

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 25, 2025

Robert Moton Center

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Gary Davis, Austin Johnstone, Mark Schmidt, Kristin Darby, Nadine Rosendale, Lynn Karr-Kratz, John Woodley

Members Excused: David Ferguson, Michael Duffy, Anita Taylor, Donald Gerkin

Ex-Officio Member Present: Bob Hicks, Director

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Ashleigh Smith, Will Brozy, Brad Rogers

Esteemed Guests: Eric King, Director of Carroll County Public High Schools

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on, July 23, 2025, in the Meeting Room at the Robert Moton Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Davis.

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome and introductions were exchanged around the room.

Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the June minutes was made by Ms. Darby, it was seconded by Ms. Karr-Kratz, the vote was unanimous.

Director's Report- Mr. Hicks

Staff Update –

- Maintenance Technician, Community Parks – interviews start tomorrow
- Community Coordinator – posting closed 7/23
- Park Assistant, CCSC – position still open
- HEC Naturalist – open position
- Full-Time Ranger starting at the end of the month
- Human Resource completed a job description and classification that went into effect 7/1/2025 for the entire county. Each position was review and update according based on the new classification scale and job description.
- Human Resources has started to work on Career Ladders.

Programs and Upcoming Events –

- Car Fest was on 7/12. Great turn out with over \$1,000 in attendance. 150 show cars.
- ADA Picnic at Sandymount Park this past Tuesday on 7/22.
- Saturday, August 23rd – Kidz Fest - toiletry drive for Carroll County Public Schools

Marketing Update – update handed out to members.

Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a kickoff meeting to begin the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). This is required to be updated every 5 years to be eligible for Program Open Space funding. The plan is due early 2027.

Strategic Plan – every three years with advisory board.

Indoor Space Allocation Sub-Committee Report

No update. The Committee has not had any additional meetings. Next update will be October.

Review of CIP and Prioritization of New Capital Request

Will Brozy presented photos of completed capital projects from the last year. Projects included Field Lights at Cape Horn, Freedom Park Pavilion and Parking Lot, Freedom Challenge Course, Bear Branch Pavilion, Piney Run Pavilion 2, Piney Run Parking Lot Paving.

Current and upcoming projects for Piney Run Park:

- Upper Playground this fall
- Seawall this winter
- Lower Bathroom – water from parking lot is resolved. Interior is getting update through facilities. Staff will be working on outside of the facility.
- Boathouse Replacement in the coming years
- Pavilion Replacement in the coming years

FY32 Project Request:

Four projects presented by Will Brozy and Brad Rogers:

1. Hashawha – Raptor Mews: Replacement of the 30-year-old Raptor Mews to provide a functional and welcoming experience for staff and visitors. The Raptor Mews is an integral educational component of the Hashawha Environmental Center.
2. Piney Run Park – Patio and Outdoor Classroom Replacement: Replace the 45-year-old Nature Center patio and outdoor classroom to provide a more welcoming visitor experience, cohesive and barrier free pedestrian circulation and allow for the expansion of educational programming opportunities.
3. Freedom Park – Field Light Replacements: Replacement of the existing light poles and High-Pressure Sodium lamps with high efficiency LEDs utilizing the existing underground wiring for three baseball fields and two multipurpose fields.
 - a. Discussion to only replace lights and do not replace the poles to save funding.
4. Multiple Parks – Ball field Restoration: This project includes the restoration of two ball fields that are over 20 years old.

Discussion regarding replacement concession buildings at some of the parks. For example, Mayeski Concession Building. This building is on school property so that causes issues, and the facility is not in good condition so most likely would need to demolition and rebuilt. Freedom Park building is also having issues. Drainage issue with water coming into the buildings. Are these in 5–6-year plan or even a 10-year plan.

Grading projects can be addressed using Park Restoration funding.

Motion to prioritize capital project as listed below by Ms. Darby, seconded by Mr. Woodley, the vote was unanimous.

1. Hashawha
2. Piney Run Park
3. Freedom Park Field Light Replacement
4. Ball Field Restoration

Commissioners Corner: N/A

Other Business:

Maryland Off Road Enthusiast (MORE) to come and present to the board at the March meeting at Hashawha.

Public Comments: N/A

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held September 24, 2025, at 7:00 PM, location Carroll County Office Building.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Davis, it was seconded by Ms. Darby, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hicks

Bob Hicks, Director

Ashleigh Smith

Ashleigh Smith, Secretary