

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
County Office Building – Room 003
September 22, 2010

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Colin Furneaux, Sue Podobnik, Tom Ronaghan, Brad Knatz, Jody Ledford, Jim Rodriguez, and Joe Cook

Members Excused: Sam Case

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Bruce Dutterer and Abby Gruber

Mr. Furneaux called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Brad Knatz, seconded by Jody Ledford, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the July 28, 2010 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board meeting minutes.

Director's Report:

- Maryland Wine Festival – Excellent weather last weekend contributed to excellent turnout – over 14,000 Saturday and a good crowd once again Sunday. We will have more attendance and revenue numbers to share at the October meeting.
- Monarch Madness Festival – Again, good weather contributed to a good crowd – approximately 1,000 visitors to Bear Branch on Saturday. We are looking to move this a week earlier next year so as not to compete with the Wine Festival.
- Apple Festival – Is scheduled for this Saturday (10/25/10) from 10 am – 5 pm at Piney Run Park.
- Streaker Road Practice Field Proposal – Have had several public meetings and discussions with Commissioners and most recent on September 16. Commissioners have directed staff to develop an MOU for development and operation of property. Residents continue to oppose project and have requested that the County sell the land as a 17 acre parcel with development rights and use funds to purchase/develop practice fields elsewhere.
- Alcohol Policy – We are currently working with recreation councils as we develop a policy addressing the presence of alcohol at Department sponsored programs and events. Alcohol at adult fundraisers such as dances and bull roasts continues to be allowed. Questions have been raised about alcohol present at end

of season parties for youth programs at restaurants, bowling alleys and private residences.

- Hashawha Manager Position – We will be advertising for soon to-be-vacant Hashawha Park Manager position as Melissa Boyle is leaving in mid-October to accept a job with the State of Maryland in Southern Maryland.

Self-Help Project Presentations:

Charles Carroll Recreation Council –

- Infield Ball Mix Dirt (10 ton) – The girl’s softball field on Cherrytown Road is in dire need of infield ball dirt. It has been at least six (6) years since any has been purchased. The infield dirt will alleviate the “water pit” at home plate when it rains and ensure the safety of all players.
- Softball Pitching Machine with Cart – The pitching machine will be an asset to all the coaches during practices. It will enhance the girl’s infield batting, catching and throwing skills.

Equestrian Council –

- Spectators Shelter – Due to the nature of the facility, there are no shade trees near the arenas. This shade structure would provide much needed shade for those attending equine events.

Freedom Recreation Council –

- Player Benches – The request is for six (6) heavy duty 15 foot aluminum play benches. Four (4) benches will replace old wooden ones that are not usable. Two (2) benches provide seating for players to match other fields at Freedom Park. Aluminum benches have a long life span requiring no maintenance.

North Carroll Recreation Council –

- Field Restoration at North Carroll Middle School – The request is to repair the main field at North Carroll Middle School (field directly in front of school) as well as make repairs to lower field baseball diamond behind school to make it a multi-use field. The repairs are necessary to make the fields safely playable and to maximize usage by several sports.
- Ball Field Mix and Fencing – The fields at Hampstead Elementary School are graded down and sloped. The fields need to be in good shape for the softball program which hosts tournaments and draws business to the community. Dirt is needed to get the fields in shape. A Break-Away Home Run Fence is needed on two (2) different fields.
- Infield Mix at Christmas Tree Park – This is an all dirt baseball diamond so the dirt will be used on the whole field, including the home plate area and to rebuild

the pitcher's mounds on fields "C" (this field is overrun with weeds) and "D". This project will improve the playability of the fields. It will also make for safer playing conditions on the fields.

West Carroll Recreation Council –

- Storage Shed at Bark Hill Park – The shed will provide much needed storage both in and out of season for sponsored groups using Bark Hill Park.

Westminster Recreation Council –

- Sod Placement at Landon C. Burns Park – The upper field and lower field used to be the premier fields in the county, with all the use over the past 5-10 years the fields have gone downhill. The lower field was redone last year and is looking great. It is their hope to do the same with the upper field and bring Landon C. Burns back to its original beauty.
- Concrete Slab Installation at Kate Wagner Park – The Westminster Optimist Club is in need of more room for their baseball/field equipment, due to the growth in the league in the past couple years. With the new snack shack stand, this will open up more storage for their equipment and to help them better serve the families in their area.
- Lacrosse Goals for Kate Wagner Fields – Westminster Area Lacrosse currently provides a recreational youth lacrosse program for 600 children ages 5- 14 in the Westminster Area. All of their lacrosse goals and nets are in extreme disrepair and in need of replacement. Referees and visiting teams have commented on the condition of our equipment. This equipment is to be stored at Kate Wagner fields.
- Electronic Scoreboard for Robert Moton – We are requesting that a scoreboard to be installed at Robert Moton Annex in order to play games and keep score. This would benefit three (3) leagues (Westminster Girls, St. John's, and the Travel team).

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board requested that each Recreation Council prioritize each of their requests. Sue Podobnik asked about the visibility of the field at North Carroll Middle School, how much the school uses this field, and is Carroll County Public Schools okay with this project? Would they be willing to contribute funds as well?

Jim Rodriguez asked where the lacrosse goals were going to be stored at Kate Wagner; it was stated that it would be indoors if concrete slab is approved. It was stated that the goals deteriorate faster or get vandalized if left outside. A suggestion was made to just remove the nets during the off season and store them inside.

Jody Ledford again expressed her concerns about the amount of funds being requested for ball field dirt. Ms. Ledford stated that she doesn't have an answer to the problem but thinks there must be a better way to supply programs with funding for ball field dirt.

Further discussion ensued to try and find ways to save money on the purchase of ball field dirt with no resolution.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned, upon motion of Jim Rodriguez, seconded by Sue Podobnik at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Shawn Reese, Secretary