

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2018- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Dan Tracy, Co-Chair; Dave Brown; Daryl Anthony; Ed Coleman; Anna Boyd; Tom Franklin

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler

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:

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

Mr. Byrd reported we do not have any public comments.

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd introduced the newest Advisory Board Members:

- Daryl Anthony is a 28-year resident of Howard County. He received his Parks and Recreation degree from Frostburg University. Daryl worked 35 years for the Department of Natural Resources and was the Assistant Secretary of DNR for 3 years.
- Anna Boyd is our new student member. Anna lives in Elkridge and is a junior at Howard High School. She has worked for Recreation & Parks before as a referee and coach.

Emergency Management Presentation Overview by Todd Holmes:

- Agency role in emergency situations
- Event Action plans
- Emergency support functions
- Importance of documentation and record keeping

Bureau of Parks:

Forestry and Enforcement Section

- Megan Mills completed two Turf to Trees plantings:
 - Owen - 160 trees
 - Casasco - 150 trees
- Anna Schrad and Pete Buppert prepared and lead the Family Volunteer Tree Planting at Rockburn Branch Park (over 160 5-gallon trees with 30 volunteers)
- Sue Muller was on the planning committee for GreenFest

Robinson Nature Center

- Successfully participated in Project Clean Stream sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The Nature Center was a host site where 30 volunteers assisted staff with collecting 300 pounds of trash from the flood plain and forested areas of the Open Space hiker/biker paved trail corridor.
- Stacey Yankee met with Robinson Foundation Trustees regarding preparations for job description for Development position at Robinson.

Living History & Heritage Section

- New interpretive history exhibit designs submitted to Marketing for production; will be displayed at the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum when completed. Attendance is still high at the museum.

- Ellicott City historic sites are open.
- Held the first program in a series, *Colonial Storytime at the Log Cabin*, for children ages 2-5.
- The first *Introduction to Blacksmithing* class series at the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum ran with a full class on April 28 and April 29, 2018.

Park Ranger Program

- Park Rangers D. Johnson and J. Marshall conducted a Trout in the Classroom program on April 19, 2018.
- Park Ranger Amy Carpenter presented the Park Watch program to staff and continues with the development of the program.

Horticulture & Land Management

- We are waiting on a contractor to plant 36 Western arborvitaes at Belmont Manor & Historic Park for the screening of the parking lots at the barn and Heritage Shop.
- Staff Located a large American Elm at Centennial Park which will be added to our treatment list for Dutch Elm Disease.
- We have expanded our Tree Arboretum collection at Western Regional Park. we now have 31 selections of American Hollies and the Holly Society is interested in our efforts.
- Staff have been dealing with quite a few storm downed trees.
- Staff are removing ash trees as we find them.

Park Operations

- Forest restoration: 700 trees were planted by contractors in newly designated forest conservation area and 150 trees were planted by volunteers in section that was cleared by Zone 4 staff.
- MORE Volunteer Day at Skills Park was held on April 15, 2018, 20 volunteers attended.
- Water fountains with bottle fillers project has begun. Letters and emails have been go out this week to the Department's partners and potential commercial sponsors.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning, and Construction:

- Blandair Park Phase 3
 - Reviewing 3 bids
 - Hopes to break ground in July 2018

- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
 - Clearing off Trotter Road completed
 - Parking spaces have been added
- Heritage Construction
 - Renovation of Tenant House
 - Roofing has been approved
- Connector pathways off Centennial Park North
 - Creates path to Centennial High School
 - Eliminates bus routes
 - Pathway connection to Longate Parkway is in the works
- Overlaying golf cart path at Timbers at Troy Golf Course

Bureau of Recreation:

The Encore Volunteer Open House took place on April 17, 2018. Nicola Morgal introduced the program and Ruth Coleman gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Shawnte Berry also attended to assist with questions.

- 10 participants all seemed very interested in joining the program. The next steps are to schedule them for trainings.
- One participant indicated that he lived in a 300+ person retirement community and would share this with the leisure staff there. He has since registered as a volunteer and given us the name of the person to contact at his Retirement Community.

Staff are planning on a May marketing blast for the Football Hall of Fame Excursion. Raven Player Ray Lewis is being inducted and this 3-day two-night trip will be a unique and memorable adventure for Ravens supporters.

July is Recreation and Parks Month.

Contracting with the Columbia Association to use one of their pools this summer to meet our camp needs. Swimming will be at Roger Carter Community Center and at a Columbia Association pool.

The Laurel Municipal pool changed their process to a lottery. All swim dates have been chosen.

With the extension of the school year, the administrative team will be working closely with the summer directors to make the transition as smooth as possible with the 2 early dismissal days that same week.

Winter Registration Statistics and comparisons:

- o Over 220 new sections of activities
- o Almost 13% of new programs offered
- o \$85,000 increase from 2017
- o 360 filled programs in 2018, up from 260 filled programs in 2017
- o 23,365 people participated in 2018, up from 21,662 people in 2017

Wine in the Woods:

- o Currently 238 volunteers have registered
- o Volunteer recruitment efforts via social media will continue until May 18th

Maryland Interscholastic Cycling League has interest in facilitating High School based club mountain bike teams. Reviewing website and determining strategy.

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

Not anticipating any changes to budget

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Mr. Tracy, Vice Chair is retiring and resigning from the Advisory Board.

Mr. Coleman offered to be new Vice Chair of the Advisory Board.

Mr. Tracy made a motion for Mr. Coleman, Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

This is Mr. Brown's last meeting as well.

Olivia Claus is replacing Mr. Brown on the Advisory Board. Anna is the Executive Director of School Facilities for the Howard County Public School System.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Tracy. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.



Ms. Sylvia Ramsey, Chairwoman

EDWARD T COLEMAN
VRE CHAIR.



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary