

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 22, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: John Marks, Tony Rosas, Caitlin Christ, Michael Rodgers, Michael Duffy, Derek Ludlow

Members Excused: Carolyn Garber, Donald Gerkin, Tom Long, Brad Rockwood, Kristin Darby

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Will Brozy, Laura Tawes

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on July 22, 2020 through GoToMeeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by the Ex-Officio Member Jeff Degitz.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Derek Ludlow moved to approve the June 24th, 2020 meeting minutes; Caitlin Christ seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **COVID-19 Update** – Youth and adult sports have resumed; both park and school outdoor facilities being utilized now; nature centers plan to reopen July 31; waiting to hear about school plans in fall which would affect Outdoor School at Hashawha as well as indoor facility usage at schools; programs operating at Robert Moton Center outside of office work hours only
2. **Capital Project Update**
 - Deer Park still ahead of schedule; paving overlay to completed in coming weeks
 - Westminster Veterans Memorial Park construction underway with large equipment on site
 - Double Pipe Creek Park kayak launch came in with higher bid and will be requesting transfer of funds to move forward with bid award, pending commissioner approval
 - Winfield Park moving towards completion with removal of sediment trap underway
 - Meeting with design firm at Gillis Falls this week to review plans
3. **Patapsco Regional Greenway** – Continuing to work with Department of Planning and Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) regarding a multi-jurisdictional effort to establish trails in Patapsco Valley Greenway; focusing on area between downtown

Sykesville to Freedom Park and on to Patapsco Valley State Park; preliminary discussion focused on getting planning/design funds for segments with construction effort to follow

4. **Virtual Programming** – Staff are continuing to explore methods to increased online programming efforts that can be used during pandemic as well as in future
5. **New Registration Program** – the department received approval to purchase license for a new registration program that will greatly enhance capabilities for administrative staff to collect registrations and process payments and donations
6. **Land Acquisition Site Evaluation Process** – Thanks for Will Brozy, a new land acquisition evaluation matrix has been developed. The goal of this effort is to facilitate a consistent, objective review of properties for possible acquisition for future parkland.

Capital Projects Review & Prioritization:

The Capital Projects for FY26 were ranked based on importance to the Advisory Board. After a brief discussion, the projects were ranked as follows with a motion to approve by Derek Ludlow and seconded by Michael Duffy.

1. Northwest Area Regional Park Master Plan
2. Gillis Falls Trail Phase II Design and Construction
3. Cape Horn Park Athletic Field Lighting
4. Carroll County Sports Complex Shade Structures
5. Sandymount Park Waterless Restroom

Review of Community Investment Program (CIP):

The Advisory Board reviewed the FY21 to FY26 CIP budget. Derek Ludlow inquired if there was a possibility to move the NW Rail Trail project forward to begin work on the project sooner. Due to the fact that it could take as long as a year to obtain the corridor, Tony Rosas suggested that the board leave the project on the CIP where it stands with a possibility to reexamine next year.

After requesting input from the Board regarding any possible movement forward or back in the plan due to possible changes in funding levels, the consensus was to move forward the Northwest Trail if funding allowed. The consensus was to move back lighting of fields #4 & #5 at Sports Complex if funding is less than expected.

Other Business:

Derek Ludlow requested bringing a bush hog into Hashawha to widen some of the trails. This will be brought to Brad Rogers' attention.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020 at 7:30 p.m, unless it needs to be changed to a virtual meeting. On a motion by Derek Ludlow, Tony Rosas seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary