

## **RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**February 26, 2025**

**Carroll County Office Building**

### **Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** John Woodley, Nadine Rosendale, Austin Johnstone, Donald Gerkin, David Ferguson, Lynn Karr-Kratz, Gary Davis, Kristin Darby, Anita Taylor, Mark Schmidt

**Members Excused:** Michael Duffy

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Bob Hicks, Director

**Staff Present:** Lisa Carroll, Ashleigh Smith

**Esteemed Guests:** N/A

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on, February 26, 2025, in the Meeting Room at the Carroll County Office Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by Mr. Davis.

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Welcome and introductions were exchanged around the room.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The motion to approve the October minutes was made by Mr. Johnstone, it was seconded by Mr. Woodley, the vote was unanimous.

### **Self-Help Project Requests:**

**CC Equestrian Council** – Representative Carolyn Garber  
PA System and Miscellaneous items - \$3,632.00

**Charles Carroll Recreation Council** – Representative Kathy Lowe  
Charles Carroll Baseball Infield Mix at Charles Carroll Park - \$7,138.00

**North Carroll Rec Council** – Representative Bethany Fish  
Colt's Football Concession Building/Shed at Christmas Tree Park - \$31,790.00 (Priority 2)

Mr. Gerkin – Could programs put in more funds if needed?

NCRC – Yes

CCBB – Yes

CCEC – Yes

**Westminster Area Rec Council** – Representative Tony Frazetti  
Westminster Girls Softball Fence Extension at Jaycee's Park - \$22,860.00 (Priority 2)

Mr. Frazetti - Yes, if need be, they would provide more funds.

**Winfield Rec Council** – Representative Kat Hozik  
Winfield Youth Football/Cheer Bleachers at Mayeski Park - \$18,000.00

Mr. Hozik – Yes, they could provide additional money.

**Central Carroll Rec Council – Representative Frank Roelke**

Carroll County Government did not have this project accounted for. Director Hicks advised Mr. Roelke to present, and we will discuss how we will move forward with the Advisory Board. Finksburg Baseball Roof Replacement on Storage Shed Sandymount Park - \$24,769.00

Westminster Area Rec Council – We could do our project in phases due to the limited funding. We will take anything they can get.

**Director's Report- Director Hicks**

**Staffing Updates:**

**Piney Run** – Hiring Park Assistants to prepare for park opening

**Programs and Upcoming Events – Lisa Carroll:**

We received a youth serving community grant from the health department.

Program Goals:

- Raise Awareness: Educate Carroll County youth about the health risks associated with tobacco and vaping. Your Life, Your Health, Your Choice.
- Promote Healthy Lifestyles: Encourage participation in outdoor recreation activities such as sports, recreational activities and outdoor pursuits to develop healthy habits. Your Life, Your Health, Your Choice.

We will be doing 7 community outreach events, announcing the winners of the art competition. \$200 for Middle School and \$200 for High School.

St. Patrick's Dance, Adaptive Rec, March 14

TR Day at the Farm Museum, June 10<sup>th</sup>

April 30, Youth Fishing Rodeo, WCP, April 30

Youth Fishing Rodeo, Krimgold Park, May 18

Carroll County Car Fest, 11-3 pm, Farm Museum – Poison Whiskey, \$20 per car. \$5.00 wrist band for alcohol, July 12

Kidz' Funfest with the Farm Museum - \$10 per car, August 23, 11-3 p.m.

Hashawha, Maple Fest, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Marketing Update:**

Director Hicks - marketing report passed out. Reach out with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Davis – Is the LED project still on?

Director Hicks – yes, they are still planned for Deer Park and Mayeski.

Mr. Ferguson – What happen to Freedom?

Director Hicks – I am still working with BGE to see if the grant will cover this park. A portion of Freedom replacement lights are in the Rec and Parks CIP FY26-31 plan.

**Capital Project Update:**

Update provided by Director Hicks-

Piney Run Bulkhead – Starting next Winter 2025

Piney Run Paving project – In progress  
Piney Run Tennis Court Conversion and Basketball court resurface – In progress  
Piney Run Upper Playground – Waiting for State approval.  
Sports Complex Improvements – Waiting for State approval

Mr. Ferguson – Can we work with BGE to keep the light bulbs because they are so difficult to get at Deer Park and Mayeski Park. The bulbs that we need currently can't be sold.

Director Hicks – Yes, we can see what we can do.

Director Hicks – Maryland Legislative Services proposed to eliminate Program Open Space funding through fiscal year 2026 to 2029. MRPA scheduled a meeting today at 4pm with all directors and municipalities reps regarding this proposal. The public can submit a letter to legislator regarding this proposal.

### **Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair (Election at March Meeting)**

Nomination for Chair Mr. Davis.

Nomination for Vice-Chair Mr. Johnstone.

### **Other Business:**

Ms. Karr-Kratz – Are there any updates on Outdoor School?

Director Hicks – It is back in the budget; I believe for one year.

Ms. Carroll – Phone call received from Ray Prokop regarding a rumor that Rec Councils would not have access to facilities, he assured me that the rumor is false, and the coordination will move to a new position.

### **Self-Help Discussion:**

Priority two projects are the largest and are at municipal parks

Agreement to request additional funding from councils for the two priority two projects, NCRC and WARC.

Motion by Ferguson to fully fund all priority one projects and reduce the County contribution for both priority two projects by \$1,323.50 to meet the February 2025 Self Help funding allocation, it was seconded by Mr. Gerkin, and the vote was unanimous.

Agreement to not include Central Carroll Rec Council project to replace a shed roof at Sandymount Park.

### **Public Comments:**

Karen Sparks, two Directors and coach

Central Carroll Basketball – Other representatives directors and coaches

Asking to have a middle school gym added to Central Carroll Rec Council gym space allocation. Preference would be Westminster Middle Main Gym in addition to the assigned elementary schools.

Do not have a middle school court for programs. Using an elementary school gym for older programs. Multiple blackout dates that the gyms can't be used. Two gyms to one

were shut down for four weeks. Have had to move 50% of games/practices due to lack of gym space. Westminster Area Rec Council was providing space but stopped providing. They have tried every resource possible to make our program run. Program registration is limited and do have to turn down kids. We are the only council using elementary gyms for older programs.

Ms. Carroll – Friends of Recreation and Parks meeting; Other councils that are speaking out about limited space. Development from the meeting will be to create a sub-committee to look at gym usage across the County. Rep from each Rec Council and put together a plan to present to Bob and Advisory Board. Whittle Equipment, unfortunately, we do not have the schedule for this. Mechanicsville is the same time every year.

Mr. Davis – Start a Carroll County League.

Ms. Carroll – This topic has been brought up.

Mr. Davis – At one time the County did handle scheduling the gym space. Spoke to two of the Commissioners about it.

Ms. Sparks – Can't build a program with space that is offered to us.

Coach – Over time they have been pushed out of the middle school. We are constantly being pushed out and being told no.

Mr. Gerkin – How are the gyms allocations?

Ms. Carroll – Based on location, where program is located in the County.

Mr. Davis – Glad the county has a sub-committee to work through this issue. What is the timeframe?

Ms. Carroll – Hoping this is resolved for next winter. Then this may bring up the topic of field space.

Mr. Sparks – Rec Council 200+ kids in the program.

Ms. Carroll – Next meeting April. Hoping to have an update in April.

Mr. Gerkin offered to be a part of sub-committee.

Public Comment – Why aren't the Friends of Carroll County Rec and Parks meetings open to the public?

Ms. Carroll – They are open to public. Helpful to have someone that oversees a program on the meeting.

East Middle School started an archery program that pushed the schedule. They have right of first refusal. Councils are using gym space for offseason sports.

Mr. Gerkin – What gives them the authority to determine who has which gym?

Ms. Carroll – It's a policy. The Advisory Board can change.

Mr. Roelke – Friends program is to help with situations like this. Recommend that more people from Advisory Board get involved on the committee.

Community coordinators reaching out to collect more information from Rec Councils regarding basketball programs and space.

### **Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held March 26, 2025, at 12:30PM, location at Bear Branch Nature Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Davis, it was seconded by Mr. Gerkin, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned, 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bob Hicks*

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Bob Hicks, Director

*Ashleigh Smith*

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Ashleigh Smith, Secretary