

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2020- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin; Mavis Ellis; Eduardo S. Marin, Student Member

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert T. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael T. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administration; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

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

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

New Student Board Member:

Eduardo S. Marin has been selected as the student board member for the advisory board. He is a senior at Oakland Mills High School. Eduardo likes to play soccer and garden.

Approval of Minutes:

Ed Coleman made a motion to approve the September minutes. Seconded by Dave Grabowski. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- Still working with DTCS to get DocuSign set up to sign the minutes virtually.
- Ribbon cutting for the Thomas Isaac Cabin and B&O Ellicott City Station Museum on October 8th.
- Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park (Millie Bailey Park) dedication on October 22nd.
 - Will be livestreamed to keep down crowds

- September 28th, 3 staff members at Roger Carter Community Center saved the life of a swimmer.
 - Performed CPR and used the AED to resuscitate the swimmer.
- Staff rotational schedule will continue through early December.

Bureau of Parks:

- Megan Mills coordinated logistics and directed the overall operations for the 2020 Tree Giveaway. The County Executive would like to hold this event every year.
- Sue Muller continues work on the State's Breeding Bird Atlas. So far: 91 confirmed species in the county by 191 atlas participants.
- Katie Peet worked with staff to plan and film video segments that highlight what the Robinson Nature Center staff have been working on since the Center changed operations in March due to COVID-19.
- A public Archaeology program visited the Robinson Nature Center to conduct a metal detecting survey on Locus 1, initially identified during the Phase I Archaeological Survey in 1998. The initial survey uncovered 14 historic artifacts, associated with a domestic occupation. Kelly Palich and volunteers uncovered another 100+ artifacts during a systematic survey, conducted to locate where to place excavation units. Based on initial archival research, this site was believed to have been a domestic and agricultural related site, most likely occupied by a tenant of the Simpson family. Artifacts recovered dated to the late 18th-century to early 19th century.
- Horticulture & Land Management Division completed the planting of a small pollinator garden at headquarters. Near the front doors.
- Water Fountain with Bottle Filler Donation program expanding to indoor sites this spring.
- Millie Bailey Park to open Thursday, October 22nd at 10:30am.
- Getting public to comply with the mask order is still a challenge.
- Staff reviewing Title 19 of the Howard County Code. Last update was 1995.
- Starting our review of our snow operations to comply with safety guidelines as they relate to COVID-19.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Blandair Park Phase 3-** Anticipating completion mid to end of November. Applied for \$2.6M in POS development reimbursement.

- **Blandair Park Phase 6**- We are reviewing and commenting on the WRA design proposal and plan on approving it within the next 2 weeks. The project consists of the skate park, basketball courts, parking site grading and utility rough in. We will be including the local skaters in the skatepark design process. We are applying for up to \$1.8M in POS development support.
- **South Branch Park**- Paving should be completed this week. A few items will be completed in January. We anticipate letting the public begin use of the parking lot by the end of next week. We are applying for a \$200K Bond Bill reimbursement.
- **Rockburn Park**- The Disc Golf course is nearing completion. We are awaiting the course signs.
- **P Flanigan and Son**, along with American Paving Fabrics tar & chipped the access road from the Clover Hill House to the rear parking lot.
- **Schooley Mill Park**- The Cricket expansion project has been completed.
- **Troy Park Phase 2B**- The design kick-off was last week. We have applied for \$965K in POS development support and will be meeting with HCPSS to discuss conversions for POS and LWCF. The project consists of a restroom facility, storage facility and grand stand bleachers for field #1.
- **The Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park (PFI) Chapel Project**- Is currently in design with AECOM. We anticipate going to construction by Fall 2021.
- **Centennial Park**- The North area skate park has been patched and resurfaced.
The North playground is in design and we are budgeting to add a sensory trail in FY22.
The East area tennis courts have been realigned.
Paul is nearing design completion for the South Lower Path project. We hope to start the project by spring 2021. We will communicate with Park Operations before scheduling the project.
- **Waverly Mansion**- The parking lots and roadways have been tar & chipped.
- **Bureau of Facilities Systemic Budget**- We have presented our project list for FY22.
- **CIP Budget**- The project list has been completed for the FY22 budget. We are currently working on the FY22 project request documentation for the

Budget. We may include several Bond Bills. We will be requesting \$2.6M in POS Grant funds for FY22.

- **Oakland Mills Tunnel-** A 36" mirror has been installed at the tunnel to improve public safety.
- **Savage Mill Trail-** Construction staff & Park Operations staff have been working on identifying trail renovation projects along the Savage Mill Trail.
- **Hammond Park-** Staff are working on installing the second water fountain near the pavilion.
- **Font Hill Park-**The arched laminate bridge has been renovated, construction staff installed new decking. Through an Eagle Scout project, the bridge was stained.
- **Millie Bailey Park-**All repairs have been completed, signs have been installed and plaza chairs are being spaced per COVID-19 and fastened to pavers prior to the ribbon cutting.
- **Cole Property-**We have acquired the Cole property across from Marriott's Ridge High School. The property is 25.1 acres and is divided into 2 parcels. Fire & Police have been conducting training exercises in the structures. Mr. Cole may relocate the barn this fall. We anticipate razing the house and all remaining structures this winter. Maryland Historic Trust report is in progress for POS review and approval. The property continues to be farmed by Mullinix through a lease with Mr. Cole.
- **North Columbia Fire Station-** The New North Columbia Fire Station has approved budget funds and is being planned to be built on the first multi-purpose field at Cedar Lane Park East. In trade, we have requested 2 multipurpose fields, one an artificial turf field with lighting, bleachers, press box and scoreboard, the other a turf field that could be converted to an artificial turf field in the future. Parking and a restroom facility to be designed and constructed on the Harpers Choice school site where the fire house was originally planned. There is a public meeting being planned for November 12th to discuss both projects. The Bureau of Facilities is managing the projects. They are trying to build both projects simultaneously. There may be room to design pickleball courts below the new fire station.
- **Savage Remainder-** The county has purchased the Savage Remainder property that adjoins Savage Park Open Space. The Remainder is 2 lots 2.4 acres and 2.52 acres. We applied for \$1.7M in POS acquisition support.

- **HS14-** The HS14 at Troy Park announcement was made last week. We will be meeting with Howard County Board of Education school board staff in the near future to look at satisfying POS land conversion requirements and discuss the future use agreements.
- **HS13-**There are no updates for the final plat and \$2.5M in POS acquisition support.
- **Garden Plots-**There is continued interest in more garden plots. We are looking in Elkridge and Ellicott City for useable land.
- **Land Preservation Park, Recreation Plan (LPPRP)** -The shopping cart is in the Office of Purchasing for the RFP.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Released promotional video for RecZone to draw in more participants
 - Have 8 more sites to use if needed
 - Currently 150 children enrolled
- Danielle Bassett, manager of Adult Programs and Cultural Camps, won Department Employee of the Year.
- Food Delivery team won County Public Service award.
- Many staff were recognized for many years of service for working in the county.
- Contingent worker, Rick Rollyson, at Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood redid planters to update old planters. He took on this task by himself, was not asked to do it.
- Holiday Mart will be held virtually this year.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Tournaments and Field rentals are bringing in a lot of revenue.
- Having trouble with keeping masks on participants and spectators when needed.
- First full wedding on October 31st at Belmont Manor and Historic Park.
- New KRONOS payroll system is currently back in testing phase.
- Record year for the Golf Course with revenue.

Old Business:

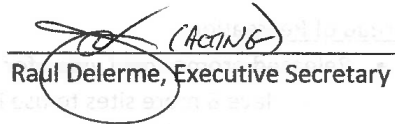
- More skaters have been using the Centennial skatepark since it has been fixed up

New Business:

No Old Business

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.


Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary