

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
June 28, 2017**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, Mike Rodgers, Dave Dolch, Carolyn Garber, Tony Rosas, John Marks, Caitlin Christ and Sue Ruppert

Members Excused: Bill Bramble, Tom Long and Derek Ludlow

Staff Present: Candy Sharrer, Ric Buchanan and Lisa Carroll

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on June 28, 2017 at the County Office Building's public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by board chair Mike Rodgers.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Judy Baker moved to approve the May 24, 2017 meeting minutes with corrections, John Marks seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Town Program Open Space (POS) Projects** – 25% of County POS funds allocated each year go to the local towns. The following projects will be submitted for FY 2018, pending Commissioner approval on June 29:
 - New Windsor – Atlee Ridge Tot Lot & Main Street Park improvements
 - Taneytown – Bollinger Park Development
 - Union Bridge – Community Center upgrades
 - Westminster – Greens Tot Lot Renovation Phase 2
- **Westminster Community Pond Trail Extension** – Trail project was approved at June 20 meeting with construction anticipated later this year.
- **Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) Update** – The updated plan was shared with the County Commissioners on June 8, 2017 and has been submitted to Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Ric Buchanan and Candy Sharrer provided valuable assistance with this project.
- **Helping Hands Initiative** – Several organizations including Youth Services Bureau, McDaniel College and Girls Scouts of America have expressed an interest in participating.
- **Dog Park Update** – Discussion among members at Bennett Cerf Dog Park regarding division into large/small dog areas; no overwhelming consensus among members and park is already small so no change was made. A site plan for a proposed new dog park at Freedom Park was submitted to DNR and we are awaiting comments/approval.
- **Charles Carroll Recreation Council** – The council is struggling with some internal politics and dissension due to issues between current and past volunteers; very bad timing with the recent closure of school and new planned community center. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and will be meeting with remaining executive board members soon

- **Recognition of Staff Efforts** – We would like to highlight the efforts of several staff:
 - Lisa Carroll has initiated the new “Rec It in the Park” initiative which has involved bringing families out to different parks to participate in a variety of family activities. In addition, Lisa has recently worked with the successful Lax Max tournament and supported new marketing outreach efforts with information booths at multiple fireman carnivals this summer.
 - Ric Buchanan has helped with the completion of nearly 60 capital, self-help and park restoration projects in the past 12 months. All projects have been completed quickly in a cost efficient manner and most importantly, with a high level of quality. Ric has also played a major role in the updating of the Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) – a year long process that has been undertaken in some other counties by paid consultants.

CAPITAL PROJECTS PRESENTATION:

Ric Buchanan shared a brief overview of the new capital requests that need to be added to the CIP.

- **Charles Carroll – Tennis and Basketball Court Revitalization:** Remove and replace paving, provide new court coatings and new fence fabric. *Total Estimated Cost, \$140,602*
- **Piney Run Park – Paving for Pavilions 4 & 6:** Pave existing stone road and parking areas associated with pavilions 4 & 6. *Total Estimated Cost, \$199,817*
- **Leister Park – Phase 1.5:** Construct an access road, new parking lot, multipurpose play field and additional walking trail. *Total Estimated Cost, \$838,380*
- **Hashawha/Bear Branch – Paving:** Repave existing paved areas around Hashawha Environmental Center and Bear Branch Nature Center. *Total Estimated Cost, \$472,666*

The Board subcommittee will review and prioritize the capital projects, and bring their suggestions to the next Board meeting in July.

STRATEGIC PLAN (UPDATE):

Jeff Degitz shared that the subcommittee met on June 7th to discuss goals and will reconvene at a later date to discuss strategic plan objectives. The subcommittee has been emailed a revised copy for review. Recommendations on objectives should be forwarded to Candy Sharrer a week in advance before next subcommittee meeting. The final updates will be brought to the September Advisory Board Meeting for final review and approval.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Lisa Carroll shared that July is Recreation & Parks month. Park Pursuit Magical History Tour will begin July 1st and the finale party for participants will close the event August 18. Rec’ In It in the parks is a new program supplying community events and will continue through summer. Jeff Degitz also shared that the Month of Sunday’s concert series will start in July; all held at Westminster City Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Judy Baker and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Candy Sharrer