

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Room 003 – County Office Building  
September 23, 2009 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Gary Davis, Chair, Joe Cook, Colin Furneaux, Brad Knatz, Jody Ledford, Hernan Padilla, Sue Podobnik, Jim Rodriguez, Tom Ronaghan

**Members Excused:** Samuel Case, Bobbi Tucker

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The July Minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Joe Cook and seconded by Brad Knatz.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- **Bark Hill Park** development is 99% complete and should be ready for use next spring. Peace N Plenty Drive is now a County road.
- **New Parks Brochure** is currently being developed and may be available by the October meeting or the end of the calendar year.
- **Krimgold Park** – Bid opening was today with an apparent low bid of \$3.789M. Only 3 ballfields will open immediately, but we hope to grade the entire facility or as far as the money will go. Pavilions, playgrounds and trails are also planned. Most of the funding for the park's development is from Program Open Space collected the last 3 or 4 years.
- **Budget Update** – The State's issues will have some significant impact on the County. Service levels may be affected for all Departments including maintenance of facilities, from mowing schedules to the number of spot-a-pots and trash collection. Reduction of service levels may also impact employees with lay-offs.
- **New PBS Program** – A six-part television program by Ken Burns, National Parks – America's Best Ideas, will be shown on PBS September 27 to October 2, at 8 p.m.

**CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS COMPLEX UPDATE:**

Mr. Degitz reported that Matt Purkins, Manager of the Sports Complex, was injured playing softball and was unable to attend the meeting. Because of comments at the July meeting about the condition of the fields and decrease in the numbers of groups using the facility, Mr. Degitz asked Mr. Purkins to contact the user groups for updated information. This information for the years 2004 – 2009 was compiled on adult and youth usage, leagues and tournaments, and the report shared with the Board. In summary, adult usage has adapted well; youth not as well. The Sports Complex staff lines the fields at the beginning of the day, only, because we don't have staff available for all day games. Youth programs are not as satisfied. It appears that this facility is more suited to adult play with 2009 being a record year for the number of tournaments. The Sports Complex is 80% self-sustaining; all field maintenance costs are recouped by the revenue.

**SELF-HELP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:**

If a recreation council has more than one project request, representatives were asked to state their council's top priority.

**Equestrian Council** – Carolyn Garber and Joe Zentgraf presented a request to construct and install two judges stands to be used at the Carroll County Equestrian Center. To increase revenue generated by the Equestrian Center, the Council needs to market the facility to organizations that sponsor larger hunter/jumper type horse shows. The judges stands that are preferred are on raised platforms and usually placed outside of the ring at the center line. Total Cost: \$2,013; county contribution - \$1,580; council contribution - \$433 and 40 volunteer hours. Ms. Garber announced that the Equestrian Council was given a proclamation by the County Commissioners for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Equestrian Center has been in operation 10+ years and the Advisory Board has helped, considerably, with the facility.

**Freedom Area –**

- Steve Burke requested the purchase and installation of a basic scoreboard for the new South Carroll Senior & Community Center for use in multiple sporting events. Total Cost: \$5,985; county contribution - \$4,489; community contribution - \$1,496. Mr. Ronaghan asked if sponsorship is allowed. Mr. Degitz advised that years ago it was allowed for baseball, and he felt that we could consider this with the South Carroll Senior Center.
- Ken Whalen presented a request to upgrade and refurbish the driveway, parking lot and renovate the ballfield at Springfield Hospital. Reviving this existing area will provide a ballfield as well as a multi-purpose field for the Council programs. Total Cost: \$14,390; county contribution - \$10,871; community contribution - \$3,519 and 45 volunteer hours.
- Frank Roberts requested a sand volleyball court to be located at the Warfield Complex that will provide a family activity and exercise for teens and adults. He and several sand volleyball players reported that the sport has a good following, but there is no court to play on in the County. They expressed that sand is a safer and more forgiving surface. Total Cost: \$16,000; county contribution - \$12,125; community contribution - \$3,875 and 71.5 volunteer hours. Mr. Degitz advised that sand volleyball courts at Mayeski and Sandymount Parks were recently removed because of little use and problems with bees and cats. Ms. Gruber asked if drainage has been addressed in the plan and Mr. Roberts advised that it is included in the cost. Mr. Rodriguez reported that Westminster High School has a court that they are attempting to make playable.

Ken Whalen, President, Freedom Area Recreation Council, stated that the Council's first priority is upgrading the Springfield ballfields, but he would leave the decision for priorities 2 and 3 up to the Advisory Board.

**North Carroll –**

- Geoff Rice presented a request to rehabilitate the tennis courts at North Carroll Middle School to make them available for school, recreation council and community use. The courts are cracked and broken up. PTO fundraisers have raised \$30,000 toward the cost of the project. Ms. Podobnik asked if the school is contributing any funding. Mr. Rice advised that the principal said they had no money for the project and asked the Recreation Council to try Self-Help funding. Mr. Rice stated that they are looking into USTA grants. There are tennis courts at North Carroll High School and the new Manchester Valley High School. The Middle School does not have tennis teams. Total Cost: \$56,170; county contribution - \$15,000; community contribution - \$41,170.
- Mr. Rice also presented a request for post and cable fence installation at Cape Horn Park to protect the renovated ballfield from vandalism, which has been a problem in the past. Total Cost: \$4,900; county contribution - \$3,675; community contribution - \$1,225.

**Taneytown –**

- Bob Mitchell presented a project request for the Taneytown Athletic Association to renovate the grandstands at Field #1 in Taneytown Memorial Park. Renovations include painting and repairing woodwork. Field #1 is the largest baseball field and is used by 300 children in the baseball program. Total Cost: #2,000; county contribution - \$1,693; community contribution - \$307 and 110 volunteer hours.

**Westminster Area –**

- Chris Henneman, Westminster Optimist Little League, requested ballfield mix for 3 ballfields at Kate Wagner and the upper ballfield at Landon C. Burns Park to improve safety for players. Total Cost: \$8,905; county contribution - \$7,239; community contribution - \$1,666 and 320 volunteer hours.
- In the absence of Karen Sullivan with Westminster Girls Fastpitch Softball, Mr. Henneman, presented a request for ballfield dirt for 2 fields at Westminster City Park. Dirt has not been added for several years, creating a potential safety hazard for players. These fields are used for both organized sports and community based teams and individuals as well as for family events. Total Cost: \$2,112; county contribution - \$1,637; community contribution - \$475 and 30 volunteer hours.
- John Coakley, Westminster Area Lacrosse, requested game and storage equipment and field maintenance equipment/products for the lacrosse program. They include, in priority order: field equipment storage box for Cranberry Station Elementary; practice and game goals as well as nets; Turface field prep mixture which is currently being borrowed from Westminster High School field; roller and field aerator to better maintain fields for lacrosse as well as share with other programs using the fields; premium sports grass for preparing fields for seasonal use. Total Cost: \$4,684; county contribution - \$3,513; community contribution - \$1,171.
- Chris Henneman, in the absence of Jerry Georgiana, Westminster Girls Basketball, presented a request to purchase an adjustable backboard and basketball scoreboard with wireless console for the Robert Moton Center gymnasium. The existing backboards are 10' high, too high for young children, and they can't be lowered. The new backboards will better utilize the gym. Total Cost: \$5,900; county contribution - \$4,443; community contribution - \$1,457 and 10 volunteer hours.

**Winfield –**

- Ed Beane presented a request for the South Carroll Soccer Club for two pairs of 8'x24' soccer goals and one pair 6.5'x12' soccer goal for Mayeski Park fields to replace the current goals that are in poor condition and disrepair. They pose a safety risk to the Winfield Recreation Council sports teams, South Carroll High School students who use the fields, as well as the 450 players with the South Carroll Soccer Club. Total Cost: \$10,759; county contribution - \$8,087; community contribution - \$2,672 and 10 volunteer hours. Priority would be one pair each of 8'x24' and 6.5'x12' goal.

**Woodbine –**

- Lindsey Stanton and Rachel Troppman requested replacement of the 27 year old wooden playground at Salt Box Park with a new system. The normal lifespan for play equipment is 15

years. The current equipment is splintered and in very poor condition. The council has two fundraisers planned. The new equipment will be placed in a new location in the park with wood fiber under the unit; recycled rubber is better, but too expensive. Mr. Dutterer advised that wood fiber is acceptable and is ADA accessible. Depending on how is raised, the project may need to

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- be done in two phases. Total Cost: \$33,000; county contribution - \$15,000; community contribution - \$18,000.

The Capital Committee will meet to assess the Self-Help requests and report its recommendations at the October 28<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Degitz advised that staff will request the priorities for the North Carroll and Westminster Area Recreation Council projects before the Capital Committee meets.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Barbara Lages reported that the Annual Volunteer of the Year event will be held on November 4, at 7:00 p.m., in the Robert Moton Center gymnasium. Invitations will be sent to the Board; dedication of the South Carroll Senior & Community Center is also on November 4, at 10 a.m. ; on October 14, the Bureau of Aging's Seniors on the Go Expo will be held at the Ag Center's Shipley Arena. Seniors In Action Council will be handing out tote bags.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a motion by Colin Furneaux, seconded by Sue Podobnik.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

*Darlene Rohrbaugh*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Director

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Darlene Rohrbaugh, Secretary