

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
February 22, 2006
Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Vince DePalmer, Earl Hersh, Tom Hersh, Jody Ledford, Art Nelligan, Kevin Null, Sue Podobnik, Jim Rodriguez, Tom Ronaghan

Members Excused: Judy Baker, Gary Davis

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Department Staff Present: Brad Rogers, Barbara Lages, Bill Schaefer, Bruce Dutterer, Loren Lustig

Guests: See Addendum

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on February 22, 2006, at Carroll Springs School. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Vince DePalmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Earl Hersh motioned to approve the October Minutes, seconded by Kevin Null, and unanimously approved.

UPDATES/ISSUES:

Jeff Degitz provided the following updates:

Staff:

Brad Rogers was promoted from Hashawha Manager to Bureau Chief of Parks. Current openings include Hashawha Manager, Bear Branch Naturalist and part time seasonal positions at Hashawha, Piney Run and the Sports Complex.

Capital Projects:

Leister Park – design firm under contract; hoping for 2006 ground breaking

Northwest Middle Ballfield Improvements – project will be administered by City of Taneytown and Board of Education; work to start in spring

Krimgold Park – design firm under contract – will meet with them this week; continuing to hope for 2006 ground breaking

Gillis Falls Park – making minor adjustments to design plan; working through agency review process; planning for 2006 ground breaking

South Carroll Senior Center – attended initial meeting with design firm; currently gym is included in project

West Carroll Regional Park – have reviewed several properties for possible purchase; currently reviewing Hibberd property (across from New Windsor Middle) which, while attractive as parkland, is currently in a County Ag Preservation easement

Program Open Space:

Governor Ehrlich's proposed budget includes full funding of Program Open Space for the first time in many years. If approved by the legislature, it will result in approximately \$3.6 million in POS funds for Carroll County FY 2007 with \$2.6 million available for county projects and over \$900,000 for town projects.

Homeland Tax Credit:

Current Board of County Commissioners previously lowered the cap property tax could increase in one year from 110% to 107%

Current Board of County Commissioners proposed a senior tax credit this year to help relieve tax burden on seniors due to rising assessments to allow them to “age in place”

Current Board of County Commissioners have a balanced 5-year operating and capital budget plan, taking into account both revenues and planned expenditures – the State dues not

State delegation has proposed lowering cap from 107% to 105% - this will result in loss of revenue of \$2 million in the coming fiscal year and \$16 million in five years (a revenue increase of \$40 million instead of \$56 million)

Possible effect experienced by Recreation and Parks: Ebb Valley Elementary School, new North Carroll High School, South Carroll Middle School, local dollars in all capital projects, Self-Help funds (all local funds), funds for maintenance of new county parks (Leister, Krimgold, Gillis Falls, West Carroll), South Carroll Senior Center operating costs.

SELF-HELP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:

- **Freedom Area Recreation Council** – Mark Smith, representing the Eldersburg Rogue Runners program, presented a request to provide a 12’ x 30’ storage building at Liberty High School, in a location determined by the Principal, for storage of the school’s cross country track/field equipment that is also used by the Rogue Runners’ program. One-half of the building’s space will be devoted to this equipment and the other half for general use by the school’s athletic department. Total Cost: \$7,000; County funds - \$5,285; Council contribution - \$1,715 and 20 volunteer hours.
- **North Carroll Recreation Council** – John Shaffer, representing the fast pitch program, presented a request to cover four benches at Hampstead Elementary School’s softball fields. The existing benches are splintered and have become a safety issue for players. Total cost: \$587; County funds - \$454; Council contribution - \$133 and 8 volunteer hours.
- **North Carroll Recreation Council** – Arnie Barnett, representing the Carroll County Rangers, presented a request for an additional 610 linear feet of 4’ high chain link fence and gates for the 90’ diamond at Cape Horn Park. This addition will fully enclose the ballfield and prevent baseballs from rolling down the hill and onto the walking trail and parking lot. The Rangers host tournaments with over 60 teams participating. Total cost: \$10,651; County funds - \$7,989; Council funds - \$2,663.
- **Piney Run Recreation and Conservation Council** – Loren Lustig, Park Manager, requested funding to develop a wildflower meadow and butterfly garden at Piney Run Park. The wildflower meadow would be developed as an overlook to the lake from Pavilion #1. The ¼ acre site currently has split rail fencing and a walkway with steps from the pavilion to the lake front. The butterfly garden would enhance the primary area of the park’s major festivals and feature plants that are of particular attraction for native butterflies. The site is currently a garden area that is in disrepair. These improvements will enhance the park for visitors to special events; have conservation and environmental education significance; and the potential to be useful for programs sponsored by the Nature Center. Total Cost: \$4,021; County funds - \$3,198; Council contribution - \$823 and 104 volunteer hours.
- **Taneytown Athletic Association** – Bob Mitchell, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Taneytown, presented a request to build new dugouts with storage area on field 4 at Taneytown Memorial Park. Field 5 is also being reviewed. The City has donated \$6,500 and the Lions Club, \$1,500 toward improving these two fields. The Lions baseball program has approximately 300 children that will benefit from these improvements, as well as provide a more secure storage area than the existing wooden sheds. The estimated cost for one field is \$7,410; County funds requested - \$6,013; community contribution - \$1,407 and 256 volunteer hours.
- **Westminster Area Recreation Council** – Scott McKelvie, representing the Westminster Area Lacrosse Program, requested two 8x8x20’ “C” containers to store lacrosse goals, uniforms, equipment, and field maintenance items. One will be located at East Middle and one at Friendship Valley. Both of these schools are used at the main fields for boys and girls lacrosse and neither has adequate storage for equipment. Last year, 280 youth participated in the lacrosse program. The idea for the storage containers came from last year’s request from Freedom Area Recreation Council. Both units have ample room for growth and any extra space could be used for the schools’ storage needs. Total cost: \$6,850; County funds - \$5,137; Council funds - \$1,713.

- **Westminster Area Recreation Council** – Jaycee’s Girl’s Softball representative, Frank Wagner, presented a request to repair and paint fences for three ball diamonds, purchase four trees and equipment (home plates, pitcher’s mounds and bases) at Jaycee Park. The fences, originally installed 15 years ago, are showing signs of age and rusting; the trees will replace those lost in storms; and the equipment will replace much needed aging equipment. The Girl’s Softball program currently has 300 participants, ages 5 through high school. Total cost: \$1,425; County funds - \$1,167; Community funds - \$258 and 56 volunteer hours.
- **Westminster Area Recreation Council** – A request was presented by Patrick Larson, youth volleyball representative, for volleyball equipment at Westminster High School’s lower gym, which is used year-round for the council’s volleyball program. The equipment includes floor plates, sleeves, poles and nets. Total cost: \$3,823; County funds - \$2,867; Council funds - \$956.
- **Freedom Area Recreation Council** – Debbie Herndon, representing Piney Ridge Elementary School, requested funding for playground equipment that will be located near the ballfield. The school has 651 students and other than 1 climber and 10 swings, they have no playground equipment for the students in grades 1-5. It would be used by the community as well. Total cost: \$47,208.75; County funds - \$15,000; Community funds - \$32,308.75.
- **Taneytown Recreation Council** – Darlene Jeffers, Taneytown Elementary, requested Self-Help funds for additional playground equipment for school and community use. Implementation of all-day kindergarten has doubled the number of kindergarten students during the day and impacted the use of the existing playground equipment when other grades have recess at the same time. The play equipment is also well-used by many families who are within walking distance of the school. The PTO has made a commitment to raise the funds needed for this project. Total cost: \$55,757.33; County funds - \$15,000; Community funds - \$40,757.33.
- **Westminster Area Recreation Council** – William Winchester Elementary PTO representatives, Michelle Parrish and Heather Zophy, presented a request for additional playground and recreational equipment to meet the needs of the growing school population and surrounding communities. Currently, William Winchester has two pieces of playground equipment provided with funds from students, staff and PTA, one designed for the 2-5 age group and one for ages 6-11. The proposed equipment, a Roundhouse, will provide coordination and strengthening activities for all of the children. Dr. Vigliotti, Principal, reported that the school’s maintenance staff will grade and prep the site and provide some of the mulch surfacing and timber borders. He also advised that \$14,500 has been raised for the project: PTA - \$6,000; spring fund-raiser - \$1,500; school-based funds - \$2,000; private donation - \$5,000. Total Cost: \$27,007.84; County funds - \$15,000; Community funds - \$17,007.84.

The Capital Budget Committee will meet on March 9th, at 4:00 p.m., to review Self-Help requests and determine a recommendation for funding that will be presented to the full Board on March 22nd.

Constitution and By-Laws

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee will meet to review the existing document and the revised draft prepared by staff to develop a proposal that will be sent to the Board prior to the March 22nd meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Degitz, Director

Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary

