

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 20, 2018- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Daryl Anthony; Anna Boyd; Tom Franklin; Joanne Kiebler;

Members Absent:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair

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; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

Woody Merkle, member of the Howard County Bird Club expressed his concerns about herbicide being sprayed at parks.

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd read an email from a parent praising the Child Care service at Veterans Elementary School.

Ellicott City Recovery:

- Mr. Delorme reported that city opened in 20 days compared to the 2016 flood, that took 50 days.
- Mrs. Wetherald reported on the ESF14 (Emergency Support Function)
 - Volunteers and donations
 - Over 2000 volunteers signed up online
 - 10-12 trained staff coordinating volunteer efforts
- Recreation and Parks coordinated the credentialing process for Ellicott City residents, business owners, contractors, and volunteers.
 - Over 400 people being credentialed at peak times.
- At least 20-25 staff on duty at all times.

Bureau of Parks:

Forestry and Enforcement Section

- Megan Mills, Natural Resource Program Manager, was unanimously voted and appointed president of the Howard County Forestry Board
- Deer manager position has been advertised (Phil Norman's old position)

Robinson Nature Center

- May 15, 2018 25 Robinson Master Naturalist Volunteers completed the classroom portion of the Maryland Master Naturalist Training Course. These new Master Naturalist Interns will continue their certification by completing projects and volunteering 40+ hours at Robinson Nature Center throughout 2018. They will become Certified Master Naturalists next spring, once their 40 volunteer hours have been completed.

Living History & Heritage Section

- Loss of the old Ellicott City Courthouse
- In spite of the flooding, Chesapeake Shakespeare Company was still able to begin their set build on time, as there was no damage at the Patapsco

Female Institute Historic Park. The shows will run as scheduled. First performance is set for June 22nd.

Park Ranger Program

- May 25th was the last Trout in the Classroom program for the year. This year, there were over 500 students, parents and teachers that utilized Eden Brook Drive and the Savage Mill Trail for outdoor education and had the opportunity to release their Rainbow Trout in hopes of improving our natural resources.

Park Operations

- Installed Wayfinding marker posts on pathway system in the north area of Centennial Park.
- Wildflower meadow has been planted at Schooley Mill Park.
- Poplar Springs Park: Working on an ongoing project that will last for some time, possibly a few years. Goal is to have the area free of down trees and over growth of brush and shrubs.
- The parks hosted the EYO Stars and Strikes Memorial Day Baseball Tournament on May 26th, 27th, and 28th. This is the largest baseball tournament in Maryland, includes 206 teams playing on 40 different fields, 398 games were scheduled.

Miscellaneous

- Water fountain with bottle filler donation project underway.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning, and Construction:

- MPEA project is going well
 - Area is cleared out
- Two new playgrounds at Alpha Ridge Park.
- Phase 3 at Blandair Park set to begin at the end of July
 - Maintenance facility
 - New pavilion
 - Backyard games area (Croquet, bocce ball, horseshoes)
- Starting on construction drawings for Troy Park field #1.
- Pathways at Meadowbrook Park completed.

Bureau of Recreation:

Summer Concert Series

- Music and Movie Nights at Centennial Park
- Events at the Chrysalis
- Relies greatly on sponsorships

Camp Overview and Updates

- \$3,430,000 in camp revenue
- 1770 sections of camp
- 381 full camp registrations
- 18078 camp registrants

Wine in the woods 2018

- About 15000 in attendance
- Over 10000 tickets sold

Recreation Licensed Childcare Art Shows

- 3700 children enrolled during school year/summer camps
- Each site created different arts, displayed at the Community Centers
 - Roger Carter Community Center- Sports Themed
 - North Laurel Community Center- Racing Themed
 - Gary J. Arthur Community Center- Farming Themed

Solar Fest

- July 14, 2018
- 3rd year of event
- Held at Alpha Ridge Park

July is Recreation and Parks Month

- Hall of Fame Winners announced
- Staff event at Orioles Stadium on July 27

Bureau of Administrative Services (Presented by Mr. Byrd):2019 budget passed.

Continuation of the 2018 budget.

FEMA will be reimbursing \$238,000 for Ellicott City Recovery efforts.

Old Business:

Savage Mill land swap on hold.

New Business:

Harriet Tubman School Restoration and Renovation committee meeting on June 18, 2018

- John Byrd, Raul Delorme, and Heritage Division on advisory group for renovation.
- School built in 1955, closed in 1965
- Report due out in May 2019
- School graduates are committee members

Dave Grabowski is set to replace Dan Tracy on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Olivia Claus is being replaced by Bruce Gist as member of Advisory Board.

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.



Ed Coleman, Vice-Chair



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary