

Wednesday, March 17, 2020- 7:00pm  
Department of Recreation Headquarters  
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present: Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin; Eduardo S. Marin, Student Member

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Nicola Morgal, Acting Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert T. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael T. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Grabowski made a motion to approve the February minutes. Seconded by Mr. Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- Blandair Play-For-All Playground will be dedicated to Laura Wetherald
  - Named "Laura's Place"
- Non-Verbal Communication Boards will be unveiled at Blandair Park for those with impairments
  - Was donated by the Autism Society

Bureau of Parks:

- Horticulture and Land Management and Purchasing have made the selection of contractors for the Landscape Maintenance. New contracts start April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Two memorial benches have been ordered; one for Font Hill Park and one for Centennial Park. Benches will be installed between spring and summer of 2021 to meet deadlines of requestor.

- Megan Mills finalized planting locations and approvals for trees to be planted at each high school in honor of the senior classes of 2020 and 2021 and their resilience throughout the pandemic; each tree will be accompanied by a plaque.
- Cheryl Farfaras worked with volunteer Sonja Tosh (a former Howard County Public School System Biology teacher) and Ann Hackling from Howard County Library System on a Pollinator Story Walk Program in MPEA for National Pollinator Week.
- Brian Campbell oversaw the completion of railing and gate installation by Eddy's Welding for the Bison display project. Assisted Eddy's Welding with install of steel ledges for interpretive signage. Reinstalled 2 separate interpretive pieces; final install of trim staining and aluminum edging will occur in March. Window tinting surrounding the Bison exhibit also scheduled for March.
- Erin Eve created a wildlife-related social media post that was featured by WJZ and other local news stations.
- Holding off on most of our tree planting programs until fall due to the cicadas due to arrive in May.
- Lightning alerting system – six parks activated with two more going active tomorrow. The two remaining parks (Centennial and Savage) may have to wait until next fiscal year.
- Working with Bob Linz to begin installing donated water fountains this spring.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Blandair Park Phase 3-** The plumbing final inspection was approved, and we are nearing the punch list walk through. MT Laney has finished all paving except a small area on the West side. A repair solution will be agreed upon this week. The maintenance facility parking lots have been striped. The concrete columns will be power washed and sealed.
- **Blandair Park Phase 6-** We had the design kick-off meeting with WRA, and they are creating 2-3 concept plans for our review. Once we select a concept plan, we will schedule a meeting with Spohn Ranch to begin design for the skate park.

- **Centennial Park-** The tennis court lighting replacement project at Centennial Park West has started. The existing poles have been removed and the new poles have been installed. The anticipated completion date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Centennial Park North Playground-** The replacement playground package has been ordered and staff are currently excavating the site in preparation for a late spring installation.
- **Kiwanis Wallas Park-** Musco Lighting has started the field #6 lighting replacement project. The new pole bases, poles and fixtures have been installed. We anticipate the project being completed by Opening day.
- **Lake Elkhorn Pathway-** HTI Contractors have finished replacing the drainage pipe & widening of the path. The surface mix was installed today. Next week, they will backfill the path edges with topsoil, then seed and install erosion control matting.
- **David Force Park-** The first fiberglass bridge has been installed. Construction staff will install the second bridge in the near future.
- **Schooley Mill & Hammond Park Dug Out Covers-** The dugout covers have been ordered for Schooley Mill Park and Hammond Park. We will schedule installation during the summer field break.
- **Sewell's Orchard Park-** Heritage staff has replaced the laminated bridge decking and have started replacement of the decking at pond #3.
- **Waverly Mansion & Cottage Cedar Shake Roof-** We will be replacing the cedar shake roof on the cottage and the Bureau of Facilities is looking at replacing the cedar shake roof on the mansion. Both projects will be reviewed by MHT and should be completed before wedding dates.
- **McTague Property-** MDOT/SHA wants to expand the Centennial Lane intersection, Recreation & Parks is proposing the McTague property by the Centennial South entrance as the POS conversion site.
- **Program Open Space-** No POS funding will be used towards the HS13 site per Administration and DNR has been informed.
- **Fullarton Property-** We have applied for POS funding for the Fullarton property on New Cut Road (\$410K).
- **Geis Property-** We have requested appraisals for the Geis Property to be used as a future connector property with Columbia Association and MPEA.
- **Savage Remainder Program Open Space (POS) acquisition application** was approved by the Bureau of Public Works (\$1,775K).

- **Coles Property** -POS acquisition application was approved by the State Clearing House and will be scheduled with the Bureau of Public Work.
- **Blandair Phase 6** development application will be heard by the BPW on 3-24-21 (\$1,071K)
- **Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan**- Bryan Moody identified a MNCPPC contract to piggy back on. He has requested vendor proposals based on the piggyback contracts and draft guidelines. The State has not yet provided finalized 2022 plan guidelines but will not extend the draft deadline past December 31, 2021.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Have been running Vaccination clinics for 7 weeks
  - 44 county staff helping
    - 28 with Recreation and Parks
- Community Engagement Team
  - Roaming Gnome Activity
    - Hiding gnomes at various parks for families to find
- RecZone is continuing with schools being opened
  - 150 kids per week
- Summer Camp Registration started
  - Adventure camps filled within 5 days
- Childcare opened pre-registration for 2021-2022 School Year
- Started new Girls Lacrosse League for the Spring
  - 28 teams, 500 girls

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Have staff working phone bank call center every day for vaccination appointments
- Met with County Executive to discuss budget for next year
- First tournaments of the season
  - Baseball and Lacrosse
  - 2 guardians allowed per child
- All fields have been rented

Old Business:

- Department of Public Works is scheduling a public meeting for new Fire station at Cedar Lane Park at the end of March

New Business:

- Next board meeting will be a public hearing discussing the property conversion at Centennial Park for the McTague Property

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

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*Sylvia Ramsey*  
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Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson

DocuSigned by:  
*Raul Deleme*  
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Raul Deleme, Executive Secretary