

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Hashawha Environmental Center
June 30, 2010**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Colin Furneaux, Sam Case, Sue Podobnik, and Tom Ronaghan

Members Excused: Joe Cook, Gary Davis, Brad Knatz, and Jody Ledford

Members Absent: Hernan Padilla, Jim Rodriguez, and Bobbi Tucker

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Bruce Dutterer and Shawn Reese

Approval of Minutes:

The May 26, 2010 minutes were not adopted since we did not have a quorum of members at this meeting. The minutes will be presented for adoption at the July 28, 2010 meeting along with these draft minutes.

Director's Report:

- Our Naturalists at Piney Run and Hashawha have both resigned. The position was advertised and we will be concluding the interview process shortly. Over 30 applications were received.
- We are recommending some minor changes to the County Parks Ordinance with regards to banning individuals from parks. Opportunity will be available for public comment before changes are adopted.
- Hemlock Lane property that was made available to Freedom Area Recreation Council no longer available for their use. Site is designated for future EMS location.
- Streaker Road Practice Field – one public meeting has been held so far; more concerns have been expressed to our Department after meeting regarding traffic, noise, property value decrease, etc. Second public meeting will be held on July 8 at 7 pm at the South Carroll Senior and Community Center.
- Piney Run Credit Card use now working at gatehouse and boathouse – nature center to follow.
- Discount Amusement Park Tickets are going strong. Last year as of June 29th - \$14,585 in sales – this year as of June 29th - \$27,557...almost a 90% increase
- Month of Sundays concert series begins this Sunday, July 4.

- Therapeutic Recreation Day was held on June 7, 2010 at the Carroll County Farm Museum – 533 people attended – largest ever. Those in attendance were from Change, Inc., The ARC, Springfield, Carroll Springs, and more.

Mr. Furneaux stated that he felt that staff and volunteers did a tremendous job – with a very deserving “Job Well Done!!” on Therapeutic Rec. Day at the Carroll County Farm Museum on June 7, 2010.

Capital Project Requests:

Bruce Dutterer, Park Planner, presented the Capital Project Requests to the Advisory Board.

- **Krimgold Park Completion, Phase 3** – The award has been made to the Contractor but no dirt has been moved at this point. This is a request for the 3rd Phase which will be used to complete the grading, seeding, fencing, parking, roadways, and trail which was not accomplished in the earlier phases of this project. This phase will complete the project to the point of the Master Plan. These athletic fields and open spaces will benefit the youth as well as the adults in the community since the need is growing for more athletic fields in the South Carroll area. Estimated cost - \$1,177,400.
- **Westminster Community Park (former Majewski Property) – Design and Construction** – A request for grading, seeding, sediment and erosion control, stormwater management, fencing, the construction of two (2) softball/baseball fields, a multi-purpose field, a one mile walking trail, two (2) mini pavilions, a tot-lot and approximately 150± vehicle parking spaces, entrance and drive. The Westminster Area is in need of more athletic fields as well as walking trails and this parcel will fit well with the surroundings and existing Open Space parcels which border this proposed county park site. Estimated cost by item: Engineering - \$74,200; Construction/Installations - \$1,526,688 for a total amount of \$1,600,888.
- **Quaker Hill Park – Design and Construction** – A request for grading, seeding, sediment and erosion control, stormwater management, and fencing for the construction of two (2) softball/baseball fields with a multi-purpose overlay, approximately 90± vehicle parking spaces, entrance and drive. This 10 acre park site was acquired from Lehigh Cement in return for the loss of Seibel Fields for a future rail road spur. While there were no land acquisition costs, funding will be needed for engineering and construction at the site. Development of this site along with the recent development of Bark Hill Park and Double Pipe Creek Park and future development of athletic fields by the town of New Windsor will replace the need to develop a West Carroll Regional Park in the near future. Collectively, these facilities will help the West Carroll Recreation Council to meet the current and future needs expressed by the New Windsor and Union Bridge communities. Estimated cost by item: Engineering - \$54,500; Grading, Seeding, Paving - \$958,500 for a total amount of \$1,013.00.

- **Hyde Quarry Pavilion and Development** – A request was made to purchase and construction of a new 40' x 60' Laminated Beam Pavilion with a 4" reinforced concrete floor, steel posts, standing seam steel roof, 12' picnic tables, landscaping, revitalization of an existing roadway to be used as a walking trail, improvement of the parking areas to conform with ADA and allow for larger groups to have picnics/family reunions. Hyde Quarry was purchased several years ago for future water supply use and also has a history of being used for picnicking by the previous owners. We would like to develop a large laminated beam pavilion and improve all the parking and drive areas within this 70 acre parcel which will accommodate 140+ people for special events, etc. Estimated cost - \$215,000.
- **Park Restorations** – A request for the following projects: 1) Sports Complex – Overlay of hot mixed asphalt on existing Drive and Parking lots; 2) Sports Complex – Backstop and outfield fence replacement; 3) Deer Park – Pavilion repairs and roof replacement; 4) Landon C. Burns Park – Pavilion repairs and roof replacement; 5) North Carroll Community Pond – two (2) mini pavilions. The above list of Park sites are all reaching the 30+ year old list and are in need of restoration and replacement of shingle roofs, worn out chain-link fencing, and misc. items. These parks are all heavily used for both active and passive recreation and will serve the communities for many years to come. Estimated cost - \$420,350.
- **Westminster Community Trail** – A request to establish a 6' wide macadam pedestrian walkway/trail connecting Bennett Cerf Park to the City of Westminster using an existing right-of-way along Route 27 North of Westminster. The section of trail to the north of Hahn Road will require a pre-engineered bridge installed to cross the existing stream. We will be applying for a NRT Grant to help cover some expenses on the bridge purchase and installation. The section to the south of Hahn Road may possibly require an agreement to be drawn up between the state of Maryland and Carroll County in order to improve the trail area. We will be applying for a TEP Grant to help cover some expenses of this portion of the trail development also. This proposed walking trail will allow pedestrians to have an alternate means of transportation from downtown Westminster to Bennett Cerf Park and shop at numerous stores on Hahn Road without driving their motor vehicles. Estimated cost by item – Section #1 – Trail Development - \$145,695.00 and Section #2 – Trail Development - \$229,225.00.
- **Landon C. Burns Walking Trail Connection – Development** – A request was made to develop a 6' wide macadam trail which will extend from an existing concrete sidewalk (at Bishop Street) to Landon C. Burns Park. At present there is no way to walk safely from downtown Westminster to Landon C. Burns Park without walking on a rough grass shoulder. We have applied for a RTP Grant for this project to help with additional improvements. This sidewalk/walking trail will allow pedestrians to have an alternate means of transportation from downtown Westminster to visit the Ag Center, Landon C. Burns Park and The Farm Museum without driving their motor vehicles. Estimated cost - \$81,050.

Next step will be for Shawn to schedule an Operating/Capital Budget Subcommittee meeting prior to the July 28th Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting. Shawn will be in contact with the subcommittee members the first week in July to schedule a meeting for sometime during the 2nd or 3rd week in July.

Mr. Furneaux reported that he and Brad Rogers attend a Trail Conference given by the Department of Natural Resources Police. Mr. Furneaux stated that it was well attended, excellent conference with good questions and good networking. This conference is leading up to a big statewide conference which will be held in Baltimore during the month of October, 2010. He is planning to attend this conference as well and will report back to the Board.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Shawn Reese

Shawn Reese, Secretary