

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 21, 2017 – 7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046**

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair; Joanne Kiebler; Tom Franklin; Edward Coleman

Members Absent:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Dan Tracy; Dave Brown

Call to Order:

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

Staff Present:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Edward Coleman to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Joanne Kiebler. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No public comments

Director's Report (given by Raul Delerme):

Mr. Delerme reported that the resolution to place Mr. Sam Nitkin was presented to the County Council on Monday, June 19, 2017. They will vote and hopefully Sam will be able to start at our next meeting in July.

Mr. Delerme reported that last night we held a “Shoot Out for Soldiers” lacrosse tournament at Troy Park. This is a 24-hour event and it went well. There are 12 locations across the nation that holds this event and so far, Maryland has had the most money raised for the Wounded Warriors program.

Bureau of Parks:

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Awarded \$100,000 from the Office of Sustainability for the Turf to Tree Program, FY 2018
- Sue Muller participated in the student BioBlitz at Belmont as a group leader on May 18, 2017
- Jeff Claffy led staff and volunteers in planting 47 trees and shrubs, funded by the Howard County Bird Club in MPEA’s early successional habitat management areas
- Staff conducted a field visit and qualitative habitat assessment of active woodcock breeding site at Patuxent River State Park, for input into MPEA habitat management efforts
- Robinson Nature Center applied for and was awarded an astronomy STEM kit from the Civil Air Patrol along with corresponding curriculum
- 1,157 people either toured, attended a program or field trip, or came to a wedding at the Ellicott City Historic sites in May 2017
- Heritage Section generated \$6,949 in revenue in field trips, weddings, site donations and other events
- Zaiser house basement renovations have begun for archaeology lab conversion

Horticulture and Land Management Division (HLMD)

- HLMD working with the contractor to renovate the grounds of the Grempler Building (now called Community Outreach Center)
- Four more elms infected with Dutch Elm Disease at Belmont that will need to be removed
- Staff are noticing ash tree decline at the Gateway building and East Columbia Library. They are looking to take out 22 trees at the Gateway building.

Park Operations Division

- Working with SiteOne Landscape to demonstrate battery powered chainsaw, trimmer, blower and push mower for Sustainability Project efforts.
- Atholton Park: Installed pickleball nets, painted court wall, mulched beds and cleaned-up in preparation for the grand opening of the pickleball courts

Other

- The Department is taking over operation of the Ellicott City B&O Museum beginning August 28, 2017 with free admission to the public. The contract with the current B&O Museum will expire the 27th of August. Dan McNamara will lead our transition team.
- Chesapeake Shakespeare production of the Tempest has begun at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park
- Celebration of Partners in Parks will be November 5, 2017 at Belmont Manor and Historic Park

Bureau of Recreation:

Ms. Wetherald passed out a few handouts to the board. The first handout was the flyer for our upcoming Solar Fest at Alpha Ridge Park on July 8th. The event will begin at 6:30 pm and will cost \$5 per participant. This was a huge event last year.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that the Gary J. Arthur 8th Annual Tiger Open is next Friday, June 30, 2017 at Timbers of Troy Golf Course.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned our Sunset Serenades and Traveling Bands events that start next Tuesday. On Tuesday June 27th, we have our first movie on the lake event at Centennial Park to watch *Finding Dory*.

Ms. Wetherald reported that last year we had 1,300 sections of camps. This year we have 1,700 sections of camps. A lot of the new enrollments have happened because school is starting later.

Ms. Wetherald presented our 2017 Camp Standards Inspection Report. This report is very much focused on health and safety. We are not camp

certified like most counties. We are self-regulated which means we have our own regulations on how we run our camps. Our staff goes out to every single camp that we have and completes the form. We use this to help complete our camp evaluation to see what still needs to be done.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that she encourages her staff to make camp visits to personally see how our camps are doing. She also mentioned that camp trainings are still going on. We have almost 700 people who have been brought in as part time staff to help run our camps.

Ms. Wetherald reported that we lost the activity rooms at Bonnie Branch Middle School and Fulton Elementary school. At Fulton Elementary school, we have about 60 people on the waitlist for our before and after school care program. We are looking to get portables to help us keep our programs at a modified level. Ms. Wetherald stated that we have voiced our concern to the school system and we are working to resolve this issue.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that we are all ready for our big 4th of July event. We have some new fireworks for the event and a cool app that guest can download. The 4th of July app will allow guest to listen to the music that goes to the fireworks from any location.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme passed out sketches of 3 different plans for the new North Laurel Community Center Pool. We have an advisory committee that was put together for the pool and it consist of 8-10 people from the community along with Recreation and Parks staff. The 2nd meeting was held about a week ago and our consultants presented the committee 2 options for the design of the pool. The committee is leaning towards option 3 of the designs. However, with option 3 they would like to add an 8-lane pool. The pool will be added to the end of the existing community center.

Ms. Ramsey asked, "What would be the timeline for this project?"

Mr. Delerme responded by saying we will be done with the feasibility aspect of this project by the end of the summer and we have money to get into our full design. We are going to do a 2-year plan. In fiscal year 2019, we are asking for \$7.5 million dollars and in fiscal year 2020 we will get the rest of the funding. The pool will be a 25 meters pool.

Mr. Delerme reported that the Blandair project is still going very well. They are working their way to completing the roundabout on Oakland Mills Road. The canopies are now up over the bleachers and the dugouts are up as well. The main park is pretty much done.

Mr. Delerme stated that Troy park is coming along well. All the base paving is done.

Mr. Delerme reported a bridge consultant came in and said we have a few rusted bridges. We are now deciding whether we should fix them or replace them.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

No report

New Business:

Mr. Delerme stated that during the 2017 session, the Maryland General Assembly passed and the Governor signed into law new Open Meeting Act training requirements for public bodies. This new requirement for public bodies will take effect October 1, 2017. This pretty much means that if you have a closed session you are now required to have at least one member from each public body have taken a training class on this Open Meeting Act. Mr. Byrd would like Mr. Delerme to ask the Board who would want to take this online training. Mr. Delerme stated that we would like more than one if possible. Mr. Coleman said he may still be certified if it does not expire. Ms. Kiebler and Ms. Ramsey both volunteered to take the test.

Old Business:

Mr. Delerme reported that the Board has not yet voted on the on the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan 2017 (LPPRP) that was approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Delerme asked if the Board has any questions

about the plan.

Ms. Ramsey stated that she thought that the presentation given by the consultants was one of the better presentations that she has seen in a long time.

Mr. Delerme stated that we have been very happy with our consultants.

A motion to approve the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan 2017 (LPPRP) was made by Tom Franklin. A 2nd motion was made by Joanne Kiebler. The Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan 2017 (LPPRP) was approved unanimously the board.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned that this approved LPPRP is very important for the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

Mr. Delerme stated that he has been on a committee that works with Ellicott City and we are going to have a commemoration. This is a 2-day event and it starts on the July 29, 2017. Recreation and Parks will be helping with this this project. This event will honor the 2 people that drowned in the Ellicott City Flood and the one man that passed away while helping with the cleanup of the flood.

Mr. Coleman stated that on June 27, 2017 Long Reach is doing a "Bugs that Bite" seminar for residents.

Mr. Coleman reported that a man and a dog were attacked by a deer near Jeffers Hill Elementary School. Animal Control was notified.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Coleman. The seconded motion was made by Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

for 
Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary