

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Room 003 – County Office Building
June 24, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Jody Ledford, Sam Case

Members Excused: Colin Furneaux, Tom Ronaghan

Members Absent: Joe Cook, Gary Davis, Brad Knatz, Hernan Padilla, Sue Podobnik, Jim Rodriguez, Bobbi Tucker

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Bruce Dutterer, Brad Rogers, Barbara Lages

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the May 27th Minutes was tabled until July.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Freedom Area Athletic Field Inventory** – Despite several recent articles claiming that Eldersburg does not have any parks or ball fields, we presented the Freedom Area Citizens' Council (FACC) with an inventory that details the 57 athletic fields currently located at county parks and school sites (Addendum #1). In addition, 10 more fields are planned on county sites and 12 more are currently located on Fairhaven property. A total of 1,046 acres of county parkland is located in Eldersburg.
- **Springfield Hospital Center Athletic Field** – Working with the State to establish a formal lease that would allow for community use of their fields and Freedom Area Recreation Council (FARC) would maintain. The lease must go to the State Board of Public Works for approval and is expected to take about six weeks.
- **Stormwater Management Ponds** – East Middle School and Westminster Community Pond have been identified by Water Resources as possible locations for stormwater management ponds with added amenities such as educational signs, trails, etc. The Community Pond may be expanded, as a result, which would positively impact the park. At East Middle, however, an existing track and a ballfield are located where the pond is proposed to be built. The Department is working with Water Resources on this issue.
- **Paid Instructors** – Staff met with the County Attorney's Office last week regarding two issues with Carroll Gymnastics and Woodbine Recreation Council.
- **Summer Program Guide** – The 2008 issue generated \$22,440 in gross revenue; 2009 issue generated \$60,696 in gross revenue (73% credit cards, 25% check, 2% cash). The acceptance of credit cards has been a positive for the Department not only tripling revenue, but for the staff as well since program registrants can complete the process entirely online.
- **Months of Sundays Concert Series** – Rack cards were handed out with the schedule for the July concerts held at Westminster City Park, sponsored by the Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks, City of Westminster Recreation & Parks and Human Services Programs of Carroll County. While the concerts are free, the public is encouraged to bring an item to donate to the individuals served by Human Services Programs.
- **Westminster Skate Park Dedication** – The City of Westminster held a dedication of their renovated skate park on June 12th. The park was originally built in 1999 with a grant from the County. County grants for skate parks in Mount Airy and Manchester followed.
- **Town Program Open Space Funds** - 25% of the County's annual Program Open Space allocation is awarded to the municipalities and shared by 4 towns each year. Westminster, New Windsor,

Union Bridge and Taneytown were in line this year for \$40,000. Westminster had a larger project (a community building) and petitioned the 3 other towns to pass on their portion of the funds this year to help them out, which they all agreed to.

CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS:

The following project requests are planned in FY 2016, the sixth year of the County's Community Investment Plan:

- **Bark Hill Park Pavilion** – Bruce Dutterer, Park Planner, presented a request to install a 16' x 24' pavilion in the location of the existing parking area at Bark Hill. It would be separated from the ballfield by existing shade trees and accommodate 15 to 20 people. Estimated cost - \$49,000.
- **Sandymount Park Tot Lot Replacement** – A request to replace the existing tot lot built in 1995 was presented by Bruce Dutterer. The replacement will be similar to the existing ADA accessible play unit. The project also proposes construction of a walkway/ramp and retaining wall repair. Sandymount Park's tot lot is heavily used due to its geographic location and all of the recreational amenities within the park. This project will be included in an ongoing capital project that has been established to replace tot lots as they age. Estimated cost: \$104,700.
- **Hashawha Pavilions** – Brad Rogers, Bureau Chief of Parks, presented a request to replace two pavilions with new 20' x 30' pavilions, one at the lake and one near Cabin 5. The existing pavilions will be 25+ years old by FY 2016 and a safety concern for visitors due to rotting wood and deteriorating concrete floor. Estimated cost: \$117,955. Mr. Case noted that an existing trail goes through the pavilion area at the lake and asked if the trail could be moved. Mr. Rogers explained that when time permits, the trail will be fixed and the pavilion may be moved.
- **Piney Run Park Lower Comfort Station Renovations** – Mr. Rogers reported that in FY 2006, the upper comfort station at Piney Run was renovated and enlarged to accommodate an ADA accessible restroom. Due to high usage, the lower comfort station, located near the boat trailer parking lot, also is in need of renovation to include: updated mechanical and electrical fixtures, ADA ramps, sidewalk replacement and fixtures as required, spray on coating on floor and walls (same as upper comfort station). Estimated cost: \$135,115.

Mr. Degitz advised that while the Department has been looking for future park land, but until something becomes available, monies for acquisition will not be included in the six-year plan. Krimgold and Leister Parks may also require more funding to complete and may need to be included in the plan at some point.

Copies of the project requests will be mailed to the members who did not attend tonight's meeting. July's agenda will include discussion and a vote on the project requests.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A recap of the park tours was given. Ms. Ledford enjoyed the tour and felt it was very beneficial.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary

ELDERSBURG COUNTY PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELD INVENTORY

	<u># ATHLETIC FIELDS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
<u>PARKS</u>		
Freedom Park	9	135
Hodges Park	2	32
Mayeski Park	5	33
Obrecht Road Park	1	3
Old Liberty Road Park	2	8
Piney Run Park	0	835
CURRENT COUNTY PARKS	19	1046
<u>FUTURE COUNTY FACILITIES</u>		
Krimgold Park	9	135
SC Senior & Community Center	1	21
FUTURE COUNTY FACILITIES	10	156
<u>COUNTY SCHOOL SITES</u>		
Carrolltowne Elementary	2	18
Eldersburg Elementary	6	42
Freedom Elementary	2	9
Linton Spring Elementary	4	28
Piney Ridge Elementary	2	13
Oklahoma Road Middle	3	33
Sykesville Middle	3	17
Century High School	6	67
Liberty High School	5	50
South Carroll High School	5	40
CURRENT COUNTY SCHOOLS	38	317

**TOTAL # OF CURRENT COUNTY ATHLETIC FIELDS IN ELDERSBURG
(INCLUDES BOTH PARKS & SCHOOLS): 57**

***totals do not include leased fields at Fairhaven**

TOTAL # OF PLANNED COUNTY ATHLETIC FIELDS IN ELDERSBURG: 10

TOTAL # OF ACRES OF COUNTY PARKLAND IN ELDERSBURG: 1,046

Park Sites (21784 Zip)

 21784 Zip Code Boundary

 School Sites

 Carroll County Park Sites

