

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Piney Run Park Yurt Building
October 26, 2011**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Brad Knatz, Samuel Case, Gary Davis, Colin Furneaux, Jim Rodriguez and Lewis Baylor

Members Excused: Bobbi Tucker, Joe Cook, Sarah Hund-Brown, and Walter Schemm Jr.

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Sandy Buterbaugh, Bruce Dutterer, Brad Rogers, and Chelcee Fandel

Guests: Lynn Karr, Budget Analyst, Department of Management & Budget, Scott Stewart, Naturalist, Piney Run Park and Wind O' Neil, Motocross Opportunities

Chairperson Brad Knatz opened the meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board at 1:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the yurt building located in Piney Run Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The July and September Minutes were unanimously approved as written with a motion by Sam Case and second by Jim Rodriguez.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Columbus Classic Soccer Tournament** – 156 teams participated in the Columbus Classic Soccer Tournament that was held Columbus Day weekend with the help of staff, Westminster Area and Central Carroll Recreation Councils.
- **40th Anniversary Reception & Crab Feast** – Both events were very successful with lots of positive feedback. Our last anniversary event is the photo contest with one more monthly winner and then a grand prize winner for the year.
- **Farm Museum-** A former County Commissioner has requested to have the Farm Museum removed from under Recreation and Parks. The current Board of Governors have sent a letter clarifying the mission and stating support for Recreation and Parks and the current structure to the Carroll County Times.
- **Name the Park Contest-** The Department will hold a contest to encourage citizen participation and interest in the new Westminster Community Park.
- **Smoking in the Parks-** Currently, the policy bans smoking within 50 yards of playing fields. The Board has previously suggested extending the policy to the playgrounds as well. We have polled the recreation councils and this idea has received unanimous support. We are looking to amend the Department's policy.
- **Annual Report-** The annual report has been distributed to the County Commissioners and the Planning Commission. It is now available to the public and will soon be viewable online.

- **Trails Meeting with Commissioner Howard-** The trails meeting is scheduled for October 27th at 7pm at the South Carroll Senior and Community Center. The meeting is an opportunity to let the community know what trails we currently have as well as the demand, development and funding for future trails.
- **Piney Run Naturalist-** Scott Stewart, the new naturalist at Piney Run Park was introduced to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. Jeff Degitz wanted to share how we are very fortunate and happy to have him on board with us.

SELF HELP PROJECTS:

The Self- Help projects that were presented at the September Board Meeting were reviewed and discussed. One request from the Winfield Recreation Council was removed from the list of requests as the field in question was not County owned. It was the Board's decision to not allow the request from Talara Kumrow, Softball Commissioner with Charles Carroll as she was not at the meeting to present her request. The Board has also decided to not allow the request from Joe Belinko with Winfield Recreation Council due to the insufficient information regarding the cost of the project. It was highly recommended by the Board, that they present their projects again in February at the next Self-Help meeting. The requests totaled \$47,378.00 with \$67,000.00 County funds available leaving \$19,622.00 for the Self-Help requests in February. Mr. Davis moved to accept the Committee's recommendations, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez and unanimously accepted. The Board's recommendations will go before the County Commissioners for concurrence.

PRESENTATION FROM WIND O'NEIL-MOTOCROSS OPPORTUNITIES:

Mr. Wind O'Neil thanked the Board for the invitation and wanted to share information on the demand for a motocross park in Carroll County. Mr. O'Neil shared that Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has embarked on an unprecedented initiative to fix this dire problem. In 2007, Wind spoke with the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and was advised that if suitable land is found, the Board would consider a motor cross track, however, a commitment cannot be made with the current budget situation. In 2011, Mr. O'Neil was appointed to the DNR's ORV Stakeholders Workgroup as a representative for Motocross enthusiasts. He has continued searching for land, while educating the area Riding Clubs about the new direction at the state level. Mr. O'Neil's goal is to see a cooperative agreement made between the DNR and the County Park System that creates a park with minimal delays due to unnecessary engineering hurdles, traffic studies, or lengthy land use debates that might serve to once again disenfranchise the ORV stakeholder. It was explained to Mr. Wind O'Neil that there are a number of issues to be addressed in order to develop a motocross track in Carroll County. Mr. Degitz thanked Mr. Wind O'Neil for coming in and giving an update to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Gary Davis brought to the Board's attention that a realtor visited the Winfield Recreation Council Meeting last week and was offering a donation back to the council in return for any referrals that resulted in sales. Jeff Degitz said he would check with Tim Burke regarding any legal issues before getting back to the recreation council.

Mr. Degitz asked the Board to vote on changing the "no smoking ban" to include playgrounds, but it was requested by Chairperson Brad Knatz to readdress the issue at the next Board Meeting in February as there were further details that needed to be discussed.

On a motion by Brad Knatz, seconded by Gary Davis, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

Chelcee M. L. Fandel

Chelcee M. L. Fandel, Secretary