

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2018- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Dan Tracy, Co-Chair; Dave Brown; Dr. Joel Goodman; Ed Coleman; Samuel Nitkin; Tom Franklin

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; Laura T. Wetherald; Bureau Chief of Recreation; A. Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order:

Ms. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Ramsey to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Dr. Goodman. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Mr. Byrd reported we do not have any public comments.

Director's Report:

Board of Education has moved to Mission Road site for the 13th high school over Troy Park.

The County Executive has assigned a task force for deciding the location for the 14th high school, which Troy Park is a consideration for.

The County took ownership of the Harriett Tubman School. No budget set. \$1.2 million increase in Project Open Space fund.

Bureau of Parks: (given by Mr. Milani):

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- Continue to lose and remove ash trees, grinding stumps due to the recent wind storms
- Staff plantings at Belmont complete
- Staff and contract mowing will begin this month

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Bid has been awarded for the MPEA project. Construction will begin sometime this summer. Trotter Road entrance will be closed for approximately 1-year.
- Megan Mills completed the Arborist Certification course and passed the Exam. Megan is now a Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture
- In March, Robinson staff led 43 programs including:
 - Spring Eggstravaganza for Tots special event
 - MD Master Naturalist training classes (26 participants)
 - opening of the A to Z trail exhibit
 - kick-off for the Center's Eco-Art Residency
 - home school classes
 - elementary and secondary field trips
 - planetarium shows
 - parent/child classes
 - birthday parties
 - Staff served 1,551 participants during these programs and generated \$14,181 in revenue
- Robinson staff continued this month to research different planetarium options for both fixed domes as well as portable domes
- Heritage staff are in discussions with the archaeology section of State Highways Administration for possible collaboration on educational opportunities

- Heritage staff are currently working on completion of grant funded projects for new interpretive signage at the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum
- Docent programs begin in Ellicott City on April 21st
- First wedding of the season at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park is April 28th
- Schooley Mill Park staff are working with Brenda Belensky to plan a 1-acre wild flower planting in the meadow area. Area has been marked, mowed and stumps have been removed. Seed is in and waiting on contractor to till the area to be planted this spring.

Park Operations Division

- Centennial Park Wayfinding project – installation of signs to begin soon. Hope to be completed by June.
- Rockburn Branch Park's bike skills park is now open
- At Belmont:
 - waiting next phase of Conservancy Butterfly Meadow installation
 - received approval from MET for HCC willow hut and nature area
 - meeting with HCC regarding coordination for their school tours and programs
 - tour for non-English speaking Environmental group from Howard County Community College
 - First wedding of the season April 20th

General

- Water fountains with bottle fillers donation program delayed due to weather. Hope to begin by May 1st.
- Still having difficulty finding qualified Contingent Parks Maintenance Workers even though we raised the starting salary up to \$13 per hour
- Shade structures have been added to playgrounds at Blandair, High Ridge, Kiwanis-Wallas and Western Regional parks
- GreenFest - April 21st at Howard Community College
- Ellicott City SpringFest - April 21st

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Expected same budget from previous year but nothing finalized yet.

Mr. Milani states considerable tree damage from storm winds.

Estimated 60,000 tree limbs down.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Three bids received for Phase 3 at Blandair Park. Phase consists of maintenance center, bocce ball courts, horseshoe pit, croquet court and new playground.

Hoping to break ground in June for Phase 3.

Broke ground for Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Project on April 2nd.

Restoration of tenant house at Blandair Park.

Overlaying golf course cart paths.

New LED baseball lights at Rockburn Park. Added new lights at Kiwanis-Wallis Park.

New pathways connecting to Columbia Association pathways on the Patuxent Branch Trail. Construction should not interfere with trail.

New Project at the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum consisting of new hard wood floors where trains are backed in.

New pathway connection installed from Woodbridge Court to Centennial North.

Bureau of Recreation:

\$154 Billion in economic activity from America's local public park and recreation agencies which translates to 1.1 million jobs.

Wine in the Woods 26th event is coming May 19-20, 2018

- 30 wineries
- 30 crafters
- More than 20 vendors

1800 camp sections for Summer 2018

Many camp employment opportunities, all done online.

No formal announcement on official first day of camps due to school schedule.

Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) conference was held in April at Ocean City, MD. Holly Harden, who oversees teen programs, is president elect of MRPA. Holly also won member of the year.

Working with the Chrysalis at Merriweather Post pavilion to run new programs.

Kids concerts during the day.

Comp plan training is approved. Barbara Heller is conducting a 2-hour training, Wednesday April 25, on how to use the comp plan.

The Recreation and Parks Department is considering proposing a partnership with the Health Department to Provide the Recreation and Parks Rx Program

- Focuses on the relationship between the doctor and the patient to get people outdoors.
- The program provides an easily accessible tool for doctors to make a detailed "Parkscription" to visit a park or natural area.

New facility and pavilion guide just released with new fees and updated information

- All fees are consistent throughout the county
- Includes resident, non-resident, and non-profit fees.

Old Business:

No new status on Savage land exchange. Next step is to the County Council.

New Business:

Two new Advisory Board Members starting in May.

- Daryl Anthony, Former Assistant Secretary for Department of Natural Resources.
- Anna Boyd, new student board member.

This was Dr. Joel Goodman's last meeting as a board member.

This was Sam Nitkin's last meeting as a student board member.

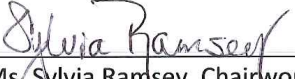
Next month will be Mr. Dave Brown's last meeting as a board member.

Dr. Joel Goodman requests a motion to draft a statement of the board to reflect the importance of the relationship between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Public School System. The motion was seconded. All board members were in favor.

Mr. Coleman mentioned a project of turning certain open spaces into meadows and allowing certain plants to grow.

- "No Mow" areas.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Nitkin. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.



Ms. Sylvia Ramsey, Chairwoman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary