

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
March 26, 2008**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Gary Davis, Vince DePalmer, Hernán Padilla, Jim Rodriguez, Tom Ronaghan,

Members Excused: Tom Hersh, Colin Furneaux, Jody Ledford, Kevin Null, Sue Podobnik,
Bobbi Tucker

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Bruce Dutterer, Abby Gruber, Brad Rogers, Barbara Lages, Matt Purkins

Guests Present: Joe Cook, President, Charles Carroll Recreation Council and the recently elected
President of Carroll Association of Recreation Councils (CARC).

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on March 26, 2008, at Hashawha Environmental Center. With the absence of both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, the meeting was called to order by former Chairperson, Tom Ronaghan,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The February 27th Minutes were corrected to include Bureau Chief of Recreation Abby Gruber as present. Gary Davis motioned to approve the Minutes as corrected, seconded by Vince DePalmer, and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **New Administrative Office** – The Department's Administrative Office moved on March 7 to the Robert Moton Center, 300 S. Center Street, Westminster. Also located in the Center are the Board of Elections, Change, Inc., and the Friends of Robert Moton School. The Board of Education will be scheduling use of the activity room and next month, the Department will begin scheduling the gymnasium.
- **New Committees** – Meetings will be scheduled with the Trail Planning and Scheduling Facilities Committees.
- **Early Bird Fishing Tournament** will take place on Saturday, March 29, at Piney Run Park. The park opens for the season on April 1.
- **Facility Updates**
 - **Sports Complex** – Manager Matt Purkins reported that the first tournaments of the season took place the weekend of March 15, with 40 teams participating from Maryland and Pennsylvania (the best opening day in five seasons); concessions made \$3,000.
 - **Hashawha/Bear Branch** – Melissa Boyles, Manager, reported that 100 additional chestnut trees will be planted in the chestnut orchard on April 9, adding to the 250 planted last year.

- **Piney Run Auxiliary Classroom** – Brad Rogers, Bureau Chief of Parks, provided photos of the additional classroom that will be built near the nature center. Originally, the planned building was estimated to cost \$100,000, but with some research, the decision was made to put in a yurt which is described as being somewhere between a building and tent and is very popular in the west. It will be 30 feet in diameter (790 sq. ft.) constructed with fireproof, canvas-like material guaranteed for 25 years. It will have windows, electric and pellet stove for heat and easily accommodate a class trip or summer camp program. Bathroom facilities are not needed as scheduling will be no longer than 3 hours at a time and the nature center bathrooms are nearby. Although \$60,000 has been budgeted for the yurt, it is expected to come in under budget. The deck is in the process of being constructed with assistance from Bureau of Facilities' staff. The yurt is expected to be completed in approximately a month. The Board may hold its October meeting in this new facility. Any remaining funds from this project will be used to make improvements to the gatehouse and boathouse.

CAPITAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Ronaghan reviewed the Committee's recommendations for funding of Self-Help project requests. (Addendum #1). A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez to approve the recommendations as presented and seconded by Mr. Davis; motion was unanimously approved.

ARTIFICIAL TURF:

Mr. Degitz reported that he had recently discussed with the Board of Commissioners artificial turf fields and its advantages and disadvantages. The cost is \$1M per field and after 10 years, maintenance is \$500,000. Our recreation councils are playing on artificial turf fields in neighboring counties. Jim Rodriguez reported that Harford County is putting them in on half of their fields. Further discussion was tabled until the May meeting.

FIELD SCHEDULING ISSUES:

Jeff Degitz explained that each year permits are issued to user groups for field use beginning March 15. Carroll Community College is growing and now has a rugby program with other programs anticipated. The Department permits the college fields and has never had to schedule around their programs in the past. Also, one of the college fields was removed to make way for a new classroom and parking lot. Deer Park and North Carroll Recreation Councils uses this area and Westminster High School practices there.

Recently, Westminster High School hosted scrimmages at Kate Wagner fields on time permitted to Deer Park. During field checks, two out-of-county teams were playing there while every field at Westminster High School was empty. It appears that they want to rest their fields at the expense of others. Groups are aware that the Department is randomly checking fields. The first day, a lot of fields were found to be empty. The perception has been to block out time whether it's needed or not.

Another issue is the lower priority for use of facilities that is given to groups outside the recreation councils. The bottom line, however, is that these are taxpayers, children, and County residents and it has become a politically charged issue. The Scheduling Facilities sub-committee will be meeting in the near future to address these difficult issues.

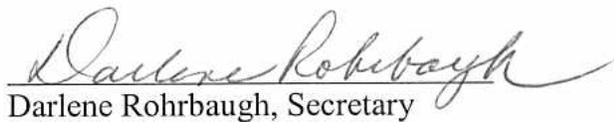
MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Mr. DePalmer requested that the Department continue to monitor the North Carroll Senior and Community Center for space that could be used by the recreation council. Mr. Degitz advised that the County's Space Committee is responsible for making recommendations for the building's use.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Following the meeting, the Board visited the new greenhouse.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeff R. Degitz, Director


Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

March 5, 2008

Addendum #1

Members Present: Tom Ronaghan, Jody Ledford, Vince DePalmer, Bobbi Tucker

Staff Present: Jeff Degitz

The Capital Budget Committee met on March 5, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., to review and determine recommendations for funding Self-Help project requests presented at the February 27th Advisory Board meeting. The County's available funds are \$22,746 and requests total \$45,164.

Taneytown Athletic Association's request was not considered because a representative did not attend the meeting to make a presentation, and Westminster Area Recreation Council's request for an irrigation system was withdrawn.

The Committee recommends funding for ballfield mix requests for North Carroll, Winfield and Charles Carroll Recreation Councils' baseball and softball programs but do not recommend the 3 storage boxes, infield groomer or lime requests for North Carroll. They do not consider the groomer and lime to be capital expenses.

Winfield's request for basketball backboards is not recommended because there was concern about the amount of usage and the low amount of available funds.

The Arts Council project for a water heater and faucet is recommended as is Piney Run Recreation & Conservation Council's request to construct a footbridge on the Lake Trail to complete the overlook project. Park staff took the funds within their operating budget to take this project as far as they could.

Funding is recommended for four of the six items requested by Carroll Gymnastics. Their first priority items, the carpet and foam for the spring floor, are not recommended due to the cost and the low amount of County funds available. The existing spring floor was purchased with Self-Help funds many years ago and the Gymnastics Program has requested and received funds several times over the years.

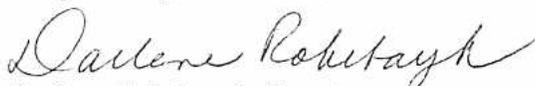
The Equestrian Council request for sand mix is not recommended due to the high cost and low amount of available County funds.

Recreation Councils have the option again in September to present projects that are not funded this time.

Vince DePalmer made a motion to fund \$20,930 County funds for projects listed on the attached chart. The motion was seconded by Tom Ronaghan and unanimously approved.

The Committee's recommendations will be presented to the full Advisory Board on March 26. The Board's recommendations will then go to the County Commissioners for final approval. Approved funds should be available in mid-April.

Respectfully submitted,



Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary

Capital Committee Recommendations

February 2008 Self-Help Project Requests

Rec Council	Project	Proj Total	Cnty Fnds	Rec Fnds
CC Arts Council	Water Heater Installation and Misc. Plumbing	1,195.00	896.00	299.00
Charles Carroll	Bleachers and Balldiamond Mix	2,100.00	1,610.00	490.00
CC Equestrian Council	Show Ring Sand mix			
North Carroll	Lime for Christmas Tree Park Fields			
North Carroll	Balldiamond mix for Field C at Christmas Tree Park	2,544.00	1,908.00	636.00
North Carroll	Balldiamond Mix for Field D Chrtmas Tree Park	1,272.00	954.00	318.00
North Carroll	Balldiamond Mix for Manchester Elem.	2,544.00	1,908.00	636.00
North Carroll	Balldiamond mix for North Carroll Middle School	1,272.00	954.00	318.00
North Carroll	Balldiamond Mix for Hampstead Elem.	3,888.00	2,916.00	972.00
Piney Run	Foot Bridge Construction	4,000.00	3,140.00	860.00
Westminster	Gymnastics Equipment - Mats and Training Bar	2,165.00	1,623.00	542.00
Winfield	Mayeski Park Balldiamond Mix	6,885.00	5,021.00	1,864.00
Winfield	Basketball Back-boards for South Carroll HS			
Total Recommended		27,865.00	20,930.00	6,935.00
Total County Funds available			22,746.00	