

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
County Office Building, Room 003/004  
May 26, 2010**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Sam Case, Joe Cook, Gary Davis, Colin Furneaux, Brad Knatz, Hernan Padilla, Sue Podobnik, Jim Rodriguez, Tom Ronaghan, and Bobbi Tucker

**Members Excused:** Jody Ledford

**Members Absent:** Jody Ledford

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

**Staff Present:** Abby Gruber, Lindsay Baylor, Intern, Tina Shupp, and Shawn Reese

Mr. Gary Davis called to order the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at 7:35 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The March 24, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved, as corrected, by motion of Sue Podobnik, and seconded by Colin Furneaux.

**Director's Report:**

- Discounted amusement park tickets are being sold online by Department for the first time and first month's revenues is +\$4,000 so far
- Letter to editor re: coaches' behavior was discussed
- Staff met with towns to discuss the delayed Program Open Space reimbursement schedule. This year's funding for Carroll is \$333,000, 25% of which goes to the municipalities (\$83,250) and this will be kept in mind when submitting capital requests next month
- The County has purchased the Majewski Property for a new Westminster park and reached an agreement with Lehigh and the Town of New Windsor for additional property for a future West Carroll park.
- Winfield Recreation Council moving ahead with efforts to develop Streaker Road practice site; Charles Carroll members will be meeting with staff to discuss development of John Owings landfill practice area on June 7
- Piney Run has just started accepting credit card payments at gatehouse and boathouse
- Open Naturalist position at Bear Branch is currently being advertised

**Director's Report – Comments from the Board:**

Staff was asked if the Department of Recreation and Parks puts out any material on “How to Behave as Coaches?” Mr. Degitz’s stated that the Department has been involved in two (2) different areas: 1) Code of Conduct – all coaches and parents are reminded what the expectations are as far as them being coaches and spectators and what the consequences are as part of the regular process; 2) Coaches training/clinics – unfortunately we have gotten away from this practice in recent years due to lack of staff time and lack of response from Recreation Councils and the previously expressed concern that it creates a possible barrier to volunteering. This practice will be revisited in the near future. Technology has changed and it is easier to institute but there is still a cost involved. Bobbi Tucker stated that the school system requires a volunteer course in two (2) phases and creates a database for all schools. It all really comes down to accountability.

Existing programs include PCA (Positive Coaching Alliance), NYSCA/NAYS, ASEP and many other programs. Training for parent conduct was also discussed but the challenge would be in practical application. A discussion ensued regarding the merits of background checks and various approaches. Ms. Tucker suggested researching to find a grant to cover some of the cost of instituting background check program and she volunteered to look into options. Mr. Rodriguez added that sexual predators look for opportunities to gain access to youth such as coaching and even a volunteer application may deter these people. Additional discussion occurred regarding how to deliver and reinforce the message of good sportsmanship to the recreation council coaches. Mr. Cook stated that he felt the best tool is a video... Frederick County has a 30 minute clip for their youth which is a real eye opener and has made a big impact as far as positive coaching tool.

### **Trails Update:**

The Maryland State Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring a Trails Summit – Carroll County meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 9:30-12 Noon in Owings Mills, MD. Colin Furneaux, Chair, R&P Advisory Board and Brad Rogers, Chief, Bureau of Parks will be attending. If there is anyone else who would like to attend please notify us by tomorrow morning so that we can have you added to the attendance list. Mr. Rogers will be taking Carroll County’s “Wish List” of possible trail projects to the Summit.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Department of Recreation and Parks 1971-2011:**

Mr. Degitz stated that he was reviewing historical data for the Department. There will be a series of events all throughout 2011 to celebrate the Department of Recreation and Parks 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mr. Degitz shared with the Advisory Board the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo that Chelcee Loar who is on staff in the Department has developed. The Committee has had one meeting thus far. There are many positive things to celebrate and how many lives have been touched by this Department.

### **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting Schedule:**

Mr. Degitz asked since the March daytime meeting was so poorly attended do we want to continue with the two (2) day meetings? Mr. Knatz thought that they should be left alone to see

if that was just an isolated incident. It was decided that the two (2) afternoon meetings would remain the same and then possibly re-evaluate after the next afternoon meeting in October, 2010.

Mr. Degitz stated that he has a conflict with the next meeting which is to be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 7:30 PM. He asked if the Advisory Board had any objection to moving the June meeting to Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at 7:30 PM. Everyone was in favor of changing the meeting date to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business:**

No other business.

**Member's Comments:**

Ms. Podobnik raised a question regarding what happened to the guy who presented, about a year ago, a request for a motocross park. Mr. Degitz stated that he just got a letter from Mr. O'Neil the other day. Mr. Degitz told the gentleman (Wind O'Neil) that he could spearhead the effort and raise funds to develop a motocross park but that the County does not have funds to contribute, similar to our previous efforts with the shooting range and aero modelers park.

Mr. Davis asked whether the county had a battle from neighbors every time a park is being proposed to be built. Mr. Degitz stated that in most cases the response is "not in my back yard" neighbors hate the idea at first but often they "come around" after a period of time.

There being no further discussion, upon motion of Mr. Case, second by Ms. Podobnik, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Director

*Shawn Reese*

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Shawn Reese, Secretary