

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – 7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046**

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Tom Franklin; Dan Tracy; Dave Brown; Edward Coleman

Members Absent:

Christine O'Connor; Joanne Kiebler; Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair; Jonathan Gresham

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
Motion was made by Mr. Franklin to approve the minutes. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Tracy. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Directors Report:

Legislative Update:

- We withdrew from the bill that we had from the MACO Recreation and Parks administrators group because it was not getting good traction. We were getting concerns from other conservation organizations about changing the language in the Program Open Space. We will try to work something out over the summer.
- Mr. Byrd reported that there is a bill on the table by Senator Edwards that eliminates the incentive to acquire land with program open

space money.

- Mr. Byrd reported that Mr. Milani and himself went to testify on the Good Sportsmanship Month bill that is being proposed. March would become Good Sportsmanship Month.

HCPSS School Hours:

- Mr. Byrd reported that we received a reprieve for another year on the start and finish times that were proposed by the school system. During that year, there will be more study in this proposed change.

Bureau of Parks:

Bikeshare program location will be at Blandair Park. There is a meeting on May 3, 2017.

Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge work to begin in the fall 2017. It is the departments responsibility to take care of this bridge.

The 2017 Celebration of Partners in Parks set for November 5th at Belmont Manor and Historic Park.

Park Operations Division

- Belmont
 - A lot of renovations are currently in process and being completed.
 - Patapsco Heritage Greenway relocated office to Ellicott City.
- Winter projects continue

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Heritage
 - Dedication of the Old Court House in Ellicott City featuring new exhibits including the Network to Freedom kicks off on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 1:00 pm.
 - Opening day for the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin, the Firehouse Museum and the Ellicott City Colored School, Restored is May 6, 2017.
 - Shakespeare in the Ruins at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park begins June 16, 2017 with *The Tempest*

- Installed an exhibit about segregated schools in Howard County at the Glenwood Library.
- Green Fest is April 22nd at Howard Community College.
- Robinson Nature Center's "Nature Place" won MRPA's 2017 Landscape Site Award.
- Deer Management program – Mr. Marshall will provide final harvest numbers at the April meeting.
- Deer collar study is moving slower than anticipated with a few minor glitches with the collars.

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- Tree planting plan for Belmont Manor and Historic Park has been approved by Maryland Historic Trust/Maryland Environmental Trust.
- Preparation work on the butterfly garden at Belmont will begin soon.
- Dedication of the Western Regional Park Arboretum will most likely occur in the spring of 2018.

Bureau of Recreation:

Mrs. Wetherald passed out the site map to the Board to show the layout of the 25th Anniversary of Wine in the Woods event for this year. She highlighted a few changes that were made from last year including the Chrysalis, which will be the main stage.

Mrs. Wetherald reported that the demo tent is located next to the VIP tent. We have 31 wineries for this event.

Mrs. Wetherald updated everyone about the July 4th event. If it does rain on July 4th we will have it on July 5th. The music for the event has been selected and the choreography is currently being worked on. This year food vendors will be providing food for the event.

Mrs. Wetherald reported that we are still taking registration for Summer camps. We have a lot of programs and events coming up including our egg hunts. Mrs. Wetherald presented a list of our top 10 adult and youth programs for the Spring.

Mrs. Wetherald mentioned that next week is our big CAPRA Agency Visit.

Today we worked to create the schedule for our CAPRA visitors who will be here from March 20-23, 2017. We have 5 different committee teams of staff that will help organize the visit. Mrs. Wetherald presented the CAPRA book which displays everyone involved in the CAPRA process.

Dr. Goodman asked, "is your job done once the visitors leave?"

Mrs. Wetherald responded by saying, "after they leave here, they will submit an agency visitors report back to the commissioners. Once the commissioners look at it we will know by September if we reached our accreditation."

Dr. Goodman asked Mrs. Wetherald, "what would you like for us to do. Mrs. Wetherald responded by saying that she wants the Board to introduce themselves. The visitors are going to want the Board to know what CAPRA is all about and what the benefits are.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani reported that on Friday the department will meet with the County Executive and his staff to go over the request for the budget for next year. He stated that they found out some interesting things while working on the budget, including:

- Scholarship: About \$700,00 in scholarship money last year compared to \$400,000 in 2012.
- Credit Card Fees/Administrative Fee: We paid 3.1% in credit card fees.

Mr. Milani believes that we will get funded what we received last year.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Byrd stated that we kicked off our planning committee for the North Laurel Community Center pool. Our consultants came and presented a lot of opportunities for design features. We will go through this planning process for about 3 or 4 months, and then the consultants will come back with about 3 proposals. The proposals will be used for the next phase of the discussion.

Mt. Byrd stated that they are continuing with the phases with the projects that are already funded including Blandair and Troy Park, East Columbia Library, and the Middle Patuxent entrance area.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd reported that tomorrow night at the Planning Board, the Settlement at Savage Mill Project will be presented by the developer. Mr. Byrd and Mr. Delorme will be present to answer any questions about the land exchange.

Mr. Byrd gave an update on the Timbers of Troy Golf Course. There is a little concern about the deal we have worked out with Kemper. Rather than go through a public debate about it, we withdrew the legislation for the lease and we are going to revisit the deal later. Kemper is going to come back to us with some amended terms to see if that would satisfy our concerns. We are also going to prepare a management contract RFP.

Mr. Byrd reported that the bunkers at Timbers of Troy are finished and the irrigation lines are installed. Things are starting to look good and we are planning to have a grand reopening on May 10th at 10am.


Mr. Coleman asked if Mr. Byrd and Mr. Delorme planned on testify at the Planning Board meeting for the Savage Mill Settlement.

Mr. Byrd replied by stating “we are only there to answer any questions about the land swap”.

New Business:

Mr. Marshall reminded everyone about locking their car doors and hiding their belonging when not in the car. Mr. Marshall passed out a rack card that provides tips about car break-in preventions. Our park rangers hand out this rack card every Wednesday at our parks to educate our park guests.

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Tracy. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary