

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 19, 2017 – 7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046**

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Tom Franklin; Dan Tracy; Dave Brown; Edward Coleman; Joanne Kiebler; Jonathan Gresham

Members Absent:

Christine O'Connor; Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair;

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Call to Order:

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Tracy to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Gresham. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Directors Report:

Mr. Byrd reported that we had our Capital Budget work session this morning and believes that there will not be any more changes at this point. It is a continuation budget with the project that we started last year including Troy Park and Blandair Park. The pool design for the North Laurel Community Center was also included.

Mr. Byrd reported that the Operating Budget will be given at the County Executive Citizens Hearing tonight. There is an increase this year but it is mostly fix cost. After this year, we should have less auditing issues.

Mr. Byrd passed out a hand out on the legislation update from Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) office. It talks about the bills that involve the Recreation and Parks issues. The bills that we were supporting did not pass.

Mr. Byrd reported that we are going to the planning board tomorrow night for the Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan.

Mr. Byrd report that Mr. Dan Tracy is being appointed for another term with the Board.

Mr. Byrd reported that Mr. Gresham's last meeting is today. Mr. Byrd presented him with a small gift.

Bureau of Parks:

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Heritage
 - Opening day for the Log Cabin, Firehouse Museum and Ellicott City Colored School, Restored, May 6, 2017.
 - Shakespeare in the Park at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park begins June 16, 2017. The performance will be *The Tempest*.
- GreenFest will be held on April 22, 2017 at Howard Community College.
- Megan Mills coordinated with Bob Marrietta of Howard Community College to complete a "Scholarship Planting" on Howard Community College grounds during GreenFest through the Turf to Trees program.
- Deer trapping operations for the Deer Collar Study continued in March. Most of the month has been spent dealing with deer trap study paperwork and assisting with trapping night events. Trapping is actively occurring at Cedar Lane Park (5), MPEA (2) and Wincopin Trail (5). Although the intent was to also trap at Blandair and Rockburn, it has been decided to concentrate on the existing sites and trap next year at the other two. To date, a total of 12 does have been radio collared and accounted for. Trapping will continue through the month of April. The target goal is to get 10 deer collared at each site.

- 2016-2017 Deer Management harvest 239 (deer management–129, sharpshooting–80, extra hunts–30).

Horticulture and Land Management Division (HLMD)

- HLMD and volunteers conducted a spring planting at the native Tree Arboretum on April 8, 2017 to include a collection of American Holly cultivars.
- HLMD is very busy renovating the formal garden at Belmont Manor and Historic Parks in preparation for the wedding season – sodding, mulching, replanting, landscaping back of manor house.

Park Operations Division

- Belmont's first wedding of the season is on April 22, 2017.
- Bicycle skills park at Rockburn Branch Park opened on March 4, 2017.
- Special Projects Section – This team handles transporting things like tables and chairs for different events. They handle set ups for ribbon cutting and ground breaking events. Most of the banners that we see throughout the County are hung by this crew. They also transport the show mobile for Summer Concerts in the park. The team also transport things for childcare. This team only consist of two full-time staff and one contingent employee.

Bureau of Capital Projects:

Mr. Delerme introduced Bryan Moody who is our new Senior Administrative Analyst. Mr. Moody used to work in our Natural Resource Division for about 11 years.

Mr. Delerme reported that the playground at Huntington Park has been installed. There may be a ribbon cutting on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Delerme stated that the 2-full size pickleball courts at Atholton Park are almost complete.

Mr. Delerme reported that they are working on some patch work over at Kiwanis-Wallas Hall. We are also doing some work at Centennial Park as well.

Mr. Delerme reported that the bunkers at Timbers of Troy Golf course is completed and the irrigation system is up and running. Pre-opening is May 10,

2017. It will officially open to the public on May 11, 2017.

Mr. Delorme stated that the tent at Belmont has been up for a couple weeks and the patio is completed. Our staff just completed the blue stone patio around the aqua garden.

Mr. Delorme stated that Troy Park is coming along and will hopefully be complete in September and complete Blandair in August.

Mr. Delorme reported that we will be seeing some work done on the ball field lights at Rockburn Park. There were four poles that are weak and need to be replaced. During the summer, we are going to replace all the lights at Rockburn Park.

Bureau of Recreation:

Ms. Wetherald reported on the updated summer camp statistics, including our top ten camps. These are going great with 1,300 camp sections that we offer. We are now able to expand our Junior Counselor program.

Ms. Wetherald presented our new summer camp brochure that shows the available camps by week. We are expecting big results from this.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that we now have a small food cart that will drive around Centennial Park to offer the food sold in the Adventure Shack.

Ms. Wetherald reported on our 25th Wine in the Woods event is coming up. The board should have received an invite for the event.

Ms. Wetherald reported that all our spring events have been successful, including the egg hunt at Rockburn Park and at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center.

Ms. Wetherald reported that we formally got a response about our Self-Assessment. She acknowledges the role that the Board played in preparing for the visit and during the visit. We as a group got 100% of all the standards required. This is an accomplishment that is rare and we are thrilled that we have required this score. A digital copy of the visitor's response will be sent to the Board. We are currently looking to establish new leadership for our 2022 CAPRA

teams.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani stated that we are deep into the budget process right now. It looks like we will have an increase in the budget this year.

Mr. Milani reported that we did well with converting several contingent positions to full-time. We also received a little money for our Therapeutic Recreation fund.

Mr. Milani reported that our rent for the Recreational Licensed Childcare Annex building will be paid for by the County.

Mr. Milani reported that the newly built office space is complete and we will be ordering furniture. There will be 6 additional workspaces in this new office. Mr. Moody's new office space is also finished.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd reported that we had our post season basketball meeting at the end of March. This meeting was held to talk about how things went this year and to discuss how we can make things more efficient for next year. The main issue is the lack of indoor/outdoor space programming. We will continue to have this meeting each year.

New Business:

Dr. Goodman stated that on Saturday May 6, 2017 at the Alpha Ridge Observatory, we will have the ribbon cutting and dedication for the Solar System Walk. He presented a scale model of the solar system that was printed with a 3D printer. The 2nd Annual Solar Fest will be held on July 8, 2017.

Dr. Goodman reported that he attended the Yuri's Night Celebration at the Robinson Nature Center last week. It is an event in commemoration of Yuri Gagarin who became the first human to venture into space on April 12, 1961, and the inaugural launch of the first Space Shuttle on April 12, 1981. This year the Robinson Nature Center received a NASA grant of NASA tool kits. This event was sold out at a 150 people and they had to turn people away. The staff at the Robinson Nature Center did a great job at hosting the event.


Mr. Goodman stated that this Saturday is the dedication of the Chrysalis.

Mr. Byrd stated that we had our annual Kids Fest this past Saturday and it was extremely successful.

Mr. Tracy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary