

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
February 22, 2017**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, Mike Rodgers, Carolyn Garber, Derek Ludlow, Tony Rosas, Dave Dolch, Sue Ruppert, John Marks, and Bill Bramble

Members Excused: Tom Long

Staff Present: Candy Sharrer, Ric Buchanan and Lisa Carroll

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on February 22, 2017 at the County Office Building's public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by board chair Derek Ludlow.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Marks moved to approve the October 26, 2016 meeting minutes, Mike Rodgers seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Piney Run Park Gifts** – Piney Run Park received two significant gifts through the Park Legacy Fund. A \$30,000 donation was received in late 2016 for a new gazebo, signage and birding telescope from Kenneth Wayman and Catherine McAuliffe. This month, we received a \$5,000 donation from the estate of Erma Gebb, a former park employee and volunteer that may be used for an improved kayak launch area near the nature center.
- **Piney Run/Arts Council Heron Sculpture** – The Carroll County Arts Council received a \$5,000 grant towards the heron sculpture at Piney Run. The Piney Run Council will also be supporting the project and an article appeared recently in the CC Times with local artist, Virginia Sperry.
- **Deer Park Land Acquisition** – Carroll County recently acquired 18.85 acres adjacent to Deer Park that was formerly owned by the Archdiocese of Baltimore. This property will be used for an expansion of Deer Park that will include additional athletic fields.
- **Friends of South Carroll Dog Park** – A group of citizens have now met twice to discuss developing a County dog park in Eldersburg. Their first meeting attracted over 35 residents and they have created a Facebook page with 201 members. We are working with the group and Freedom Park and South Carroll Sr. & Community Center are being considered as possible locations. Site would need to be approved by Commissioners.
- **Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan** – Draft plan was submitted to State – Carroll was one of only 6 counties to meet December 2016 deadline; currently waiting for state comments before plan is finalized and shared with elected officials and posted online
- **Maryland Sportsmanship Month** – HB 576 and SB 603 would require the Governor to annually proclaim March as Maryland Sportsmanship Month. The Department is submitting a letter to the general assembly in support of this legislation
- **Program Open Space Update** – Senate bill 896 has been submitted to give local jurisdictions such as Carroll who have attained their land acquisition goals to have more flexibility with how

they spend those funds (acquisition or development instead of any mandated percentage for acquisition). We are communicating our support as is the Maryland Association of Counties.

- **Request for Aquatic Facility in Westminster** – A letter was received from a Westminster resident requesting consideration for an aquatic facility to be located in Westminster due to high costs associated with existing swimming facilities.
- **Upcoming Public Meetings** – Westminster Veterans Memorial Park Meeting at Westminster Baptist Church on Crest Lane in Westminster on February 23 at 7 pm ; Westminster Community Pond trail extension meeting at County Office Building on Center Street in Westminster on March 2 at 7 pm
- **Budget Process** – Staff will be meeting with Commissioners on April 4 to discuss items not included in the recommended budget including increase to Arts Council grant, costs & revenue associated with increasing length of open season at Piney Run Park as well as Trail Development line item that would have provided more flexibility with project timing & grants; copy of recommended CIP will be distributed to Board

SELF-HELP PROJECT REQUESTS:

- *North Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Mike Hernandez*
Mike is requesting softball infield mix and fencing for safety reasons.
Total project cost: \$6,823.97; Rec. Council Contribution: \$1,105.97; County Funds: \$5,718.00
- *Taneytown Athletic Association – Presented by Richard Krebs, Jr.*
Richard is requesting infield mix for Taneytown Memorial Park.
Total project cost: \$13,120.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$2,780.00; County Funds: \$10,340.00
- *Westminster Area Recreation Council – Presented by John Lowe*
John is requesting scoreboards for Grindstone Wrestling. Currently there are not enough score boards for all teams/sports playing.
Total project cost: \$5,000.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$1,250.00; County Funds: \$3,750.00
- *Winfield Recreation Council – Presented by Chrissy Woodall*
Chrissy is requesting field improvements at Krimgold Park for safety reasons and lack of field space.
Total project cost: \$5,100.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$1,175.00; County Funds: \$3,925.00
- *Winfield Recreation Council – Presented by Larry Holston*
Larry is requesting a new batting cage as the old one is deteriorating.
Total project cost: \$3,970.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$952.50; County Funds: \$3,017.50
- *Woodbine Recreating Council – Presented by Kenny Stockdale*
Kenny is requesting infield mix at Saltbox Park to improve field conditions.
Total project cost: \$2,200.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$330.00; County Funds: \$1,870.00

Westminster Area Recreation Council's second request was withdrawn from consideration by the Advisory Board due to no representative being present. Total county funds for all remaining six projects come to \$28,620.50. Jeff Degitz shared that the total county funds for all of the requests is well within the budget.

Carolyn Garber motioned to approve funding for all six projects that had representatives present. Sue Ruppert seconded the motion. The projects were passed 8-1 with Derek Ludlow casting the dissenting vote.

Jeff Degitz shared that the next step in this process is to take the board's recommendation to the County Commissioners for their approval of the fund transfers.

WESTMINSTER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (WVMP) UPDATE:

Jeff Degitz shared that the next public meeting regarding the WVMP is Thursday, February 23rd 7pm held at the Westminster Baptist Church. With the recent purchase of property over at Deer Park, WVMP's current updated plan is for a passive park with space reserved for possible future athletic fields. Two playing fields will instead be added to Deer Park meeting the immediate needs for Westminster Area Recreation Council. This approach gives the Department of Public Works time to find a remedy and funding to address traffic issues at Crest Lane and Hook Road intersection.

YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL DISCUSSION:

Jeff Degitz shared that concussions in youth sports have been on the rise and are a growing concern. In an effort to educate the volunteers, coaches and parents Jeff Degitz and Lisa Carroll started conversations with Recreation Presidents and youth football programs roughly two months ago regarding the issue. Discussion included issues the councils have faced and how the department can support them and address concerns that arise. Commissioner Frasier shared that there are currently no "base line" tests given to youth athletes other than high school sports in the event of a possible concussion. His recommendation is that flag football be encouraged through middle school years. Jeff Degitz shared that conversations with the recreation councils continue in efforts to educate all involved in youth programs of concussion awareness.

NOMINATION OF VICE CHAIR:

Jeff Degitz asked that the nominating committee discuss and bring forward to the March meeting a nomination for vice chair.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jeff Degitz shared that the next Advisory Board meeting will be held at Bear Branch Nature Center on March 22nd, 1:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Judy Baker and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Candy Sharrer

Candy Sharrer, Secretary