

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
September 21, 2016
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman, Chair; Sylvia Ramsey, Vice Chair; Dave Brown; Tom Franklin; Dan Tracy; Williams Santos; Jonathan Gresham and Christine O'Connor

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; John Marshall, Chief, Bureau of Parks; Laura Wetherald, Chief, Bureau of Recreation; A. Raul Delerme, Chief, Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Mike Milani, Chief, Bureau of Administrative Services; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Director's Report:

- A. Present Draft 2017 LPPRP-Sasaki and Associates
 - a) Mr. Byrd stated that this is the third public presentation on the process of the Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan. This is a plan that we have to update every 5 years. This year we have Sasaki and Associates consulting on this plan.
 - b) Mr. Byrd presented our guests from Sasaki and Associates. Sasaki and Associates presented the present draft for the 2017

Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan.

B. Correspondence

- a. Mr. Byrd received a letter from a visitor at Centennial Park. The letter talked about two of our staff members helping out a lady after her mobility shooter broke down in the park.

Bureau of Parks:

Mr. Marshall reported that the Robinson Nature Center had its 5th anniversary this past Sunday. Over 1,000 people attended the anniversary celebration at the Robinson Nature Center.

Mr. Marshall reported that there will be a Network to Freedom sign dedication by the court house in Ellicott City on October 1, 2016. This will be the 1st of a series of interpreted signs that will be going up in Ellicott City.

Mr. Marshall reported that the Celebration of Parks will be held at Robinson Nature Center on November 13, 2016 at from 6pm-8pm. He stated that the plan is to rotate the locations each year for the Celebration of Parks from Robinson Nature Center and Belmont. Doing it this way will help capture everyone in the county.

Mr. Marshall stated that the Bollman Truss Bridge lighting is set for December 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme reported that the construction for Phase 2 at Troy Park has begun. Blandair Park Phase 2 is still under construction. The off ramp is currently paved. Phase 2 for Blandair Park will be completed in April or May of 2017.

Mr. Delorme reported the order to repair Huntington Park has been placed. They are going to build a larger playground.

Mr. Delorme reported the first week in October we will be starting construction at the golf course. This will shut down 9 holes at a time. Based on the lease this project has to be complete by January 1, 2017.

Mr. Delorme reported that they now have an Architect to start the design process for the pool at the North Laurel Community Center.

Bureau of Recreation:

Ms. Wetherald passed out the new design poster for the upcoming 25th Annual Wine in the Woods Festival. The planning for Wine in the Woods has begun and the dates are set for May 20th and May 21st. The site will need a lot of seeding.

Ms. Wetherald stated that our knitting and crocheting group created hats and blankets for the local hospitals. They also sent hats and blankets to Afghanistan for our soldiers.

Ms. Wetherald reported that Holiday Mart is scheduled for December 3rd at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood. This is our 44th year and we have over 130 crafters for this event.

Ms. Wetherald reported our Christmas in the Park event will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at Centennial Park from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m. The County Executive will be present at this event. It was a very successful event last year that included a bomb fire, food, music, and the lighting of a Christmas tree.

Ms. Wetherald reported that we will be having our haunted Halloween event during the last 2 weekends in October. We help EAAA put on this event at Rockburn Branch Park.

Ms. Wetherald reported that our Celebration of Sports event will be held on October 25th at Turf Valley.

Ms. Wetherald reported about the communication training that Recreation and Parks held. This training discussed all of the topics regarding communication in the workplace.

Ms. Wetherald stated we run over 40 sites of childcare and that we have about 120 children on the waitlist. This waitlist is due to not having

enough licensed space and not having enough staff members. Ms. Wetherald passed out a new "Now Hiring" flyer that was created to get staff hired for all of our available jobs.

Ms. Wetherald reported that we lost 4 of our activities rooms at different sites but we now have portables that we are using for our pre-school programs. We are calling the pre-school portables a "cottage" and creating a logo for it.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani reported that we are going to start the budget process for next year. The budget office moved up the time frame up for the preparation for next year's budget.

Mr. Milani reported that we spent a lot of time on Human Resources. A few positions have been upgraded and we have rewritten a lot of the job descriptions. For CAPRA, we have been updating all of the policies.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd reported that more meetings are being held to discuss the Savage Land Swap.

Dr. Goodman asked about the initial stages of the Savage Land Swap and if it needed to be brought to the Board's attention.

Mr. Byrd responded by saying that there was no reason to bring it to the Board's attention and that the Board would not of had an impact on the decision that was going to be made.

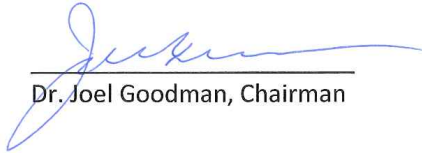
Mr. Santos thanked the Department regarding the Junior Counselor program this summer. His son participated and had a great experience. Mr. Santos stated that he and his wife had a great time.

Dr. Goodman welcomed our newest board member, Ms. Christine O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor is our liaison from the Board of Education.

New Business:

No new business.

There being no further discussion Ms. O'Connor made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A seconded motion was made. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary