

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
February 26, 2020

**Unapproved Minutes**

**Members Present:** John Marks, Derek Ludlow, Kristin Darby, Tony Rosas, Brad Rockwood, Tom Long, Carolyn Garber

**Members Excused:** Caitlin Christ, Donald Gerkin, Michael Rodgers, Michael Duffy

**Staff Present:** Lisa Carroll, Trish Cross, Laura Tawes

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on February 26, 2020 at the County Office Building's public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by the board vice-chair Tom Long.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

John Marks moved to approve the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes;  
Tony Rosas seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Staff Changes** – Laura Tawes started on October 31 as new Administrative Assistant to Director and will serve as primary contact for Advisory Board members. Chuck Hamlet has been hired as the new Chief Range Officer and Carolyn “Callie” Williams has been hired as the new Office Associate and front desk person in the administrative office. Ric Buchanan retired at the end of January and we are in the process of filling that position.

**Piney Run Dam** – Bureau of Water Resource staff met with Piney Run council in late 2019 and had the first public meeting last night, February 25.

**South Carroll Dog Park**- The park has been constructed and a soft opening is planned for mid-March with a grand opening celebration scheduled for Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 pm.

**Gillis Falls Trail** – Staff met with local mountain biking group and Carroll County Equestrian Council to review project. We are working with design firm to bring original plans initiated in 2005 up to current standards. We received permission from Commissioners to apply for \$300,000 in grant funding through the Recreational Trails Program to supplement/replace funding currently budgeted for FY 2021.

**Commission on Aging & Disabilities** – Recreation and Parks staff will begin attending the bi-monthly meetings of the Commission on Aging & Disabilities in March to promote better communication and outreach to this growing demographic.

**Friends of Liberty Reservoir (FOLR) & Trail Maintenance** – We met with FOLR and participated in conference call with County Administrator, CC Public Works and City of Baltimore regarding trail maintenance and access to trail network around reservoir in Carroll County. More communication expected with goal of ongoing access to recreational amenity located in County.

### **Capital Project Updates**

Construction bids received for both Westminster Veterans Memorial Park and Deer Park expansion and both are within budget. Bid awards on agenda on March 12 to be approved by County Commissioners. Construction to begin this spring and hopefully conclude by end of calendar year.

Lighting replacement project nearly completed at Carroll County Sports Complex with goal of finishing by March 15. This will result in new energy efficient LED lighting for fields 1, 2 & 3. Funding planned in FY21 budget to add LED lighting to one soccer field.

**FY 2022 Capital Process Underway** – Correspondence has been sent to recreation councils, municipalities and staff regarding possible new capital project ideas. Form is available on main page of web site to get ideas from citizens and other groups as well. We will be sharing input with the Advisory Board at the March meeting as the next step in the process.

### **Fox Hunting in County Parks:**

A presentation was made by Jason Dudderar from the Carrollton Hounds. Jason is requesting the ability to use the county park land at Gillis Falls for foxhunting events. Carrollton Hounds is looking for 500 to 1000 acres to visit two to three times a month. County Code and Parks Ordinance would need several changes, which would need to go through the public hearing process for approval. Discussion of impact on other users of the trail. Tony Rosas made a motion to table further discussion until a future meeting. Kristin Darby seconded that motion.

### **Trail Committee Report:**

Tony Rosas spoke about the trail committee meeting held on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Recreation and Parks will be using new GIS equipment to update trail maps for the parks. Staff has begun marking maps for trails at Piney Run Park and will continue at Union Mills and Gillis Falls. The goal is to mark all trails within the parks. Once the trails have been marked using the GIS equipment, updated trail maps will be available.

**Volunteer Hall of Fame Guideline Review:**

We are now in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of recognizing Hall of Fame volunteers. We have the option to continue to induct up to 5 members into the Hall of Fame each year or reduce that number to 3 as originally stated. Jeff Degitz’s concern with reducing that number to 3 is that we may never catch up and be able to induct all the deserving volunteers. Carolyn Garber made a motion to continue to induct up to 5 members into the Volunteer Hall of Fame and Kristin Darby seconded that motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Tony Rosas made a motion to place nominees that are not inducted that year into a pool and held for a future year. The pool can only increase by 1 nominee for each Rec Council per year. Kristin Darby seconded that motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Other Business:**

Carolyn Garber inquired about the term “cost recovery” which was recently mentioned in an article in the Carroll County Times. Jeff briefly explained that this is in regards to programs that generate revenue to help offset their expenses.

**Public Comments:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at Bear Branch Nature Center. On a motion by Derek Ludow, John Marks seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

---

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

*Laura Tawes*

---

Laura Tawes, Secretary