

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 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, Sylvia Ramsey, Co-Chair, Edward Coleman, Dave Brown, Ananta Hejeebu, Samuel Nitkin

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler, Tom Franklin, Dan Tracy

Call to Order:

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Nicola Morgal, Superintendent, Recreational Licensed Childcare and Community Services Division; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Raul Delerme, 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 Ed Coleman to approve the minutes. A second motion was made by Sylvia Ramsey. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Mr. Byrd reported that we received several nice emails.

Director's Report:

Mr. Byrd report that it has been a quiet month since the crab feast.

Mr. Byrd stated that we deployed a team of 12 people to Florida to help with the hurricane relief.

Mr. Delorme reported that we sent 7 trucks, 4 bobcats, and 12 people to Florida. They should be arriving to their destination within 30 minutes.

Dr. Goodman asked how this Florida trip is being funded.

Mr. Delorme stated that we are hoping that it will be totally funded by FEMA.

Bureau of Parks:

Natural and Historic Resources Division

- Mr. Marshall handed out the schedule for sharpshooting and managed hunts for the 2017-2018 season.
- Mr. Marshall reported that Natural and Historical Resources Division is assessing and developing programs as the Department assumes control of the B&O Ellicott City Station. The planned re-opening is set for October 6, 2017.
- Mr. Marshall reported that the wayfinding signage for Centennial Park program is set to begin in the coming months.
- Mr. Marshall reported that the Robinson Nature Center was awarded the Civil Air Patrol Astronomy STEM Kit Lending Program using new telescopes from the nature center.
- Mr. Marshall stated that the eclipse glasses were the gift shop story of the month at Robinson Nature Center. Altogether, the center sold 500 eclipse glasses from the gift shop.
- Mr. Marshall reported that a grant in the amount of \$6,300.00 was awarded to the Department from Preservation Maryland to re-do and create new interpretive panels throughout the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum.

Horticulture and Land Management Division

- Mr. Marshall stated that four more elms at Belmont were infected with Dutch Elm Disease and have been removed. HLMD will follow up with stump grinding with the archeologist.
- Mr. Marshall reported that the holiday tree located in front of the Welcome Center in Ellicott City has been relocated to Centennial Park.
- Mr. Marshall stated that the HLMD is selecting American elms to replace the two that have perished in front of Belmont Manor and Historic Park.

Park Operations Division

- Mr. Marshall stated that the Korean Festival is set for September 16th. We are expecting a very large crowd.

Other

- Mr. Marshall stated that the Department is working with traffic engineering on the Rt. 29 pedestrian bridge. Construction began last week with a completion date now anticipated by late fall.
- Mr. Marshall reported that the water fountain/bottle filler donation program is set to begin in the spring of 2018. Fountains will have standard and ADA accessible drinking fountains, a bottle filler and a dog bowl water dispenser. We are currently waiting on RFQ from Purchasing to establish the price.
- Mr. Marshall stated that the Celebration of Partners in Parks event will be November 5, 2017 at Belmont. Mr. Marshall passed out the "Save the Date" cards to the Board.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme asked if everyone has received the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. We have a lot of copies that we can give away if needed.

Mr. Delorme stated that Troy Park and Blandair Park are progressing slowly but we are getting there.

Mr. Delorme reported that the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area should be done any day now.

Mr. Delorme reported that the Bollman Truss Bridge should be completed next week.

Mr. Delorme mentioned that his staff along with Mr. Marshall's staff have been completing work on the B&O Museum. We will be moving around offices, adding benches and adding plants.

Mr. Delorme mentioned that our chainsaw trailer went down to Florida with our 12 employees. The chainsaw trailer holds all our chainsaws that can be used in the field. It was used to help clear debris in Florida. We have used the trailer for the last tornado that went through Howard County and the Flood in Ellicott City.

Bureau of Recreation (given by Nicola Morgal):

Ms. Morgal reported Recreational Licensed Childcare has 2600 students registered in our before and after school program. We currently have about 500 children on the waiting list. About 175 is because of the lack of staffing and about 325 is due to licensing.

Ms. Morgal stated that many parents called the first day of school because they did not realize that they did not have any care for their child.

Ms. Morgal stated that we have about 60 children enrolled in our Middle School program and our Early Learning Center program.

Ms. Morgal stated that we are already getting calls from parents about redistricting and the new proposed school times.

Mr. Hejeebu would like to meet with Ms. Morgal to learn more about the licensing requirements so that he can help.

Mr. Milani stated that the process in finding available space to hold our before and after school program is hard due to the licensing requirements.

Ms. Morgal mentioned that the Celebration of Sports is coming up on October 17th at Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center. We have four individuals being inducted into our Sports Hall of Fame.

Ms. Morgal also mentioned that we are having our Celebration of Sports Golf Tournament at Timbers at Troy Golf Course on October 13th.

Ms. Morgal reported that the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood is hosting the Trunk or Treat event on October 28th from 10am-1pm.

Ms. Morgal stated that we are working on expanding our Therapeutic Recreation programs. We will be doing a gardening and cooking program coming up. We will also be doing a safety program.

Ms. Morgal reported that Cathy Vigus, our TR & 50+ program manager has retired after 29 years.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

Mr. Milani reported that under the leadership of Mr. Byrd, the department was able to bring back a mechanic. This is going to save us a lot of money and time.

Mr. Milani reported that the Recreational Licensed Childcare staff and our Natural Resources division has moved into their new office space next door. We received a lot of help from facilities and from other groups. The department was able to negotiate a cheaper rate with more space.

Mr. Milani reported that both Ms. Morgal and Mr. Marshall's group did a good job this past year of reallocating resources to help manage the budget. Ms. Morgal and the RLC division reported an increase of 30% operating margin.

Mr. Milani stated that we rented the Alpha Ridge Roller Hockey Ring to the US Lacrosse Wheelchair team. We also bought them new nets and goals to practice with. They will be practicing there on Saturdays for the next couple of weeks.

Old Business:

Mr. Byrd stated that himself, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Delerme, and Ms. Wetherald will be traveling to New Orleans to a National Recreation and Parks Conference to officially collect our CAPRA re-accreditation.

Mr. Byrd reported that we just completed our final terms with the KSM Timbers Management Group for the Golf Course Lease. Now it will be submitted to County Council for the October hearing.

Mr. Byrd provided an update on the Savage Land Swap. There is another hearing set for October.

Dr. Goodman stated that for the past four years, he has been advocating for the teacher liaison position at the Robinson Nature Center. The position has been moved up to a position with benefits.

New Business:

Mr. Byrd reported that Dr. Goodman will be off the Board in May of 2018. The Board will need to start thinking about a new chairperson for the Board.

Mr. Byrd stated that the list of the meeting dates for next year has been sent out. We have not yet set the date for the crab feast.

Mr. Byrd reported that in October we will be having our annual pre-season basketball meeting with the local sports organizations in the county. We will go over how things went last year and if there may be any concerns for this upcoming year.


Dr. Goodman stated that his rotary club will be scheduling a workday at Belmont Manor and Historic Park to plant about 30 trees.

Mr. Byrd stated that we were requested by the Administration to reconsider Rockburn Park as a school site for the high school that is being proposed. Mr. Delorme meet with the school system on Monday to discuss the possible layout at the site.

Dr. Goodman asked, "how much space could this school take from the parkland?"

Mr. Byrd stated that it wouldn't take up anything besides some of the bike trails.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hejeebu. The 2nd motion was made by Mr. Nitkin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman



John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary