

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Room 003 – County Office Building
July 22, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Gary Davis, Chair, Samuel Case, Joe Cook, Brad Knatz, Sue Podobnik, Jim Rodriguez, Bobbi Tucker

Members Excused: Colin Furneaux, Jody Ledford, Tom Ronaghan

Members Absent: Hernan Padilla

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Abby Gruber, Bureau Chief of Recreation

APPROVAL OF MAY AND JUNE MINUTES:

The May 27 Minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Bobbi Tucker and seconded by Jim Rodriguez.

June 24 Minutes - Mr. Davis asked how the inventory was taken for County parks and athletic fields in Eldersburg? Mr. Degitz reported that it was done by zip code that targeted the area. Mr. Case made a motion to approve the June Minutes, seconded by Ms. Podobnik and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Krimgold Park** – Pre-bid meeting mid-August; bid opening September 16; hope to start construction this fall. The goal is to fully develop the park but, initially, open only three fields because of traffic issues. The State is requiring that improvements be made to the intersection of Rt. 26 and Woodbine Road which will likely take most of the funds that have been accumulated over a number of years for the park's development.

Gary Davis asked if some of the Krimgold Park development planned for later can be slowed down and some of those funds used for improvements to the Sports Complex. Mr. Degitz responded that the public has been very vocal about the park not being just ball fields so it will be important to put in passive areas. Mr. Davis stated that the Sports Complex fields are eroding quickly and in very poor condition and the backstop is unsafe. Mr. Degitz advised that we are working through the insurance process to replace the backstop. He commented that it is an ongoing issue keeping the fields playable and there is no volunteer base to help maintain the fields like there is for other County fields. Mr. Davis thinks the Sports Complex fields are the worse fields he has ever seen and because of the poor field conditions, youth groups are looking for other places to play. He asked if some of the revenue from the Sports Complex can go back into maintenance of the facility. Mr. Degitz explained that the operating budget is justified by the revenue generated. He noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback from user groups about the fields. Mr. Degitz will get a report on numbers from different teams to determine if they are decreasing.

- **Equestrian Council** is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Council provides programs and events at the County's Equestrian Center and has grown considerably.
- **Bark Hill Park** – development is 95% complete; the park will open next year.
- **Deer Park** – construction is underway for a practice field
- **Fall Program Guide** will soon be going out to the public. The acceptance of credit cards has been easier and more convenient for the public and staff in the registration process. A \$30,000 increase

was seen in registrations for the Summer Guide. It was also a record year for scholarship applications which are funded from program revenues. Piney Run and Bear Branch Nature Center programs have been included in the Program Guides since the last fiscal year and they have seen a huge jump in their program registrations. Previously, they had limited exposure through the Woodland Sketches newsletter.

- **Stormwater Management Ponds** – East Middle School and Westminster Community Pond have been identified by Water Resources as possible locations for stormwater management ponds to be built in the next couple of years. The Community Pond may be expanded and made more linear with trail connections as a result, which would positively impact the park. At East Middle, however, an existing track and a ball field are located where the pond is proposed to be built. MDE and Water Resources view it as a positive location, but Westminster Area Recreation Council does not. Mr. Cook asked if it was possible to have an entrance into the Community Pond off of Sullivan Road. Mr. Degitz explained that due to the narrow right-of-way, it would be difficult to do. He tried to get State Highway Administration to change the existing entrance and expressed our concerns, but we were told that they had made some improvements and they want to wait and see. Mr. Degitz advised that we will probably be revisiting this issue with SHA.

CAPITAL PROJECT REQUESTS:

Discussion followed on Capital Project requests presented at the June Board meeting:

Bark Hill Park pavilion	\$	49,000
Hashawha (2) pavilion replacements (Park Restoration)		117,955
Piney Run Park lower comfort station renovations		135,115
Sandymount Park tot lot replacement		104,700
Total:	\$	406,770

These projects are proposed in Fiscal 2016, the sixth year of the Community Investment Plan. Mr. Case made a motion to approve the Capital Project Requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tucker and unanimously approved.

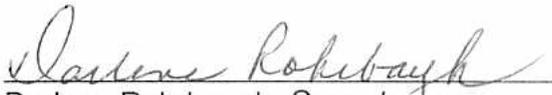
RECREATION COUNCIL ISSUES COMMITTEE REPORT:

Abby Gruber, Bureau Chief of Recreation, presented a report from the Committee meeting on July 15. The Committee met regarding the issue of volunteer recreation councils and their ability to pay instructors. The Committee decided to formulate a list of questions for the councils as to how they view payment of instructors. The Committee will then interview the President, Treasurer and Community Coordinator from each council. Once the data is collected, the Committee will meet again to assess the responses and opinions of the council representatives and determine whether recreation councils should continue to pay instructors and prepare 1099's. If that is decided, guidelines would be prepared so everyone follows the same process and for accountability purposes. The Committee felt strongly that they want to be helpful to the councils and do not want them to feel threaghtend in any way. They need to understand that we want to improve the system and not looking to take control of their funds. Mr. Degitz advised that once the information is collected and compiled, it will be reviewed by the County Attorney's Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a motion by Sam Case and second by Joe Cook.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeff R. Degitz, Director


Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary