

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
May 22, 2019**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, Mike Rodgers, Tony Rosas, Kristin Darby, John Marks, and Donald Gerkin

Members Excused: Carolyn Garber, Tom Long, Derek Ludlow, Dave Dolch and Caitlin Christ

Staff Present: Candy Sample and Ric Buchanan

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 22, 2019 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 Judy Baker.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

John Marks moved to approve the March 27, 2019 meeting minutes, Tony Rosas seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Program Open Space** – The Governor's approved budget once again included full funding for Program Open Space. Carroll County is scheduled to receive \$1,298,044 and per a long-standing town/county agreement, the municipalities will receive 25% of that total. The four towns scheduled to use those funds for FY20 are Westminster, New Windsor, Union Bridge and Taneytown.
- **County Funds for Dog Parks** – Open session agenda item with Commissioners scheduled for June 27 to review County position on using county funds to develop or improve dog parks. Previous Boards have limited support to providing a location with community needing to raise funds necessary for development.
- **County Budget Process** – Informational community meetings and public budget hearing have been held and one budget work session remains to address changes (if any). Trail Development funding has been eliminated moving forward. Some questions remain regarding Charles Carroll Community Center and North Carroll High School turf field projects.

- **Trail Improvements** – Staff are working on various trail related issues at Piney Run and Hashawha/Union Mills areas. Record rainfall and aging infrastructure have contributed to problems and in some cases, major repairs or rerouting of trails may be needed. We will also be working on updating trail maps after any changes or additions are completed to ensure accuracy.
- **Maryland DNR Acoustic Bat Surveys** – MD Department of Natural Resources will be conducting acoustic bat surveys at the Westminster Community Pond this year June 24-28. A similar survey was conducted last year at that site.
- **Youth Fishing Rodeos** – The Henry Lysy Youth Fishing Rodeo was held April 28 at the Westminster Community Pond with over 200 attending. Commissioner Frazier helped present awards to winners. The Krimgold Park Youth Fishing Rodeo was held May 19 and over 80 attended. Commissioner Bouchat helped present awards to winners.
- **Fishing/Kayak Launch Sites** – Efforts are underway to secure additional kayak launch locations. One improves existing access to Big Pipe Creek at Hapes Mill Road for an 8-mile float to Double Pipe Creek Park. We are looking at another site in Union Bridge that would support a 9-mile float to Double Pipe Creek Park. Staff are continuing to look at additional areas for acquisition for Little and Big Pipe Creek access.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Bruce Dutterer PLF Golf Tournament: May 31 @ Oakmont Green
 - Art in the Park – Saturday June 1, 2019
 - Lax Max – June 8 & 9, 2019
 - Park Pursuit Kick Off Event – July 1 6 pm @ Farm Museum

Capital Project Update:

- **Bennett Cerf Park bridge replacement** – Project completed, and bridge is open for use
- **Charles Carroll Community Center** – old basketball/tennis court surfacing removed, and paving should be completed in spring with striping 30 days after
- **Winfield Park** – final grading and seeding completed; looking at backstop installation and ribbon cutting in fall after grass is established with no usage until 2020.

FY20 BUDGET UPDATE:

Jeff Degitz shared that the last work session for the commissioners to work on the FY21 Budget will be May 23, 2019. A few items brought up during their meetings/hearings/work sessions were the North Carroll High School Turf Field, Charles Carroll Community Center, and removing Trail Development from the CIP while trail development efforts will still be supported by the commissioners but not with this specific line item.

FY21 CAPITAL BUDGET PREVIEW AND DISCUSSION:

Jeff Degitz shared that this year we have added a step to the process in an attempt to broaden input on the budget. This year the department reached out to our local volunteer recreation councils for input and sent out a need's assessment survey to the community in addition to collecting input from staff members.

The volunteer requests included:

- Friends of Bennett Cerf Dog Park: Lighting and Turf Carpet Replacement
- Central Carroll Recreation Council: Restoration to the exterior of Sandymount and Deer Park
- North Carroll Recreation Council: Lighted fields at Cape Horn Park, and install Restrooms
- Winfield Recreation Council: Central location for Turf Field, and Restrooms added to Mayeski Park

Carroll County Recreation and Park's staff requests:

- Hashawha Environmental Center: Restoration of Basketball Court, ADA sidewalk improvements, and Octagon building replacement
- Piney Run Park: New Docks due to erosion, Winterize second comfort station, and replace overlook.
- Sports Complex: Bathroom upgrades
- Hap Baker Firearms Facility: New Office (replace old trailer with building)

Needs Assessment Surveys:

- Devote 1/3 of funds towards trail projects
- #1 priority was improved restrooms
- Community events center/indoor track/aquatic facility would be best supported as public/private venture
- Acquire land in underserved areas

Jeff shared several ways the projects could be funded:

- Community Investment Plan (C.I.P.)
- Parks Operating Budget
- Self Help Program Funding
- Park Restoration Funding
- Enterprise fund (Hap Baker Firearms Facility)

New projects are scheduled to be placed in the CIP for FY 2026. Jeff asked the Board to keep in mind for future reference that in FY 2027 multiple playgrounds will need updated/replaced which will cost roughly \$900,000 with hopes that doing them at the same time will produce a cost savings.

TOBACCO FREE PARKS POLICY & SIGNAGE:

Jeff Degitz shared that the North Carroll Recreation Council requested the “No Tobacco” in the parks policy be revisited. Currently the compliance to this rule is voluntary plus vaping was not as relevant when the rule was placed. Discussions will continue with Commissioners and Advisory Board as to the best way to move forward with this policy as enforcing the rule is difficult with no staff present.

MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:

OTHER BUSINESS:

John Hubbs (volunteers by clearing pond drains at Krimgold Park), stood and thanked the County for support in trapping/relocating the beavers. John also spoke in favor of more playing fields for Freedom Area Recreation Council athletic programs. Jeff shared that currently all sites in that area owned by the county are fully developed.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Donald Gerkin and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Candy Sample

Candy Sample, Secretary