Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 15, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.  
Recreation and Parks Headquarters, Conference Room 1 & 2  
7120 Oakland Mills Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:  
Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Herman Charity; Tom Franklin; Marian Vessels; Chloe McGeehan

Staff Present:  
Raul Delerme, Director; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Nicola Morgal, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Bryan Moody, Bureau Chief of Parks; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

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

Approval of May Minutes:  
Minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comments:  
No Public Comments

Director’s Report:  
- Wine in the Woods festival was very successful  
  - 20,000 in attendance  
- Press conference for July 4th fireworks tomorrow at the Columbia Lakefront  
- This is Ms. McGeehan’s last meeting as student member  
- New student member starts in July  
  - Gabrielle Demuren (Gabi)

Presentation of the Final Draft of the 2022 Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) – Rhi Sinclair from Agency L+P  
- Ms. McGeehan and Ms. Vessels commented on how great the presentation was  
- Mr. Coleman asked how they can be sure that they reached everyone necessary for the survey
- Rhi Sinclair responded by saying they do the best they can with giving out pamphlets, marketing, social media and hitting the spots with the best results such as the schools and parks.
- Mr. Franklin was impressed with the Natural Resources section of the presentation

**Bureau of Parks:**
- Attorney General’s Office is bringing criminal charges against the driver in Haviland Mill dumping case.
- Obtained 2022 Managed Hunt permit from MDNR for 30 hunts across 9 parks
- Rangers and Special Events staff assisted with the Camp Ilchester Presser on June 16th and the July 4th event in Columbia
- Horticulture and Land Management renewed our pesticide applicator license, completed several work orders (3,000 annuals at Belmont Manor and Historic Park, fencing at Westside Garden Plots, Cradlerock cricket field seeding, Harriet Tubman Cultural Center watering, Holidays Hills bamboo), scheduling with contractor for additional sites (The Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park and Camp Ilchester), and responded to several SeeClickFix matters.
- Zone 1 - Repairs to bridges and dealing with erosion
- Zone 3 - Made temporary repairs to the Schooley Mill Park horse ring to promote proper drainage
- Zone 4 - Re-opened lower large dog park area. Dog park event rescheduled to July 16th due to rain
- Zone 5 - Keeping up with special events and tournaments at Blandair Park
- Heather Johannes has resigned and is starting a new job with the Howard County Conservancy. Hiring process to fill her vacancy has begun.
- Talks about triathlons at Centennial Park
  - Trying to find better ways to test the water to make sure it is good for swimming
- Event at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park on May 17th.
  - Announced that Caitlin Chamberlain is leaving and moving to Georgia.
  - Announced future of the programs and heritage events
• John Riggleman has been promoted to Zone 1 Manager since John Peach has retired

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction (Presented by Mr. Milani):

• **Centennial Park South Lower ADA Project**- The contractor has finished the segmental block retaining wall. Base paving has been completed from the boat launch to the restroom transformer. Excess soil is currently being hauled out in preparation for grading the last portion of the path and construction of the bio pond. Fencing has been installed above the second wall and the custom canoe area gates are being fabricated. New IPE decking and bench renovations have been completed. The contractor has trim work and railings to complete. The chain link safety fence has been relocated from the center of the plateau to the perimeter, along with the fencing relocated to the woods edge at the boat launch to accommodate programs. The anticipated project completion date is sometime in July 2022.

• **Centennial Park North**- Construction staff are scheduling the paving contractor to complete the ADA parking area and pathway improvements. The Sensory Area project has been awarded and the equipment is on order. Jason Thompson is completing the Environmental Concept Plan for the project. Ruth Coleman is conducting a visit to Hagerstown this Friday to review adult fitness equipment in planning for the North area fitness area.

• **Centennial Park West Area**- The west area basketball courts have been totally renovated, including new asphalt surface, basketball standards, backboards and rims.

• **Woodcrest Bridge**- Construction staff have received the bridge proposal and the bridge package order has been placed.

• **Blandair Park**- A food truck parking/small plaza area has been designed and will be installed in the next month at Phase 3. The HVAC unit has been replaced in the maintenance building, along with concrete repairs at the pavilion.

• **Pickleball**- Blended pickleball lines have been installed at High Ridge Park and Atholton Park. Additional lines will be installed at Lisbon and Cypressmede parks when the courts are renovated.
- **Cedar Lane Park** - The field #4 press box flooring, siding and door replacements have been completed.

- **Waverly Mansion** - The contractor installed the new drain system and sub-base patio stone. Brick paver installation started on Tuesday, June 7th. Heritage Construction has finished the shed retaining wall area and the storage shed is scheduled to arrive and be placed Thursday, June 9th. Parking lot renovations and new light poles will be scheduled once the patio project has been completed.

- **Symphony Woods Plateau** - The widening of the plateau below the white house for the wine festival VIP area was completed and worked out well for the 2022 Wine in the Woods Festival.

- **Troy Phase 2B** - The purchase requisition should be completed this week. A preconstruction meeting will be scheduled in the next 2-3 weeks.

- **Meadowbrook Park** - The basketball court asphalt surface has been overlaid and relined.

- **Haviland Mill Trail** - We await the final helical piers to be installed in order for stonework to be completed then the final natural trail sections. The contractor is currently finishing the decking and railings on the framed deck sections.

- **Heritage Construction** - Flooring repairs have been made at Belmont Manor along with Carriage House drywall repairs. Staff assisted with Waverly electrical bollard installation, site grading, material deliveries and project coordination. Locks have been installed on the Zirn House and we will be obtaining demolition proposals for the Cole house and outbuildings.

- **Huntington Park** - The design is 100% complete and the alternative compliance waiver/exhibit was submitted June 16th. We await final approval and permits to begin the project late summer.

- **Schooley Mill Park** - We will be meeting with county requirements contractors in the next 2-3 weeks to review the horse ring scope of work and obtain a proposal for work.

- **Building Maintenance & Security** - Lock cores were installed at the Harriett Tubman Center. Coordinated card access and key distribution for new employees, volunteers, and coaches. Performing HVAC maintenance on all rental properties. Awaiting quotes for a new septic system at the Drell property. Coordinating asphalt milling along the Timbers at Troy driving
range path. Assisting with the Centennial South lower water fountain installation and water line locating at Atholton and Guilford Parks for new water fountain installations.

- **Dawn Poholsky** - Dawn assisted with year-end fleet vehicle & equipment purchases. A Fleet meeting with new members of the committee was held. Dawn turned in Department Fleet reports to the Fleet Director and made record changes in SAP, set up surplus equipment pick up, along with assisting with equipment surplus and SAP record changing. She assists with geocaching requests and approvals, quality control of the Trails GIS layer and open space record mapping.

- **Wine in the Woods Festival** - Construction and Heritage staff members did an excellent job assisting with event logistics, tent flooring, electric, security light towers, temporary roads, signage, arbor work, temporary sanitation, site improvements, crafter transportation and event clean up. Special thanks also to Brenda Belensky, Dawn Poholsky and supporting staff, Joann Frush, Land Management & Horticulture staff, Natural Resources staff and the Rangers for their assistance with Physical Arrangements Logistics.

**Bureau of Recreation:**

- **Wine in the Woods**
  - Great event
  - Very hot temperatures
    - Had to bring in cooling vans
  - Highest advanced sales ever
  - 13,000 in attendance on Saturday, 8,000 on Sunday
  - Beer vendors did great
  - Wrap up meeting at the end of month
  - Ended half an hour early on Sunday due to storm

- **July 4th Event**
  - Just responsible for Fireworks
  - Provide food to staff
  - Rain date is July 5th

- **Gold Medal Application through NRPA**
  - Showcase what our department does through a 9-question essay
  - Will apply for 2023
• Summer camps start next week
• 6 full time vacancies
• Harriet Tubman Community Center staff will hopefully move in on June 30th
• July is Recreation and Parks month
  o Events on every Thursday at different parks and facilities
• Waiting to see the school start and end time changes
  o This will affect programs and field rentals
• Community Outreach
  o Hired a manager
  o Hoping to have a mobile van to bring recreation to the community to reach those who cannot normally come to programs and parks.

Bureau of Administrative Services:
• Budget has been signed off by County Council
  o Operating budget will be challenging with rising prices of gas, etc.
• Three full time marketing positions have been filled
• Lacrosse tournaments at end of June at Blandair Park
  o Will be televised on ESPN

Old Business:
No old business

New Business:
• Ms. McGeehan will be attending Duke University in the fall

Ms. McGeehan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Ms. Vessels. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Ed Coleman, Co-Chairperson
Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary