

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021- 7:00pm  
Department of Recreation Headquarters  
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present: Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin; Eduardo S. Marin, Student Member

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Nicola Morgal, Acting Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert T. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Approval of Minutes:

Dave Grabowski made a motion to approve the January minutes. Seconded by Tom Franklin. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- Press Release eased Covid restrictions on wedding events
- Fields now have full games
- Inside facilities can now have up to 250 people per gathering, or 50% capacity
- Department has lost use of School Fields for school use
- Vaccine clinics have started
  - Ascend One building
  - Howard Community College

Bureau of Parks:

- Horticulture and Land Management cleared trees and invasives along the Plum Tree path. Contractor will begin felling the ash trees on or about

February 15<sup>th</sup> concluding mid-March. Treated 78 invasive plants along the Gwynn Acres path.

- Kelly Palich from the Heritage section was invited to join a new Historical Names Task Force, announced by County Executive Ball. The task force will be responsible for reviewing the history surrounding Americans namesakes for public spaces to determine if that namesake participated in or encouraged the oppression of African Americans, indigenous Americans, persons of color and contributed to the history of systematic racism and similar biases; will report on named public facilities and spaces; and will recommend any names that should be revisited.
- Completion of Savage Mill Trail treadway – added 90 yards of millings and graded treadway, removed berms to allow water runoff, coordinated directives with the Natural Resources Division and assistance from DPW on materials and deliveries.
- Lightning Alerting System Update – Blandair, Rockburn and Cedar Lane Parks are active with Troy Park becoming active at the end of the month. Proposal has been accepted for Western and Schooley Mill Parks along with weather stations at Western Regional Park and Roger Carter Community Center.
- Title 19 revision pre-file for legislation in March or April
- Staff are working toward the opening of phase 3 of Blandair Park

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Blandair Park Phase 3-** The contractor is concentrating on the incomplete work list. A few plumbing issues need to be resolved then we can begin the punch list for the structures. Their schedule shows project completion March- April.
- **Blandair Park Phase 6-** We have received a request from Mr. Joe Pagan to construct 3 pickleball courts at Phase 2. The proposed area is the artificial turf area between the ballfields and pavilion. This area was planned and constructed as a warmup area and cannot be changed. We are currently beginning the design of Phase 6 and have asked the architect to see if 2-3 courts can be designed for the Phase.
- **Centennial Park-** The tennis court lighting replacement project at Centennial Park West will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> with the anticipated completion date April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Meadowbrook Athletic Complex-** We will be moving the 2 storage sheds in preparation for a COVID-19 memorial during the month of February, weather permitting. Jason Thompson is finishing design concepts for the memorial.
- **Lake Elkhorn Pathway-** HTI Contractors have started renovations to the pathway section between Angelina Circle and Swan Point. The work will consist of replacing a drain pipe, widening the path to 10' and resurfacing the path. Signage has been posted and project information has been sent out through the Recreation & Parks website, Columbia Association and the Office of Transportation. The anticipated completion time is 4 weeks, weather pending.
- **David Force Park-** The 2 fiberglass bridge packages have been delivered to Headquarters. The bridges are 30ft and 25ft in length. Installation will be scheduled within the next month.
- **Holiday Hills Park-** The contractor is currently installing the shade structure at the playground area. Once completed, 2 benches will be installed.
- **Centennial North Playground-** We are processing the playground replacement project and swing area this week.
- **Schooley Mill & Hammond Park Dug Out Covers-** We are processing the dugout cover projects this week.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Tasked with staffing outside operations of vaccine clinics
  - Huge staff response, no shortages of staff
- Virtual classes have been going very well
  - Bingo Nights and Socials
  - Partnered with Tino's Bistro for virtual tour of Italy
  - Partnered with Barnes and Noble for book club
  - 55 plus Trivia Night every Monday
- RecZone program at 8 schools - hoping to continue
  - Received additional funding
- Pix in Parks
  - 84 families participated in photo scavenger hunt
- Popular dances had to be turned into Family Fun Kits
  - Pizza and cookie kits
  - Puzzles and other activities
  - Looking to one for Mother's Day and Father's Day

- Drive in Movies:
  - February movie was cancelled due to weather
  - Next is March 6

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Registration staff has been helping with COVID-19 hotline
- Revenue stream has been greatly affected by COVID-19.
- Hope to get same budget this year as last year.
- Most weddings are cancelling.
- Huge revenue from field rentals.

Old Business:

- Met with Administration and Bureau of Facilities regarding North Columbia Fire Station Project.
  - Fire station will take place of Multi-Purpose field
  - Lower field will turn into artificial turf with scoreboard and lights
  - Parking lot would stay.
  - Outdoor fitness area and pickleball courts are planned

New Business:

No New Business

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

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*Edward T. Coleman*

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Ed Coleman, Co-Chairperson

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*Raul Delorme*

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Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary