

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
September 24, 2008**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Sue Podobnik, Chairperson, Gary Davis, Vince DePalmer, Jody Ledford, Kevin Null, Tom Ronaghan, Bobbi Tucker

Members Absent: Colin Furneaux, Tom Hersh, Jim Rodriguez

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Abby Gruber and Barbara Lages

Guests: Joseph Zentgraf, April Stull, Carolyn Garber, Larry and Lynda Balins, Equestrian Council; Tony Baile, West Carroll Recreation Council; Butch Adams, Westminster Area Recreation Council; Kathy Lowe, Charles Carroll Recreation Council; Ken Whalen, Freedom Area Recreation Council; Wayne Straitz and Ed Beane, Winfield Recreation Council; and John and Edith Ballard.

Chairperson Podobnik opened the meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at 7:30 p.m. and thanked the Board for making the effort to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The July Minutes were unanimously approved as written with a motion by Gary Davis and second by Jody Ledford.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- *New Library Headquarters* – Dedication of the new library headquarters, located at the old New Windsor Middle School, was held this week. The building also has a new community room that will be available for programming and meetings in the near future. Abby Gruber, Bureau Chief of Recreation, will schedule the community room.
- *Piney Run Tree Planting* – The Department is very appreciative of the generous gift of \$25,000 to the County from the estate of Mr. Gordon L. Filbey to be used for planting trees at Piney Run. Over 600 trees were planted on a 3 acre area of the park near the lake.

SELF-HELP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:

Carroll County Equestrian Council – Larry Balins presented requests to upgrade the surfaces of show rings 1 and 2 at the Equestrian Center with 2" of new sand footing to maintain and improve riding safety and conditions for horses and riders. The present footing was installed 10 (ring 1) and 8 (ring 2) years ago. If funded, the new footing is expected to last approximately 10 years. Paid daily rental use at the Center has increased 100% over the last year, from 11 to 22 events with the same or more expected next year. Condition of the footing is the most important asset to a riding arena and in order to remain competitive with other facilities, it needs to provide proper and safe footing. Mr. Balins stated that the project cost could be reduced if County trucks could haul the material. The Council charges \$250/day to rent the facility; membership fee is \$15 with 130+ current members. Because there is no water or sewer at the facility, they are unable to operate a full fledged concession to raise funds. Carolyn Garber reported that a second grant was just awarded from SHA's National Recreation Trails fund for equipment. Ring 2 is first priority – Project total: \$7,500; County funds \$5,625; Council funds \$1,875. Ring 1 (second priority) – Project total: \$5,600; County funds \$4,200; Council funds \$1,400.

Charles Carroll Recreation Council – Kathy Lowe presented 2 projects:

Priority 1: Concrete floor for the pavilion located on Cherrytown Road that was purchased with Self-Help funds. At the time, however, there wasn't funding available for the concrete floor. Project total: \$4,350; County funds \$3,263; Council funds \$1,087.

Priority 2: Sports Complex Information Sign – a 2-sided, lighted sign to be installed at the entrance on Route 97N. The sign would advertise sports opportunities for both the recreation council and sports complex. Electric is included in the cost. Project total: \$4,450; County funds \$3,355; Council funds \$1,085 and 10 volunteer hours.

Freedom Area Recreation Council – Ken Whalen presented 5 requests listed in priority order:

Priority 1 – Freedom Park Concession/Storage Building
12'x30' building for concessions and equipment storage to serve the 3 multi-purpose fields and 1 softball field and supplement another concession building in another area of the park. Project total: \$5,300; County funds \$3,975; Council funds \$1,325.

Priorities 2 through 5 – Ballfield Mix for deteriorating baseball and softball fields due to regular seasonal use and deterioration during the winter months. This is an ongoing request every couple of years. Twenty-five loads are requested for four locations listed in priority order:

Carrolltowne Elementary (1 baseball field, 1 load)	Total cost: \$ 630; County \$ 446; Council \$ 184
Freedom Park (2 softball fields, 2 loads each)	Total cost: \$2,520; County \$1,864; Council \$ 656
Eldersburg Elementary (6 fields, 2 loads each)	Total cost \$7,560; County \$5,591; Council \$1,969
Freedom Park (4 baseball fields 2 loads each)	Total cost \$5,040; County \$3,675; Council \$1,365 (Council would also contribute 45 volunteer hours)

Piney Run Recreation & Conservation Council – Abby Gruber presented a request on behalf of the Council for a 10'x10' covered mini-pavilion, concrete slab and built in picnic table at Piney Run Park that will provide shelter for park patrons that are not renting pavilions. Additional mini-pavilions may be added in the future. Mr. Degitz reported that the Department has recently begun installing these pavilions in other parks and have received positive feedback. Project total: \$6,900; County funds \$5,315; Council funds \$1,585 and 80 volunteers.

City of Taneytown – No representative in attendance to present project.

Westminster Area Recreation Council – Butch Adams presented a request by the Titans Baseball Club to convert one of the two 90' ballfields at Landon C. Burns Park to a 70' ballfield. Currently, there are no 70' ballfields in the community. This project will allow 10-12 year olds to make a gradual adjustment to high school size fields. The request is divided into two phases in the event the Board can only fund a percentage of the project. Mr. Adams was asked if the Club could provide more help to complete the project as a way to lower the cost. Mr. Adams will get back to the Department with an adjusted cost prior to the subcommittee meeting. Project total: \$19,939 (Phase I - \$9,943; Phase 2 - \$9,996); County funds \$15,392; Council funds \$4,547 and 250 volunteer hours.

West Carroll Recreation Council – Requests were presented by Tony Baile for ball mix and/or conditioner for baseball and softball fields in the West Carroll area. Only one quote was received for the project. The council has not requested Self-Help funds for 4 or 5 years. Ball mix has not been added to these fields in several years resulting in many low spots. The recreation council invested in a new piece of maintenance equipment last year, but without enough mix on the fields, dragging the fields can't be done properly. There are 180 youth in the baseball program and a new travel program that has created more wear and tear on

the fields. Mr. Davis asked if the conditioner could be cut because it only keeps the dirt loose and the fields still have to be worked. Mr. Baile replied that it could be cut, but the council thought it would help with maintenance. Ms. Podobnik asked if the council had requested funding assistance from Francis Scott Key High School, but they had not. Listed in priority order are West Carroll's requests:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Council – Vol.hrs.</u>
Ball mix - Francis Scott Key H.S. (1 baseball field)	\$ 2,750	\$2,115	\$ 635 30
Ball mix – Union Bridge fields (2 fields)	4,800	3,705	1,095 60
Ball mix – New Windsor Lions Club (1 field)	2,400	1,852	548 30
Ball mix – Seibel Fields (2 fields)	3,600	2,805	795 60
Ball mix – Francis Scott Key H.S. (1 softball field)	2,750	2,115	635 30
Conditioner – Union Bridge fields (2 fields)	11,000	8,355	2,645 60
Conditioner – New Windsor Lions Club (1 field)	5,500	4,177	1,323 30
Conditioner – Seibel Fields (2 fields)	11,000	8,355	2,645 60

Winfield Recreation Council – Ed Beane presented 3 requests in priority order:

Priority 1 – Lower field improvements at Linton Springs Elementary – The field is used by South Carroll Soccer Club, Century H.S. and Linton Springs Elementary, but its condition is dangerous and needs immediate attention to prevent injury. Top soil will be spread with volunteer labor to fill in holes and ruts, seeding and covering with straw. Potential injuries will be reduced drastically as well as improvement to quality of play. Project total: \$8,275; County funds \$6,798; Council funds \$1,477 and 338 volunteer hours.

Priority 2 – New cinder block dugouts for main softball field at Century High School – In 2008, Winfield softball programs used this field over 70 times between March and July. In addition, the program will use the field on Sundays from September through November. Project total: \$13,140; County funds \$9,981; Council funds \$3,159 and 72 volunteer hours.

Priority 3 – Backstop fencing replacement at Mayeski Park's instructional field – The existing backstop is loose and can post potential safety concerns. Replacement will provide younger softball players (k-1st grade) with a real softball field and backstop and infield practice for 2nd-8th graders. This field is also used by the community when softball season ends. Project total: \$6,172; County funds \$4,646; Council funds \$1,526 and 10 volunteer hours.

Mr. Davis asked if the cost of dugouts for Century H.S. could be reduced. Wayne Straitz explained that the first estimate was over \$16,000, but areas were identified that reduced the cost to just under \$10,000. The Athletic Boosters and Recreation Council will provide the community funds for the project and donations of cinder blocks from projects in the area are being sought. Ms. Tucker asked if the high school is putting any funds into the project. Mr. Straitz responded that the school had not been asked, but he will contact the principal to find out if any funds are available.

Mr. DePalmer thanked the citizens for coming to tonight's meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- ❖ Piney Run Park is hosting their annual Apple Festival on Saturday.
- ❖ The October Advisory Board meeting will be held in the new yurt building located behind the nature center at Piney Run
- ❖ Ms. Podobnik inquired about putting in a gate at Freedom Park because of vandalism. Mr. Degitz reported that the Department is in the process of having a gate installed, however, there are concerns as to whether it will solve the problem. Ken Whalen, President of Freedom Area

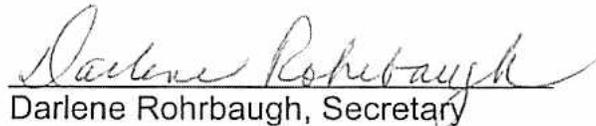
Recreation Council, has committed to unlock the gate in the mornings and locking it at night. It was reported that a post and cable were put in Mayeski Park and there haven't been any problems.

- ❖ Ed Beane expressed thanks to Barbara Lages for her help in getting all the Use of Facilities forms.
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year Event will be held Wednesday, November 5, tentatively in the Robert Moton Center gymnasium. Invitations will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks.
- ❖ Kevin Null reported that New Windsor's skate park opened last week.
- ❖ Mr. Degitz reported that the Department may need to look into putting ballfield mix into the capital budget to help take pressure off of the Self-Help Fund. There is currently a small grant for County fields only. Mr. Davis asked why funding for ball mix isn't in the Bureau of Facilities' budget any longer. Mr. Degitz explained that since they are not part of the Recreation and Parks Department, we don't have control over those funds.

At 9:15 p.m., the meeting adjourned with a motion by Gary Davis and second by Kevin Null.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeff R. Degitz, Director


Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary