

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Hashawha Environmental Center
March 24, 2010**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Joe Cook, Brad Knatz, Jody Ledford, Jim Rodriguez, and Tom Ronaghan

Members Excused: Gary Davis, Colin Furneaux, Bobbi Tucker, Sue Podobnik, and Sam Case

Members Absent: Herman Padilla

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Melissa Boyle, Matt Purkins, Tina Shupp, Abby Gruber, Brad Rogers, Loren Lustig, Bruce Dutterer, and Shawn Reese

Since the Chair and Chair-Elect were not present Mr. Jeff Degitz opened the meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at 1:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

The February 24, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved as written with a motion by Jody Ledford and seconded by Joe Cook.

Director's Report:

- Sylvia Ramsey, Manager of Community Enhancement Programs/MD Department of Transportation, will give a presentation to Board of County Commissioners on April 22 at 10 AM regarding the implementation of expansion of trails in Maryland.
- Piney Run and Hashawha Members Forums are being established for each of those parks. We are also working to form a Friends of Carroll Parks to benefit all of the County's 27 parks.
- Land Acquisition – Board of County Commissioners has an option to purchase 33 acres near Hook Road in Westminster for new community park. The option will be voted on in the next few weeks.
- New Windsor/Lehigh – Deal reached after 15+ years. Lehigh to receive ownership of Seibel Fields (approximately 7 acres). Since POS funds were used to purchase and develop Seibel, conversion necessary that will account for equal or greater acreage and amenities. Deal will include financial payment to New Windsor for Seibel, funding to pay for development of ball fields at currently

owned town property next to New Windsor Middle School and 10 acres at intersection of Quakers Mill and Shepherds Mill Roads deeded to County for future park site.

- Continued expansion of online capabilities; we are purchasing equipment for Piney Run boathouse and gatehouse to allow for on-site credit card payment – hope to have in place by April/May of this year; adding online payment option for purchase of discount amusement park tickets this year.
- The County Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Scott Center at Carroll Community College.
- Westminster Community Pond – There is a desire to put a bridge in at the community pond. The stormwater management folks are trying to enlarge the pond to assist with proper stormwater management in the surrounding area. This will also help to improve the water quality at the pond and provide a more consistent water level. The location of the bridge will be moved to a different location from the ponds edge to the island. There will be more parking and it is hoped to add a walking trail. The entrance/exit will be revisited regarding changes to be made. This will include a lot of positive changes.

Strategic Plan Discussion:

The Department of Recreation and Parks draft Strategic Plan was sent out to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board a while ago for their review and comment at this meeting. Mr. Degitz went through the plan and comments from the Parks Board were discussed. There was a comment made regarding some grammar corrections, a comment was made on meeting the list of goals and objectives – this is where the rubber meets the road in doing this. It was noted that years ago a survey was done and a question was raised as to how this could be used to measure the department's accomplishments. It was also mentioned that this may be a chance for public/private partnerships to be established.

Nomination for Chair-Elect:

Mr. Rodriguez reported that Bradley Knatz was nominated to the position of Chair-Elect by the Nominating Committee and Mr. Knatz accepted the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to accept the Committee's nomination of Mr. Knatz as Chair-Elect. Colin Furneaux will step into the Chair position at the May meeting.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Shawn Reese, Secretary