

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, April 20, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.  
WebEx Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Dave Grabowski, Chair, Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Herman Charity; Tom Franklin, Antonia Watts, Marian Vessels, Chloe McGeehan

Staff Present:

Nicola Morgal, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert E. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Bryan Moody, Bureau Chief of Parks; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Mr. Grabowski called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Approval of March Minutes:

Minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Director's Report: (Reported by Ms. Morgal)

- Sylvia Ramsey has resigned from the Advisory Board
- The County Executive has made an agreement with Girl Scouts of America to acquire Camp Ilchester for the department.
- Light the Night Inaugural suicide prevention run was held on April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Organized by student Board member Chloe McGeehan
- World Autism Acceptance Day was on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Blandair Park.
- KidsFest was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Over 1000 kids attended
- Interviews will be next week for the next Student Board member
  - Chloe will be leaving in July
- Bryan Moody has been named the new Bureau Chief of Parks

### Bureau of Parks:

- Zone 1, Cedar Lane have replaced sodded areas on fields 1, 2, and 3.
- Zone 2, pathway closures have been completed
- Zone 3, Cricket pitch is ready for Spring at Schooley Mill. Met with Natural Resources at Western Regional for wayfinding signs.
- Zone 4, at Rockburn, cleared 3 areas of invasive species for volunteer tree planting.
- Skills Park Day was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - 11 participants volunteered
- Large area at Worthington Dog Park is closed for turf renovations.
- Zone 5, repairs to service road at Belmont Manor and Historic Park.
- Park staff participated in Adopt-A-Road on March 2, 2022.

### Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Centennial Park South Lower ADA Project-** The contractor has resumed work on the segmented block retaining wall. Base paving will take place in the next week for the section of pathway from the boat launch to the transformer behind the restroom facility. New deck joists have been installed and decking, bench fabrication & railing installation will follow. The anticipated project completion date is June 30, 2022. The chain link safety fence will be relocated from the center of the plateau to the perimeter in the next week to allow for scheduled events.
- **Centennial Park Pavilions-** Exterior siding replacement on pavilions D, E & H have been completed.
- **Centennial Park North-** Construction staff are bringing ADA parking in compliance with grading and retaining wall work prior to paving. The anticipated paving completion date is May 27<sup>th</sup>. The final design for the Sensory Area has been agreed upon. We await a revised proposal for the project and will place the order once received.
- **Cradlerock Cricket-** The youth cricket pitch has been completed. Zone 1 staff will be installing the lines this week.
- **Belmont Station Bridge-** The bridge approach paving is scheduled for this Thursday/Friday.
- **Woodcrest Bridge-** Once construction receives the final details, the bridge package will be ordered.
- **Schooley Mill Park Playground-** The custom playground equipment has been ordered. We have secured a contractor for the equipment installation

and rubber safety surface. We anticipate the playground completion early fall.

- **Cedar Lane Park-** The press box flooring and door replacements will be completed by May 2nd.
- **Waverly Mansion-** The patio bricks have been removed, thank you to the Horticulture Land Management crew for their assistance. The new drain system will arrive Wednesday, and installation should begin next week. Heritage Construction is finishing the shed retaining wall area. The storage shed has been ordered, along with the ADA restroom trailer put out to bid. Parking lot renovations and new light poles will be scheduled once the patio project has been completed.
- **Symphony Woods Plateau-** The widening of the plateau below the white house for the wine festival VIP area should be completed next week.
- **Troy Phase 2B-** Project bids were due last week, and Northpoint Builders came in low bid. We anticipate starting the project by the beginning of June.
- **Haviland Mill Trail-** The final helical piers are being installed next week. Once installed, the contractor will be finishing the decking and railings. The natural trail tread will also be completed after the piers have been completed.
- **Barnard Fort House-** We received application approval from the Heritage Preservation Commission for the Barnard Fort House renovation. We are now moving to final construction document design.
- **Heritage Construction-** Reset cap stones in public parking lot E, installed a bench at Tiber Park and finished window repairs at the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin.
- **Capital Projects Administration-** Mr. Moody has continued reviewing proposed Maryland House & Senate Bills and budgets for potential low impacts with Maryland Association of County Parks & Recreation Administrators. We received \$100K grant reimbursement from Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) Program Open Space for the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) and there is an additional \$25K pending. Mr. Moody received MDDNR and Maryland Planning board (MDP) comments on the LPPRP draft. The draft is being revised for Administration review by May 1<sup>st</sup>, Planning Board by May 19<sup>th</sup> and County Council in July. We received MDDNR and MDP approval to revise acquisition goals to 25 acres per 1,000 residents to qualify for more

parkland development funding with a smaller match. Mr. Moody has been working on Acquisition efforts for East Columbia Library Park, Houchens neighboring property in Western Howard County, Woodland Road and Haviland Mill property neighboring properties are moving forward with several likely to happen. Mr. Moody did an excellent job chairing several sections in the CAPRA reaccreditation effort.

- **Dawn Poholsky**- Ms. Poholsky turned in Department Fleet reports to the Fleet Director, along with assisting with equipment surplus and SAP record changing. New David Force Park bridge locations and trail segments were set up with the 911 coordinator. She assisted with CAPRA section 9 and continues to develop wine festival maps and the Day of Brochure. She assists with geocaching requests and approvals, quality control of the Trails GIS layer and open space record mapping
- **Wine Festival**- Construction is finalizing orders for the ground protection matting for the upper temporary road and tents in turf areas. Temporary lighting and generators are also being ordered. Final logistics orders should be finalized by the end of this week. Special thanks to Jeff Hull, Sean Markley, Vince Cellini, Brenda Belensky, Dawn Poholsky, Joann Frush and Don Wyman for their assistance with Physical Arrangements Logistics.

#### Bureau of Recreation:

- CAPRA reaccreditation has been completed
  - Virtual visit in March
  - Met all 154 standards
  - Will receive award in September in National Conference
- Wine in the Woods is coming up on May 21 and 22, 2022
  - 4000 ticket sales already
    - Normally around 1000 at this time
  - New Explorers' tent and beer offered this year
  - Ticket and vendor's scam
    - Featured on WMAR news
  - \$50,000 worth of sponsors
- Staff recruitment issues
  - RLC waitlist is still very high
- Looking to add Inclusive fitness equipment at all sites

- Allan Harden is retiring after 45 years of service as Superintendent of Sports and Adventure Services Division
- Antonia Watts asked if the hourly wages are \$15/hour yet.
  - Nicola Morgal responded that lifeguards and before and after care went to \$15/hour several months ago.
- Marian Vessels commented that there was only one online post mentioning that Wine in the Woods would have beer this year. She thinks this is a big draw for those who do not normally enjoy wine.
  - Nicola Morgal responded that the beer addition was just made recently when we were worried that we were not going to have enough alcohol options.

Bureau of Administrative Services: (Presented by Ms. Morgal)

- All fields have been booked
  - Busy tournament season
- Marketing team has been doing great with all the program and event promotion as well as helping with recruitment.

Student Member Update:

- 5k event went great
  - 250 people signed up
  - 210 raced
  - Raised around \$4000
    - Will be split up among Suicide Prevention foundations

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

- Ed Coleman asked a question about the acquisition of the Camp Ilchester
  - It will not affect the department capital projects funds

Mr. Grabowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Dave Grabowski, Chairperson



Raul Delerme, Executive Secretary