

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
Room 003 – County Office Building  
February 24, 2010 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Samuel Case, Joe Cook, Gary Davis, Colin Furneaux, Brad Knatz, Jody Ledford, Sue Podobnik, and Tom Ronaghan

**Members Excused:** Bobbi Tucker, Jim Rodriguez, Herman Padilla

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

**Staff Present:** Bruce Dutterer, Abby Gruber, Tina Shupp, Loren Lustig, and Shawn Reese

**Guests Present:** Kenny Stockdale, Pete Berggren, Sandy Oxx, Michael Reese, Ed Beane, and Karl King

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The September Minutes were unanimously approved with a motion by Jody Ledford and seconded by Tom Ronaghan.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- **Introduction of Staff** – Shawn Reese has replaced Darlene Rhorbaugh, Tina Shupp and Loren Lustig are now Recreation Coordinators, and there are now only 2 Park Naturalists (one at each Nature Center), Jessica Tucker at Hashawha Environmental Center and Brian Campbell at Piney Run Park.
- **Operating Budget Update** – The state has claimed flat funding but this is after mid year cuts and last year's reductions. In December, we eliminated 7 positions, 3 FT and remaining were PT; waiting on state budget to see if further impacts are coming.
- **POS Funding** – The Governor's proposed budget is \$103M. He has proposed to replace the cash with bonds over a 3 year period which is not a significant impact on Counties since it usually takes a POS project a few years until completion. Counties are pleased that there is a plan to replace the funding and not to take it totally away.
- **Krimgold Park Update** – Re-bid came in around \$2.7M for reduced scope – 5 fields instead of 9 plus passive features including trail, playground, pavilion, etc.; concurrence scheduled for March 4.
- **Bark Hill Park** – will open in the spring; will schedule ribbon cutting in April and will invite Board members.
- **Weather Impact** – The Maple Sugarin' Festival was cancelled at Hashawha Environmental Center; staffs are concerned about the Early Bird Fishing Tournament and the Sled Fest at Piney Run Park.

- **Westminster Community Pond** – the bridge and basketball hoops are to be installed in the spring.
- **Mayeski Park** – Board of Education has given permission for Council to construct field on undeveloped portion of site. We are in the process of scheduling a meeting with them.
- **Online Registration for Program Guide** – Since we began offering online credit card payment for programs in November of 2008, we have collected \$428,446 in program registration revenue. Of that total, \$293,331 (68%) was paid via credit card. More recently, since January 25 of this year, we have received \$26,571 in registration revenue for the Spring Program Guide with \$23,768 (89%) paid via credit card, \$2,838 (11%) paid via check and \$0 paid by cash. We are working to expand these capabilities to Piney Run Park next and then to the Hap Baker Firearms Facility.

### **SELF-HELP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Arts Council –**

- **Six (6) 8 foot 2-Tube High Output Fluorescent Fixtures and Switch** - Sandy Oxx presented a request to purchase and have installed six (6), 8 ft. 2-Tube High Output Fluorescent Fixtures and Switch above the stage to use as work lights. It would be much more economical and environmentally sound than firing up the 1,000 watt lamps that they are presently using. Due to the highly technical nature of this project, it is not possible to use volunteers to complete this task. It will require professional electricians. Total Cost: \$2,140.00; county contribution - \$1,605; council contribution - \$535.

#### **Winfield Recreation Council –**

- **Streaker Road Practice Field Entrance** - Karl King presented a request for help in developing a suitable grass sod surface, gravel lane and ADA parking with a temporary bathroom location on Surplus County owned property on Streaker Road in Sykesville, MD as a future recreation facility. Development and maintenance of the 17 acre parcel is primarily the responsibility of Winfield Recreation Council. This new facility will primarily be geared to deal with the growth of their Lacrosse and soccer programs in recent years and their urgent need for suitable practice fields. Total Cost: \$15,000; county contribution - \$12,500; council contribution - \$2,500 (\$5,000 – Parking Pad; \$5,000 Gravel Road Material - \$5,000; Grass Seed and Equipment Rental - \$5,000).
- **Mayeski Park Infield Mix and Seeding (Minor League Fields)** - Peter Berggren presented a request for Infield Mix and Seeding for Mayeski Park Minors Baseball field (to strip existing infield grass and replace it with ball diamond mix and to aerate and fertilize the outfield). The infield grass is very rough and dangerous. There are big “lips” at the edge of baselines which cause ground balls to “hop” up at players. Stripping and adding ball diamond mix will create a safe playing surface. Also, the outfield had many muddy, bare, and

dangerous areas which need seed to revitalize. Total Cost: \$2,480; county contribution - \$2,035; council contribution - \$445.

- **Mayeski Park Infield Mix and Seeding (90' Diamond)** - Peter Berggren also presented a request for Infield Mix and Seeding for Mayeski Park 90' Baseball Diamond - to install additional baseball diamond mix to provide positive drainage and a safe playing surface and to aerate and over seed the outfield area. This field is utilized by both the Winfield Baseball program and also by South Carroll High School. Heavy use wears infield and outfield used by Soccer Program in the fall. The outfield is very thin turf with many open areas; overseed will provide safer footing and playing surface. Additional diamond mix will reduce puddling on infield making a safer playing area. Total Cost: \$2,080; county contribution - \$1,648; council contribution - \$432.

#### **Woodbine Recreation Council –**

- **Infield Mix for Salt Box Park** - Ken Stockdale presented a request for Infield Mix for Salt Box Park. Each spring and occasionally during the baseball season, dirt (ball field mix) needs to be added to the infields of the ball diamonds. Wind and storms and wear from use produce holes and deep groves which must be filled. The ball fields must be maintained to prevent injury and to present good playing condition for competitive games. Total Cost: \$1,080.00; county contribution - \$894; council funds - \$186. Mr. Stockdale also thanked the Recreation and Parks Board for the approval of the playground equipment.

Comments were made by the Recreation and Parks Board as follows:

- A question regarding the size of the field on Streaker Road and how many teams can practice at one time. A response was made that the number of teams would depend on the age of the group. If it were three to four year olds than they could stretch out and could have as many as four teams going at once. But if it were for adult teams it would only accommodate 1 or 2 groups.
- There was a question raised regarding whether or not there had been a study done on Streaker Road on site distance lines. Mr. Degitz responded that the county Department of Public Works looked at minimum site distance requirements and volume of traffic in that area of Streaker Road and because of their findings the entrance was moved. That end of Streaker Road is not a busy area.
- A question was raised regarding whether there had been any resistance from the neighbors in that area. It was noted that actually some of the neighbors are members of the recreation council.

Mr. Degitz stated that the Capital Committee typically reviews the requests by the end of the month. Mr. Degitz's also shared with the Recreation and Parks Board that in their packets is a draft Strategic Plan for the Department of Recreation and Parks included and he requested that the Board read this material and either email comments to himself at ([jdegitz@ccg.carr.org](mailto:jdegitz@ccg.carr.org)) and/or Shawn Reese ([sreese@ccg.carr.org](mailto:sreese@ccg.carr.org)) and/or be ready to

discuss the draft at the next Recreation and Parks Board meeting on March 24, 2010. It is hoped that the Department's Strategic Plan can be adopted sometime this spring.

Mr. Degitz's reported to the Board that there is enough money available in the Self-Help Project budget to be able to fund all of the projects that were requested this evening if the Board feels comfortable to do so. Gary Davis stated that he felt that he should remove himself from the vote. Joe Cook stated that he felt it was valid to go forward with the vote. Upon motion of Joe Cook, seconded by Tom Ronaghan, the Board voted unanimously to approve all the Self-Help Projects presented at this evenings meeting.

Ms. Gruber stated that the Department of Management and Budget has been discussing a single fund for field maintenance. It is presently in its infancy to see how we could channel more money for them to maintain fields. They are looking at another Self-Help fund for aesthetics and field maintenance. She has been discussing this with her budget analyst and they have come back with more questions. Stay tuned for more news.... Ms. Gruber also stated that there is recognition in the Budget Office that the Recreation Council's are doing a lot of volunteer work that is saving the county a lot of money.

Mr. Degitz's stated that hopefully at the March meeting he may have some good information to share regarding several sites that may come into the county's hands in the near future for future park sites. He will make a report at the March 24, 2010 meeting.

A comment was made regarding the East Middle School Stormwater Management Pond. Mr. Degitz's stated that he had heard nothing more about the issue. Mr. Degitz's felt that there was a lot of recognition that a lot of fields would be impacted negatively. He also mentioned that the Westminster Community Pond is being looked at for that purpose and that this area may have a positive affect.

There being no further discussion, upon motion of Sue Podobnik, seconded by Colin Furneaux, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Director

*Shawn D. Reese*

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Shawn D. Reese, Administrative  
Office Associate II