for 2019 Tree Giveaway and Turf to Tree programs.
- Brenda Belensky supervised Scout Troop #944 project at Font Hill Park on August 20, 2020. The scouts stained the timbers on the main arch bridge, installed beaver protection fencing around trees surrounding the large pond, and helped to disassemble the deteriorated floating wetland islands. The scouts helped to remove 1,960 lbs. of debris and volunteered a combined total of 181 hrs.

- **Middle Patuxent Environmental Area** - Cheryl Farfaras received a Girl Scout Gold donation (\$308.10 for 50% cost-sharing) and ordered plant material for Chloe Hoffmeister's Monarch Waystation pollinator garden and began working with marketing and Chloe on her video for the community outreach portion of her project.
- **Robinson Nature Center** - Thanks to the combination of in-person camps and Camp Came to Me programs, we served 193 campers through Camp Came to Me and 278 through in-person camps (471 total). We generated \$53,782 in revenue from in-person camps and \$5,483 in revenue from Camp Came to Me programs. It is highly notable to recognize that, despite the challenges of this summer, staff's work ensured we still served hundreds of campers and our total camp revenue still outpaced last summer's revenue. We brought in \$59,265 this summer (a little over \$3,000 more than last summer's total camp revenue of \$56,939).
- Brian Campbell transported the bison taxidermy from a local residence to the Robinson Nature Center. The bison is situated very nicely along the "seasons of the forest" exhibit and where there already is interpretive signage regarding bison in Maryland! Many thanks to Michael Richter of the MPEA for his assistance with the move. Also, met with Bob Linz concerning exhibit modifications for the bison.
- **Read with a Ranger**- August 5th Ranger Brightwell led this event at Centennial Park. 10 children and their parents attended. August 17th Rangers Duffy and Gafford led this event at Meadowbrook. 15 children and their parents attended.
- **Lightning Alerting System** – hardware installation nearly completion. Working on funding to complete internet and electrical connections.
- Water Fountain with Bottle Filler Donation program still going strong.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Rockburn Disc Golf Course**- Renovation has been completed. Staff are performing final grading tasks as we await the new signs to come and be installed.
- **South Branch Park**- Drain pavers are being installed in the parking bays this week. We anticipate opening a portion of the parking lot in two weeks.
- **Belmont Station Bridge across Route 1 from Troy Park**- We have closed the bridge due to safety concerns. The existing bridge will be removed, stream

banks in the area of the new bridge stabilized with imbricated stone and a new 6' wide fiberglass bridge installed in-house.

- **McAlpine Path Stream-** The stream along the McAlpine school route path to Dunloggin Elementary is washing closer to the pathway. We are obtaining a proposal for stream stabilization work. MDE has agreed that the project will receive emergency approval.
- **Font Hill Wetlands Park Stream-** There are a few remaining bends in the stream that need to be stabilized before and after the arched laminated bridge. We are preparing a proposal for permitting and construction that we will budget in FY22.
- **Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park Chapel Project-** We recently approved a proposal for AECOM to develop the plans for the Chapel project. The chapel projects consist of a concrete deck over the chapel area, restrooms, storage, staff office, exhibit area and ADA access. The area will also be used to shelter in place during severe weather. We currently have funding for the construction of the project and anticipate construction beginning Summer of 2021.
- **Troy Park Phase 2B-** We recently approved a proposal for Site Services to develop plans for the completion of Phase 2B which includes a restroom facility, storage building and grandstand bleachers. We anticipate construction beginning Summer of 2021.
- **Blandair Phase 6-** We met with WRA this week to finalize the Phase 6 scope of work. We await their proposal for plan development in the next 3 weeks. Phase 6 will consist of site grading, water line installation, basketball courts, skate park and additional parking, along with a teen gathering plaza area. The indoor building complex will be constructed in a later Phase.
- **Bailey Park-** The deed has been signed over to HCDRP from Howard Hughes. Park Planning staff are working with 3 contractors to perform work before the ribbon cutting in October.

Bureau of Recreation:

- RecZone childcare began on September 8th at 8 school locations
 - Runs from 7am-6pm
 - Staff helps facilitate virtual learning
- Summer Camps

- 390-400 campers per week
- Outdoor camps very successful
- Most popular camps were sports camps
- Most pre-school camps went virtual
- TR Virtual Dance went very well
- The Meadowbrook Athletic Complex will be used as a voting site for early voting
- 265 virtual fall programs
- 1784 fall programs offered
- Trends newsletter was released
- Evaluation Team is reworking evaluation plan
- CAPRA Accreditation is in 2022
- Holiday Mart will be completely virtual
- Trunk or Treat
 - Sign up for scheduled time
 - No getting in trucks
- Appointment with Santa during Holiday Season
- New Cultural Arts Center has not yet been approved yet
- Creating Social Equity position statement

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Working with Budget office to figure out how to recover losses
- Tournament and field rentals are doing very good
- Converting 10 contingent workers to full time positions - mostly park maintenance workers

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

No Old Business

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

DocuSigned by:
Edward T. Coleman 11/3/2020
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Ed Coleman, Co-Chairperson



Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary