

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting**  
**June 20, 2007**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairperson Jody Ledford, Tom Ronaghan, Gary Davis, Kevin Null, Sue Podobnik, Tom Hersh, Jim Rodriguez

**Members Absent:** Vince DePalmer

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Jeff Degitz

**Staff Present:** Bruce Dutterer, Abby Gruber, Barbara Lages

**Guests:** Mr. Goodwin O'Neal

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on June 20, 2007 in Room 003 of the County Office Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Jody Ledford.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The March Minutes were unanimously accepted with a motion from Tom Ronaghan and seconded by Sue Podobnik.

**UPDATES/ISSUES:**

Jeff Degitz provided the following updates:

**Staff Update:** Loren Lustig is now the Outreach Environmental Education Specialist and is working out of the Department's administrative office. He will be working on developing programs for schools, seniors, pre-school and home school populations as well as coordinating programs with the two nature centers. Sandy Buterbaugh is the new Park Supervisor at Piney Run and Brad Rogers will be working closely with her during the transition.

**National Recreation & Parks Month:** We will once again be celebrating July as Recreation & Parks Month and are distributing a calendar of activities through the public libraries encouraging the public to get active and visit our park sites and programs.

**Motocross Facility:** Mr. Goodwin O'Neal attended the March Board meeting and expressed an interest in the County developing a motocross facility. Mr. O'Neal gave Mr. Degitz a contact person with the State Department of Natural Resources and he has contacted him regarding their interest. Mr. O'Neal also suggested surplus land around Springfield Hospital as a possible site. At this point, there is nothing concrete to report.

**Athletic Field Scheduling:** In an attempt to collect better information regarding the use of our facilities, we will be implementing some new scheduling procedures on a pilot basis in several communities. In short, we will be requiring the submission of schedules (practices and games) as backup information for all permit requests and staff will be checking field use. This will provide better documented information when we submit capital requests for additional facilities and will help to insure that we are maximizing the use of our existing facilities.

**Grant Opportunities:** We will be applying for a *Community Parks & Playground Grant* to purchase a climbing rock, large pavilion and several picnic table/pavilions for Bennett Cerf Park. Should we receive these funds, this will free up additional capital funds in outlying years. We will also be applying for a *Waterways Improvement Fund Grant* for signage for a water trail at Double Pipe Creek Park and an additional parking area that we hope to designate at Hapes Mill Road.

**Town Program Open Space Projects:** The towns receive 25% of the County's annual Program Open Space allocation, and for FY 2008, their portion is \$648,493. Their project proposals, however, total \$1,495,000. All the proposals are reviewed by the Carroll County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and their recommendations for funding are then submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. These funds, just as the County's portion of Program Open Space funds, can be used for either acquisition or development projects.

### **CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS:**

Bruce Dutterer presented requests for four projects that were requested last year but not included in the CIP.

➤ **Bennett Cerf Drive (Extended) – Trail Design and Construction**

The trail project consists of design and construction of approximately 2 miles of 8' wide macadam trail (from Bennett Cerf Park to Route #97 North intersection) with 1 pedestrian bridge. Development of this trail system will be coordinated with the parallel Bennett Cerf Drive Extended project planned in the Department of Public Works' CIP in FY11 and FY13. A 4,000 linear ft. section of this trail is proposed to be constructed by the Windy Hills Subdivision as part of their open space requirements. Recreation and Parks and Public Works will coordinate construction of the remainder of the trail so the grading and paving may be completed within the same timeframe. Estimated cost: \$822,200.

➤ **Dog Park - Bennett Cerf Park**

The planned Dog Park will be constructed at Bennett Cerf Park in the area where the tennis courts and pavilion are now located. Part of the project will be removal of the 30 year old tennis court surfacing and fencing, and demolition of the pavilion, all of which are in very poor condition. A new pavilion will be located in another area of the park as part of the Bennett Cerf Park Revitalization capital project currently planned in FY 11. Requests from the citizens to build a dog park have been increasing every year. In the past, Westminster Community Pond was considered as a location; however, the neighbors were opposed. Since there are no houses near Bennett Cerf Park, this should not be an issue. Estimated cost: \$71,800.

➤ **Little Pipe Creek Trail Design and Development**

A 3.5 mile, 8 ft. wide, compacted stone trail is planned from the existing trail in Union Bridge to New Windsor, parallel to Route 75 within the right-of-way. The project will also include two pedestrian bridges. The estimated cost is \$1,193,000. When completed, the trail will connect both municipalities. Union Bridge is also planning to extend their existing trail in the other direction with Program Open Space funds allocated to the towns.

➤ **Sandymount Gym Design and Development**

A gymnasium and office area equaling 6,900 sq. ft. is planned as an addition to the new Sandymount Library which is approaching construction. The Bureau of Building Construction's estimated cost is \$2,247,700. The library was designed to accommodate either a gym or some other use. Management and Budget gave serious consideration to the gymnasium project last year because this area of the County has the least facilities (only 2 elementary schools) for scheduling Sandymount and Deer Park Recreation Council programs. Ms. Podobnik commented that it was an unusual mix of facilities, but Mr. Degitz feels that the building can be designed to work with both. Ms. Gruber expressed that the way of the future is going to be complexes with different types of facilities.

Since the majority of Board members were present, it was decided to continue with discussion of the four project requests during this meeting and determine recommendations for placement within the CIP, rather than schedule a committee meeting. The requests presented total \$5,054,700.

- Little Pipe Creek Trail project is recommended for developed in two phases – FY 11 and FY 12
- Bennett Cerf Park Drive Extended Trail is recommended in FY 12 and at the time Windy Hills Subdivision schedules construction of their portion of the trail.
- Sandymount Gymnasium is recommended in FY 14. Although the Sandymount Library will soon be starting construction, Mr. Degitz advised that the gym would not have to be constructed at the same time.
- Dog Park is recommended in FY 09

Mr. Degitz reported that the Commissioners may soon be appointing three new members to fill the current vacancies on the Advisory Board. Since there may be new members at the July meeting, it was agreed to wait until then to vote on the Capital Project recommendations.

Barbara Lages announced that the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Month of Sundays Summer Concert Series will be held in July and is free to the public. The Department contributes funding toward this program with monies from amusement park ticket sales. This year, we have joined with the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association in the sale of these tickets.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with a motion by Tom Ronaghan and a second by Kevin Null.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Jeff Degitz, Director

---

Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary