

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 12, 2018- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Edward Coleman, Co-Chair; Tom Franklin; Joanne Kiebler; Anna Boyd, Student Member; Cindy Vaillancourt; Daryl Anthony, Dave Grabowski

Members Absent:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Public Comments:

No public comments

Director's Report:

Ellicott City Master Plan

- Reallocating \$3.9 million from Capital Projects budget Harriet Tubman School
- Annual Harriet Tubman celebration on September 15, 2018

Bureau of Parks:

Natural & Historical Resources Division

Park Ranger Program

- There has been an increase in “Smash & Grab” incidents, particularly at Centennial Park. Education efforts, Park Watch Program and coordination with the Police Department are working to tackle this issue.

Natural Resource Conservation Section

- Brenda Belensky attended meeting with Raul Delerme and Larry Knutson of Penn Trails, LLC regarding planning the construction schedule for Haviland Mill Park universal access route and Savage Mill Trail/Wincopin Trail rehabilitation.
- Sam Richardson has replaced Phil Norman as the Deer Program Manager.

Robinson Nature Center

- Robinson’s proposal for a Community Impact Project with the Leadership Howard 2018-19 class was accepted. They will work with the class this year to increase opportunities at the Robinson Nature Center for those affected by ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and to determine how best to engage other communities that experience barriers to accessing nature.
- James & Anne Robinson Foundation Development Manager Position has had many applicants with the first round of interviews conducted on September 6th.

Living History & Heritage Section

- Program staff led and participated in the annual *Hands on History* event at the Howard County Fair. 176 people visited throughout the day and had a chance to try historic crafts and games as well as meeting local history groups.
- The Thomas Isaac Log Cabin was moved to the other side of Lot F in Ellicott City to make room for the new drainage system. The cabin will remain cribbed until its’ new location is determined.

Park Operations Division

- Belmont
 - hosted its first Murder Mystery dinner theater program on August 10th (75 people).
 - is having a very successful wedding event season this year despite the ½ season of rainy weather.
 - in its' first true, full year (FY18) of operation, Belmont fully covered its operational costs.

Horticulture & Land Management Division

- Sandy Springs Bank is planting ten trees at the Bain Center later this month in celebration of their 150th anniversary.
- Staff met with the Blossoms of Hope Committee to discuss future tree plantings.
- Met with Housing Commission on planting cherry trees along Fels Lane in Ellicott City.

Miscellaneous

- September is Emergency Preparedness Month – At the request of the Office of Emergency Management, the Department is shooting a video to demonstrate the role we play in emergency management.
- Since our last meeting there have been four more water fountains donated. (3) locations yet to be determined. (1) at Rockburn and (1) at Centennial should be installed soon.
- Upcoming Events
 - History Alive with Friends at Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park, November, 7
 - Haunted Experience at Rockburn Branch Park, October 19, 20, 26, and 27
 - B&O Train exhibit on November 23
 - Christmas in the Park on December 8

Bureau of Capital Projects (Presented by Mr. Byrd):

- Middle Patuxent Environmental Area entrance project is underway
- Blandair Phase 3 groundbreaking on August 22 – construction commenced

Bureau of Recreation:

- Hanover Hills Elementary School opened, and we are running childcare, before & after care and weekend programs to the community.
- Recreational Licensed Childcare is working on the waitlists for before & after care. Several open house interviews planned.
- Evening Programs Pilot in coordination with Senior Center to expand program sites for all ages – current focus is Encore Active Aging Week (September 23rd- 29th)
- Howard County Recreation and Parks recognized as an Autism Friendly Local Business – Therapeutic Recreation Team will be featured at award ceremony
- Howard County Recreation and Parks is working on enhanced training and guidelines regarding facility emergencies from hurricanes to lockdowns and shooters
- Pickleball Tournament on August 4th had 43 teams and 228 individual players. Up 100 players from last year.
- 4th Annual Truck or Treat is scheduled for October 27 at Gary J. Arthur Community Center. 300 tickets pre-sold.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Beginning to implement paperless payroll system
- County Council to review department operations

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

No New Business

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Grabowski. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.


Edward Coleman, Co-Chair


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary