

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.  
WebEx Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Dave Grabowski, Chair, Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Herman Charity; Jen Mallo; Tom Franklin; Sylvia Ramsey; Chloe McGeehan

Staff Present:

Raul Delerme, Director; Michael H. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Nicola Morgal, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert E. 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 7:04 pm.

Approval of December Minutes:

Minutes were approved unanimously

Director's Report:

- The press release for next the next Student Board member will go out next week
- Dave Grabowski has been approved to be reappointed as a board member
  - Marian Vessels will be a new board member this spring. She is a strong advocate for people with disabilities
- Roger Carter Community Center is being used as testing site for staff in January. The dates and times are:
  - Tuesdays: 10am-6pm
  - Wednesday: 11:30am-3:30pm
  - Thursday: 10am-6pm
- Land Preservation Park and Recreation Plan is going to the Planning Board for review. This has already been submitted to the state.

Bureau of Parks: (Presented by Bob Linz and Mike Milani):

- Zone 1, trail closure at Savage park for tree work, and closed trail for tree work at Wincopin
- Zone 2 equipment dropped off for sewer line project at Centennial Park North. Woodland Road pathway will be closed for about a year due to the project.
- Zone 3, Schooley Mill Park horse jumps have been rebuilt. Trail work at Western Regional Park, and Rockburn Branch Park.
- Sharpshooting will start tomorrow for Deer Management program.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Blandair Park-** The replacement of field #1 artificial turf has started. The contractor has removed the existing turf fabric. Due to the cold weather the completion date may be pushed back to the first or second week of March. New goal posts will be installed during this project.
- **Centennial Park South Lower Area-** The contractor has installed several courses of the engineered block and staff have discovered irregular block sizes. The manufacturer is going to credit the Contractor for the block and allow Recreation and Parks to choose another style.
- **Waverly Mansion-** MHT approved the improvement application. We are reaching out to BGE about the parking lot light pole and electric pole relocation requests. We have met with Payne Landscaping and Best Fence to order supplies and materials and schedule the work. Special thanks to Caitlin Chamberlain for developing the MHT application and getting it approved.
- **Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP)-** Consultants delivered Howard County's draft 2022 LPPRP to MDNR on December 29, 2021. They will work with us to finalize the plan throughout the winter and spring.
- **Dugout Covers-** Hammond Park dugout covers, and bench pads have been completed. The ADA pathway will be constructed once we get good weather.
- **Centennial Park Pavilion Renovations-** Heritage Construction continues to work on siding replacement at pavilion E. Hayes Construction has started residing Pavilion D. The completion date for both projects is April 30, 2022.

- **Cradlerock Cricket Pitch-** Use of the Cradlerock site has been approved by HCPSS. The Groundbreaking is scheduled for January 28, 2022. Construction of the pitch will begin in February. Completion is anticipated by May 1, 2022.
- **Senior Administrative Tasks-** Bryan assisted with finalizing the CAPRA narratives and evidence of compliance for sections 2,5 and 9. He has assisted with Capital Budget redlines and the presentation review, along with drafting agreements and applications for the Columbia Gardeners, LEMS/CES cricket, Harriett Tubman bond bill, Savage Mill Trail Grant, residential leases and POS Grants. Review of the expanded Troy Park conversion requirements per MDNR.
- **McTague Property-** The property has been vacated and is to be razed by SHA before the transfer in the spring to Recreation and Parks.
- **Zirn Property-** The Zirn property/house has been vacated and we will evaluate the building use this month.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Currently 9 fulltime vacancies for the Recreation Bureau
- Recreational Licensed Childcare staffing shortages, 20 applicants since minimum wage have been increased
- RISE Program - Partnership between schools, Horizon program, and department. Has been put on hold, will revisit for next school year.
- North Laurel Community Center is a mobile testing site for COVID Every Tuesday
- Camp registration starts first week of February
- Adventure programs are doing very well – Archery and Rock climbing
- New track program for elementary aged kids - Little Tracksters will start at end of month
- Therapeutic Recreation had Ugly Sweater competition
- Had to close four aftercare sites due to COVID outbreaks
- “Meet You There” trips - Trip leaders meet customers at destinations, instead of taking bus. This has been very popular.
- Youth classes for Fall were at 80% of what they were pre-pandemic.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Payroll system is still down - have to resubmit past 3 pay periods into system when back up and running
- Belmont Manor won 2022 Wedding Wire Couple's Choice Award
- Continue to have field hockey and volleyball tournaments at the MAC
- Moving Recreational Licensed Childcare and Natural Resources offices to the Ascend One building in April 2022

Student Member Update:

- 5K Suicide Prevention is set for April 8, 2022 at 7pm at Oakland Mills High School. T-shirts have been ordered. Health department is helping to provide info at the event

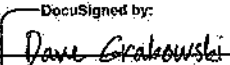
Old Business:


No Old Business

New Business:

- Interviews for vacant Park Bureau Chief in February

Mr. Grabowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Dave Grabowski, Chairperson

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Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary