

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 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

Members Absent:

Samuel Nitkin, Joanne Kiebler, Tom Franklin

Staff Present:

John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; 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 second motion was made by Mr. Tracy. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Ms. Ramsey reported we do not have any public comments.

Director's Report (given by Mr. Marshall):

Sam Nitkin will be attending the University of Chicago this fall. There are 12 new candidates for student board member position.

Bureau of Parks:

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- Boyd Webb, new Operation Supervisor II overseeing the Horticulture team

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Cheryl Farfaras completed the DNR/MUCFC PLANT Community Awards application for 2017 (People Loving and Nurturing Trees). Howard County Government has been a Green Award recipient (the highest level) for 18 years in a row.
- Total deer count is 207. Mr. Marshall states this number is lower than average due to weather.

Park Operations

- Centennial Park Wayfinding project – installation set for April.
- Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge project complete – waiting on date for ribbon cutting.

General

- Committee decided not to continue the Celebration of Partners in Parks program.
- Water fountains with bottle fillers donation program to kick-off April 2, 2018.
- Mr. Marshall stated that first fountain will be at Centennial Park by the boat dock. This program meets the County sustainability goals.
- Chainsaw Training scheduled for February 23 and March 1 and 2, 2018.
- Troy Park ribbon cutting on hold for now.
- Blandair Park ribbon cutting March 10, 2018 at 8:00am.
- Professional filming at parks, accepting donations
- Mr. Marshall states that Miller Toyota is filming a photo shoot with a \$1000 donation at Blandair Park.

Bureau of Recreation Services (given by Mr. Marshall):

Recruit new instructors specifically to teach Active Aging Encore classes during the day and early evening to offer more classes by posting on NeoGov. Do you know anyone? Encore classes are focused on 50-75 age group recently or close to retirement to assist transitioning into retirement.

Increased program participation interest via Constant Contact efforts. The Therapeutic Recreation dance went from 23 enrolled to 87 participants.

Recreational Licensed Childcare's March Madness Tournament (an annual basketball tournament between schools in RLC) was held on Friday, January 26 at the MAC. There were 11 schools that participated, along with the Homework Club, CATS and JAWS (Teen Homework Club programs).

Winners were: Hollifield Station Elementary (4th/5th grade) and Manor Woods Elementary(2nd/3rd) grade.

There is the potential that all licensed child care programs will have to advertise their license number on all marketing materials. Not sure how this will play out for Recreational Licensed Childcare since each site has their own license number. Staff are checking with the State Office of Childcare

Ms. Ramsey asks if this due to new legislation.

Mr. Marshall responded that if you are licensed that you must publicize the license number.

Tracy Adkins, our Trips and Tours Supervisor is working on a lead that could get the Department a trip to see Hamilton at the Hippodrome. She is working with her contact there to see what is possible. Also, we have a trip going to see Ray Lewis and current Hall of Famers induction.

A collaboration and partnership with Howard County Community College for an Educational Excursions Series is in the works. Trips may also be incorporated into this initiative. It is our intention to have the college teach a class and then we follow up by providing a tour to that destination. Such as art exhibits, museums, historical monuments and cities.

The adventure unit is partnering with the Howard County Library to assist with DIY workshops. In return for us offering the workshops at their location, we will be able to promote and highlight our camps at the library.

Confirmed 2018 Lakeside movie night dates with park operations. The following movies and times were confirmed:

- Star Wars – Friday, May 4 at 8pm
- Raiders of the Lost Ark – June 27 at 8:15pm

- The Pirates! Band of Misfits – Friday August 17 at 7:45pm
- The Lego Movie – Saturday, September 29 at 7pm
- Hocus Pocus – Thursday, October 18 at 6:30pm

Working on two projects for the new year as presented at the State of the Bureau.

Each programmer reviewed each of their programs to see if they met the standard of 40 % self-sufficiency. This is the current national standard to strive for in the programs. After review, a new revenue and fee policy will be updated to reflect a more inclusive and clear guide for fiscal goals within sections.

Each programmer was asked to compete a specific goal based on INITIATIVE and TEAMWORK. Two of the Core Values of our Department. These are the Values the Bureau is focusing on this year to enhance the culture.

Bureau of Administrative Services (given by Mr. Delorme):

Mr. Delorme stated that there is a 2% reduction to the operation budget. A hold on hiring is in place. Mostly within the parks. The department is optimistic to be lifted by the end of fiscal year 2018.

Mr. Tracy asks if those positions will be hired with contingents.

Mr. Delorme responded that the positions would just be frozen for the time being.

Mr. Marshall stated that the contingent worker rate has increased from \$11/hour to \$13/hour in an effort to find better candidates.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme stated that the bureau is working with a reduced budget of approximately \$3.9 million. All goals will still be met.

Troy Park Phase 2 construction consists of bleachers, restrooms and storage unit. Lights are already in place and very minimal grading will need to be done to the land. A maintenance shop will be constructed using Project Open Space funds.

Sites for the new high school at Troy Park is being discussed. Mr. Delorme went over several options on where at Troy Park the school would be located.

Negotiations are being made to purchase additional land by Troy Park to place the school.

Potential new site at Mission Road could be location for an additional school. No timeline has been set.

Mr. Delerme states that additional land surrounding Troy Park has been purchased from State of Maryland Highways.

Mr. Marshall states that the planned maintenance shop would be relocated to another location at Troy Park to better handle the new school.

Blandair Park has finished Phase 2. Ribbon cutting is planned for March 10 at 8:00am.

Mr. Brown asked about the progress of Robinson Nature Center's projects such as the butterfly garden.

Mr. Delerme stated that no additional money has been funded, putting the Robinson Nature Center projects on hold.

Blandair Phase 3 is out for bid. This phase consists of large playground, maintenance building, bocce ball court, and pathway system. The dog park is on hold due to rerouting the road. Bids are due in mid-March 2018.

Old Business:

No old business

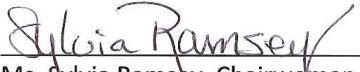
New Business:

Mr. Coleman discussed concerns with signage to downtown connector pathways.

Mr. Delerme stated that there is a new signage package being implemented in regard to Blandair park. Within the year, this program should be completed.

Mr. Coleman discussed the new Bike About program.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Dr. Goodman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.


Ms. Sylvia Ramsey, Chairwoman


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary