

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Department of Recreation and Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Conference Room #1 & #2
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Dave Grabowski, Chair, Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Sylvia Ramsey; Herman Charity; Antonia Watts; Chloe McGeehan

Staff Present:

Raul Delerme, Director; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Nicola Morgal, Bureau Chief of Recreation; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; 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 September Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously

Director's Report:

- Paralympic press event will take place November 2, 2021 at the Howard Building in Ellicott City at 4:00 pm
 - Tatyana McFadden and Daniel Romanchuk participated in the Tokyo Olympic games
- Centennial Sensory Pad Ribbon Cutting will be on Monday, November 4, 2021 at 11:00 am
- Savage Park Playground Ribbon Cutting will be on Thursday, November 8, 2021 at 11:00 am
- John Marshall's retirement party will take place at Belmont Manor and Historic Park on Friday October 22, 2021 from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Bureau of Parks:

- 2021 Annual Tree Giveaway was a huge success with 2,125 trees given to Howard County residents to increase the tree canopy.
- 4.3 acres will be planted with 500 trees through the Stream ReLeaf program this fall with an additional 52 trees being delivered to homeowners for planting.
- DJ Scheckelhoff completed 15 planting plans with 1,924 trees to be planted on 28.78 acres through the Turf to Trees program this fall, with more plans in the works for winter plantings.
- Robinson Nature Center turned 10 in September!
- Robinson Nature Center completed the Woodland Garden planting project with Girl Scout, Kaitlyn Hunter. Transported, arranged, and planted over 600 native plants to this new feature at the Nature Center. Volunteers did an outstanding job assisting with planting native trees, shrubs, ferns, and perennials. Installed the Woodland Garden interpretive sign and placed labeled river rocks throughout the planting area. Visitors now can learn about shade tolerant plants for their own yards! Kaitlyn did an outstanding job organizing and completing this Gold Award Project!
- Caitlin Chamberlain coordinated with Julien Icher of Lafayette Trail, Inc. to have a sign installed at Lisbon Park commemorating General Lafayette's Farewell Tour stop in the village. Sign creation and installation is pending.
- Kelly, Caitlin and volunteer Sandra cleaned up the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park garden area where a stone feature was discovered. Architectural artifacts including pieces of brick, mortar, window glass, a wire nail and a piece of transferware were screened from the dirt in the area. The new garden will be planted in an adjacent, less archaeologically sensitive area.
- All in a Day's Work event was held on October 6th and was a huge success.
- Horticulture and Land Management will be working with Zone 1 to cleanup Savage Park at Fair Street.
- David Keane received payment of \$39,990.15 for a utility easement for Wellington Farms sewer extension.
- Managed Deer hunts have begun
- Meagan Poe started as the Natural Resource Program Manager II September 13, 2021.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Centennial Park North Playground-** Construction staff have worked on punch list items and prep for sodding. The playground has been completed and the ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for November 4, 2021 at 11:00 am. We will have Best Fence raise the field #1 outfield fence 10 additional feet with netting due to foul balls entering the playground.
- **Centennial Park South Lower Area-** On October 18, 2021 the South Lower ADA parking project will begin. An ADA parking facility will be constructed in front of the restroom facility, wooden retaining walls will be replaced with engineered block walls and the pathway will be renovated to accessible standards from the boat launch to the amphitheater. We are also obtaining proposals for replacing the upper decking, railings and seating. The area will be closed to the public and a detour has been installed. The project is anticipated to take 5-6 months to complete.
- **Savage Park Playground-** The playground has been completed and will be open to the public this week. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for November 8, 2021 at 11:00 am. Thanks to Zone 1 staff with their assistance in the audit, fencing, and sod work.
- **Haviland Mill Trail-** The Haviland Mill trail project has started. The helical pier installation began last week. Jason is discussing moving trail work forward with HTI staff. Thanks to Brenda Belensky for assisting with the project and completing monthly reports.
- **Belmont Station Bridge-** Construction staff have the site ready for the bridge installation. Helical piers have been installed and the bridge has been ordered. The bridge package will be delivered in the next 2 weeks. Construction staff will install the bridge and have pathway asphalt work completed in the month of November.
- **Recreation & Parks Headquarters Parking Lot Paving-** The headquarters paving project has been completed. Thanks to everyone who assisted Ed Bromley in moving supplies and equipment along with staging vehicles.
- **FY23 CIP Budget-** We are compiling project lists and inspecting sites to obtain and prioritize projects for the FY23 Capital Budget. The budget draft is due mid-November. We are also completing Bureau of Facilities project lists for their review.

- **Dugout Covers-** PO's for the dugout covers for Hammond Park, Schooley Mill Park and Cedar Lane Park have been issued. Installation is scheduled to begin in November, sites are currently being prioritized and staff will be notified of scheduled work. Once Hammond Park has been completed, construction will schedule the installation of the ADA pathway connection to the field.
- **Troy Phase 2B-** The design has been completed and we will be working with the Office of Purchasing to develop the bid package for the project. Construction is anticipated for late spring 2022. The project consists of a restroom/storage building and grandstand bleachers for field #1.
- **Rockburn Disc Golf-** Heritage Construction and Jason Thompson have been working on options to reduce slippery pad issues at 4 holes. They have also been working with Rockburn staff on the installation of the stone plaza entrance for the course.
- **Promotions-** Cole Johnson is now a Park Maintenance Specialist on the Heritage Construction staff. Sean Markley has filled Mike Peach's Operation Supervisor I position with Construction.
- **Grants and Bond Bills-** Bryan Moody has applied for 7 bond bills (Barnard Fort \$150K, Blandair Mansion \$500K, Blandair Park Phase 6 \$250K, Centennial Park West Playground ("PG") \$200K, Rockburn Park Playground \$150K, Waterloo Park Playground \$150K, West Friendship Park \$400K)

Bureau of Recreation:

- The gym floor has reopened at Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood
 - Closed for 2 weeks for renovations
- Encore Showcase to show off Active Aging programs
 - This was held on October 5, 2021 at Blandair Park
- Truck or Treat Event is sold out on October 30, 2021
- Holiday Mart is cancelled for 2021
 - Virtual event in 2020 was not popular
- Celebration of Sports Gold Tournament
 - Great success
 - Over 100 golfers
- Harriet Tubman Manager job has been approved to post
 - Hoping to have start by end of November

- Staffing Issues with childcare
 - Many vacancies
 - Contingent and Part-time benefited

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Human Resource team has been great filling many vacancies
- New Hires
 - Cara Marshall promoted to Art Director
 - Jamie Ponton promoted to Tournaments Manager
 - Dawn Jackson hired as Warehouse Clerk
- First Wedding at Waverly Mansion was a success
- Recreational Licensed Childcare and Natural Resources staff are moving to Ascend One building

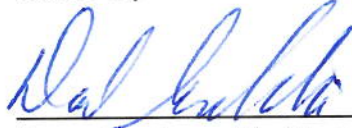
Old Business:

- One change to the bylaws
 - Added to include hybrid/virtual meetings
 - All board members were in favor

New Business:

- Dave Grabowski commended the All in a Day's Work Event held in October
- Dave Grabowski congratulated the two Park Rangers who were recognized by the County Executive for their Narcan training
- Chloe McGeehan gave a Student Member update:
 - Talked with marketing about getting a student section on county website
 - Events, playground updates, ranger ride-alongs
 - Have reached out to River Hill High School to hold event for Opioid Education and Narcan training
 - Connected Bryan Moody with Howard County Association of Student Council for more student input with the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan
- At the December meeting we will present the Capital Projects Budget

Mr. Grabowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.



Dave Grabowski, Chairperson



Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary