

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
May 27, 2020

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: John Marks, Derek Ludlow, Kristin Darby, Tony Rosas, Brad Rockwood, Tom Long, Caitlin Christ, Donald Gerkin, Michael Rodgers, Michael Duffy

Members Excused: Carolyn Garber

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Trish Cross, Will Brozy, Laura Tawes

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 27, 2020 through GoToMeeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by the board chair Tom Long.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Marks moved to approve the February 26th, 2020 meeting minutes; Michael Rogers seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **Staff Change** - Please welcome our new Park Development Manager, Will Brozy, who joined our department on March 19. Will provided a brief update on the Deer Park, Westminster Veterans Memorial Park and Double Pipe Creek projects.
2. **South Carroll Dog Park** – now has over 150 members and more continue to come in daily; has quickly surpassed BCDP in membership and at this rate will likely reach 200 members this summer
3. **Strategic Plan Update** – Caitlyn Christ, Tom Long and Don Gerkin have begun working with staff on a committee to draft an update the department's strategic plan, last updated in 2017. The goal is to have the update completed on and approved by full Advisory Board in October of 2020.
4. **Taneytown Rail Trail** – We have begun working with an outside legal counsel to coordinate railbanking efforts between Genesee & Wyoming, Maryland Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board and Carroll County.
5. **Town Program Open Space Projects** – 25% of Carroll County's POS funding is allocated each year for municipal projects. The 2021 allocation is typically split evenly

with 4 towns receiving funding every other year. This next round of funding will be for Hampstead, Manchester, Mount Airy & Sykesville. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the State budget, it is possible that the County's overall POS allocation could change, including the amount for the towns.

6. **Appreciation of Staff** – thanks to staff who have been working through this pandemic, on site or from home; keeping parks open, processing dog park memberships or refunds, wearing masks and promoting social distancing and working during these very uncertain times

COVID-19 Impact and Updates:

- Previously closed facilities/amenities such as both dog parks, Hap Baker Firearms Facility, playgrounds, boating at Piney Run have reopened
- Permits for Athletic fields, pavilions, cancelled through June 30 and programs remain closed
- Lisa spoke about rec councils, program refunds, camps, modified programs such as drive through zoo, Run for the Roll, etc.
- Trish talked about online presence, program videos, etc.

RMC still closed to the public with a limited staff presence at this time

Fox Hunting in County Parks:

- To allow this activity, we would need to amend Parks Ordinance which would require public hearing and Commissioner approval (harassment of wildlife, off trail usage)
- Area requested in Gillis Falls recently approved for tree planting by Bureau of Resource Management and includes area for Phase II of Gillis Falls Trail
- After discussion, motion was made by Derek Ludlow to not recommend changing Parks Ordinance to allow this activity; motion seconded by Kristin Darby and passed unanimously.

Capital Project Input:

- Input solicited from public (2019 Needs Assessment Survey), Citizen Input online, Rec Councils, Rec & Parks Staff and new this year – requested info from all 8 municipalities
 - Needs Assessment/Public Input: restrooms, trails most requested items
 - Rec. Councils: Lighting at Cape Horn Park, turf field at any location
 - Rec & Parks Staff Planning/Design for new Taneytown property; CCSC shade structures, Sandymount restrooms, Gillis Falls Trail Phase II
- Towns: Taneytown Memorial Park expansion – development of 22 acres that was previously purchased using County POS acquisition funds; possible Town POS project
Taneytown Memorial Park court repairs/resurfacing; possible Community Parks & Playground project
Taneytown Bollinger Park – one-mile long nature trail in new park; possible town POS project

Hampstead Chief Sites Park upgrade – replace playground, picnic tables & benches, trail improvements; possible Community Parks & Playground project

Jeff indicated that the town park renovation projects could use CPP funding which is a 100% grant that could be available next year (as opposed to 6 years out) and would not take away resources for county park projects

Jeff indicated that for new development projects, towns could use their Town POS funding towards them so that they could be funded sooner and would not take away resources for county park projects

After brief discussion, the consensus was to have the department contact Taneytown and Hampstead to share those recommended avenues for funding

Other Business: John Marks made a motion to name Kristin Darby as Vice Chair of the Advisory Board. Derek Ludlow seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24th, 2020 at 7:30 p.m unless it needs to be changed to a virtual meeting. On a motion by John Marks, Michael Rogers seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary