

Wednesday, July 14th, 2021- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present:

Dave Grabowski, Chair, Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Herman Charity; Tom Franklin, Antonia Watts, Eduardo Marin

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; Nicola Morgal, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert T. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

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

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Approval of May and June Minutes:

Both months were approved unanimously

Director's Report:

- Eduardo Marin's last meeting as Student Board Member
- Chloe McGeehan is the new Student Board Member. Chloe is currently a River Hill Highschool Senior
- 4th of July Fireworks had a huge turnout
- September meeting will go over modification to bylaws
- Tournaments are bringing in revenue

Bureau of Parks:

- The Pollinator Story Walk Program in MPEA for National Pollinator Week was a great success. The next story walk will be in September on the topic of Monarch butterflies during their fall migration.
- This month, Robinson Nature Center staff were notified that the application that was submitted for Robinson to serve as an official host site for a James Webb Telescope community event was selected by NASA. Through this

award, the Robinson Nature Center receives educational materials and NASA experts will join proposed educational events including an elementary-science virtual event and a secondary science virtual event that the Robinson Nature Center staff are coordinating with Howard County Public School System. Additionally, staff are creating a limited number of "3-2-1 Launch Box" kits for families to explore how the telescope works and learn about its launch.

- The four remaining donated water fountains with bottle fillers that have been sitting in our warehouse due to COVID-19 have now been installed. Thanks to Bob Linz and his staff for making this possible.
- The lightning alerting systems, after a few glitches, are now operational. Funds have been designated in the FY22 budget to complete the Centennial and Savage Parks systems.
- I want to put in a plug for anyone that might be interested in attending the Howard County Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute. This training, which runs every Thursday in February and March covers many environmental topics and includes (2) days at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Classes this year will be held at the B&O Ellicott City Station Museum. More details to come. I try to send (2) Department staff to this training each year. The cost is minimal and class size is around (15).
- The Department will be working with the Indian community in coordinating their Ganapathi Festival. Size will be limited to (300) and contained within Pavilion H at Centennial Park on September 21st. At the end of the festival, an idol is submerged in the lake.
- The Department has also been working regarding a special prayer service with the Muslim community at Cedar Lane Park.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Centennial Park North Playground-** The playground equipment has been installed, the contractor is pouring curbing and will begin safety surface installation in the next week. The anticipated completion is the end of July. The field #1 outfield fence project has been completed.
- **Haviland Mill Trail-** The Haviland Mill trail project has started. The site has been mowed and staked out for the project. The helical pier information is being finalized this week with pier installation to begin soon.

- **Cedar Lane Park East Bridge-** HTI Contractors are currently working on replacing the Cedar lane East bridge deck and railings. The new bridge deck sections have been delivered to the site. The bridge will be closed for 1 month. Tennis court access will be by the West area pathway only.
- **Symphony Woods Park Blue Path-** HTI Contractors have started construction of the Blue Path in Symphony Woods Park. The pathway is located in the vicinity of the temporary VIP road for the wine festival and will connect to the recently installed south entrance/Chrysalis pathway. The new pathway will be installed by the end of August.
- **Savage Park Playground-** Construction staff will be removing the existing playground and safety surface in the next 2 weeks. Installation of the new playground is scheduled for August 4th. The anticipated completion date is September 2021.
- **Waverly Mansion-** Recreation & Parks is now scheduling weddings and events at Waverly mansion. Staff have identified several site changes and additions. Jason Thompson developed a site plan that illustrates the changes. Caitlin Chamberlain is submitting applications with drawings to Maryland Historic Trust for approval. If approved, all work will begin this fall after the October wedding. The changes are: Replacing the deteriorated tent pad pavers and inclusion of a 12" wide trench drain on one side of the tent to assist in keeping water off of the main floor, relocation of existing 12' wide double ornamental iron gates closer to the kitchen corner with a brick path extension to aid staff in transporting tables, chairs and supplies to and from a temporary 10 x 20 storage shed that will be installed in front of the existing double gate section of the fencing. Requesting to widen of the depth of the parking lot by 8' to achieve a center drive aisle that meets regulations and improves public safety. Requesting approval to install a temporary ADA restroom trailer, smaller but like the trailer currently used at Belmont Manor and Historic Park.
- **DNR Additional Grant Funding-** Recreation & Parks has been awarded 2 non-matching grants to be used for park projects. A \$250K grant will be used to perform renovations to the Savage Mill Trail. An \$8 million-dollar grant will be used for renovations to the Centennial Park West area sports fields (\$6.3M) and for the replacement of the Schooley Mill Park playground and safety surface (\$400K) and the Warfield's Pond Park playground and safety surface replacement (\$300K).

- **Belmont Station Bridge-** Construction staff have the site ready for the bridge installation. Helical piers have been installed and the bridge will be ordered in the next week. Installation is scheduled for the end of August pending bridge component fabrication.
- **Huntington Park Improvements-** Paul Walsky is working on finalizing design plans in preparation for the improvement project that is anticipated to begin next spring. The project consists of additional pathways, outdoor basketball courts, a backstop and water fountain.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is recruiting members
- Vaccination Clinics have ended for now
- July is Recreation and Parks Month
 - Once Upon a Park Scavenger hunt is running
- Trips and Tours are back on
 - 1st trip is to St. Michaels
 - Full registration
- Hoping to get back into schools fully for programs in the Fall
- Celebration of Sports Banquet is October 19, 2021

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Tournaments and field reservations continue to bring in a lot of revenue

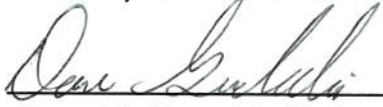
Old Business:

- Updated Title 19 has been approved by Board
- Health Department is willing to put bottle fillers at all water fountains in the parks

New Business:

No new business

Mr. Grabowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.



Dave Grabowski, Chairperson



Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary

