

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 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, Edward Coleman, Joanne Kiebler, Tom Franklin, Samuel Nitkin, Dan Tracy and Dave Brown

Members Absent:

Dr. Joel Goodman; Chair, and Ananta Hejeebu

Call to Order:

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

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Nicola Morgal, Superintendent of Recreational Licensed Childcare and Community Services; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Raul Delorme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

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

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd reported that the Timbers at Troy lease was approved and it was sent today for execution. Hopefully by the December board meeting we will have a fully executed 10-year lease with KemperSports Management.

Bureau of Parks:

Park Operations Division

- Mr. Marshall reported that park staff have aerated and seeded natural turf fields in preparation for winter.
- Mr. Marshall reported that staff are inspecting and servicing equipment in preparation for snow.

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Mr. Marshall reported as of today, 110 deer have been taken from the sharpshooting and managed hunts.
- Mr. Marshall stated, Megan Mills organized and managed a volunteer tree planting with 21 families from *Columbia Families in Nature* at West Friendship Park. They planted 50 trees that were funded through Turf to Trees program.
- Mr. Marshall stated, Sue Muller contacted Maryland Department of Natural Resources on October 10 to confirm the first sighting of a Timber Rattlesnake in Howard County. The snake was found along the Savage Mill Trail.
- Mr. Marshall reported, MPEA staff worked with volunteers to plant 95 trees and shrubs in three planting sites.
- Mr. Marshall stated, among the 47 different programs led by Robinson Nature Center staff, there were two large Halloween events with multiple sections. There were programs for the Department's Therapeutics' TRIO participants and field trips for twelve schools including four Title 1 schools that received scholarships from the Robinson Foundation. Staff served 2,435 participants during these programs and generated \$25,181 in revenue for the month of October.
- Mr. Marshall reported, the Heritage section opened the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum on October 6th, where over 600 people visited during the first week. To date, 4,817 people have visited to site.
- Mr. Marshall reported, the Living History and Heritage section brought in \$16,555 in revenue for the month of October.

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- Mr. Marshall reported, two large American Elms were installed today at Belmont Manor and Historic Park. Dr. Goodman's Rotary Club is set to do a tree planting at Belmont on Saturday.
- Mr. Marshall stated, staff led a volunteer tree planting at Cypressmede Park.

Other

- Mr. Marshall stated, Celebration of Partners in Parks event was a huge success. He hopes those that attended enjoyed the event. The after-action report meeting is set for tomorrow.
- Mr. Marshall stated, light installation at the Bollman Truss Bridge is set for tomorrow with the event scheduled for December 2nd.

Bureau of Recreation (given by Nicola Morgal):

Ms. Morgal reported that we had the Truck or Treat event at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood a couple of weeks ago. We had about 2,700 people attend the event with about 1,200 tickets sold in advance.

Mr. Morgal reported that we had our final movie night at Centennial Park where we watched Hocus Pocus. We had about 850 people attend the event. The concessions stand did well that night too.

Ms. Morgal reported that over 500 people attended the Celebration of Sports event at Turf Valley. The keynote speaker was very popular. We have already started planning for the 2018 Celebration of Sports event which will be held October 16, 2018.

Ms. Morgal reported that the EAAA Haunted Experience at Rockburn was successful. We had about 1,200 people total attend the different dates for the event. We had 30 Recreation and Parks staff volunteer their time for this event.

Ms. Morgal reported that our Christmas in the Park event is coming up on December 5th from 6pm-8pm at Centennial Park. We will have a tree lighting ceremony along with a visit from the County Executive. Some of

the kids in our Recreational Licensed Childcare will form a choir and sing at the event. In the past, we actually paid a group to come and sing at the event.

Ms. Morgal reported that during the start of the school year we had about 500 children on the waiting list for our before and after school care program. We now have brought it down to 350 children on the waitlist. We have hired more staff which has helped us bring in more children into the program.

Ms. Morgal stated that they are aware of the redistricting decision that will be made tomorrow night and the new start times that may happen in the future. We have had very little calls about the two issues. We already have about 1,700 children registered for next school year.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme stated that he is working on the Capital Budget that will be presented at our next board meeting. Our next board meeting will be a public hearing.

Mr. Delorme stated that we are applying to two state bond bills. One is for the Bernard Forte House in Ellicott City and the other is for the B&O Railroad Museum. Both will be for \$150,000.

Mr. Delorme stated that we are still working hard to get Blandair Park and Troy Park opened.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani report that every field we have is in use this weekend. We have a lacrosse tournament at Cedar Lane Park, we have big girl's lacrosse tournament at Blandair Park, we have a field hockey tournament at Rockburn Branch Park, and we have a soccer tournament at Western Reginal Park. Usually, during this time of year most of our events at the parks were wrapping up. With the efforts from Jean Shea and Mike Blevins, we were able to host more events and bring in more revenue.

Mr. Milani stated that it was nice seeing all the different divisions of the

department come together to host a great event at Blandair Park.

Mr. Milani reported that he and Mr. Byrd went to a budget meeting. Not much will change with the upcoming budget.

Mr. Milani stated that we are currently doing construction at Recreation and Parks headquarters building. We repaved the parking lot to the right to help with our ADA requirements for the building. They also did a lot of work out back. We also have plans to remove the gas tanks inside the yard to help create a better traffic flow in and out of the yard.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd mentioned that he ran into Lisa Kim who is one of the organizers for the Korean Festival. She mentioned that they are actively discussing moving the event to Merriweather.

Mr. Byrd stated that there are still discussions about the Rockburn school site. There has to be a decision by December 19th to meet the deadline for state funding.

Mr. Byrd reported that there is another continuation at the Planning Board for the Savage Land Swap at the end of the month.

New Business:

Mr. Byrd mentioned that November is the official month of transition for the selection or continuing on the Board of officers. Dr. Goodman is going off the Board in May 2018 and has submitted a proxy nomination for Sylvia Ramsey to set as Chair of the Board. We do not have a nomination yet for Vice Chair.

Ms. Ramsey accepted the nomination to become Chair of Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Mr. Byrd asked if someone would like to nominate a new Vice Chair.

Ms. Ramsey nominated Mr. Tracy as Vice Chair of the Board.

Mr. Franklin made a motion to approve Mr. Tracy as Vice Chair of the Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Mr. Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Byrd asked if there was any other new business.

Ms. Morgal mentioned the 2018 Wine in the Woods dates, which will be held May 19th and 20th. We have already started the marketing for this event.

Mr. Franklin requested that we also get a preview of the operation budget, specially the Natural Resources budget.


Mr. Byrd stated that we have what we are thinking of proposing. We won't have any direction on what our limit is. We had requests for additional deer stations for the tick management program and additional staff.

Mr. Franklin stated that he is particularly interested in some of the frozen positions in the Natural Resources division.

Mr. Milani stated that we must be careful when they give something more in one area they may take from another area.

Mr. Marshall reported that we should have the Wayfinding signs up by the spring for Centennial Park. We have people getting lost all the time at Centennial Park. About 5 people got lost in Centennial Park this year.

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Dan Tracy. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.


~~Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman~~
Sylvia Ramsey


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary