

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
February 22, 2012**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Samuel Case, Joe Cook, Colin Furneaux, Brad Knatz, Lewis Baylor, Walter Schemm, and Judy Baker

**Members Excused:** Gary Davis, Jim Rodriguez, Bobbi Tucker and Sarah Hund- Brown

**Staff Present:** Bruce Dutterer, Abby Gruber, and Chelcee Fandel

**Guests Present:** Joe Belinko, Chris Henneman, Mike Hernandez, Talara Kumrow, Kenny Stockdale, Ralph Dell, and Bobby Hermann.

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

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on February 22, 2012 in the Public Meeting Room of the County Office Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Brad Knatz.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The October Minutes were unanimously approved as written with a motion by Sam Case and second by Colin Furneaux.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- **MD State Highway Administration** – The MD State Highway Administration will be replacing the Route 140 Bridge over the scenic Monocacy River with construction starting later this year. We have been meeting with Frederick County Parks and Recreation and SHA staff to try and develop a canoe/kayak launch area with parking at the site. This would add over 10 miles to our existing water trail that currently runs for 8 miles.
- **Freedom Area Trails Meetings** – We have held two public meetings in November and January. We have the first work group meeting on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are attempting to achieve consensus regarding possible connections and destinations and hope to apply for funding from MD Bikeways program to complete the feasibility study.
- **Dog Park** – We continue to receive requests for a dog park. We will be meeting with various residents to gauge this interest and possibly making a presentation to the Commissioners in the coming weeks to discuss locating it at Bennett Cerf Park.
- **Meeting with Taneytown Athletic Association-** I will be meeting with Bob Mitchell and representatives from Taneytown sports programs next week to discuss the existing relationship with the Department, facility use, and the liability issues.
- **Department Strategic Plan-** We will be reviewing at the March meeting and looking for volunteers from the Board to work with Abby, Brad and myself as we prepare to update the plan looking forward for the next three (3) years.
- **Upcoming Events-**
  - Sunday, March 4- Maple Sugarin' Festival at Hashawha, 10:30am-4:00pm
  - Saturday, March 24- Early Bird Fishing Tournament at Piney Run

Saturday, March 31, March for Parks event at the Farm Museum, 9am.

Abby Gruber shared that she wanted to get out of the normal and doing a 6K Mudrun/race with natural and man-made obstacles would do just that. She is encouraging teams of 2 and 4 and hoping there is participation in the costumed division.

- **Facebook-** Carroll County Recreation and Parks is now on facebook. Please visit the site and “like” us so we can keep the public informed.

### **SELF-HELP PROJECT REQUESTS:**

- **North Carroll Recreation Council** – Mike Hernandez presented a request for a new batting cage and bleachers. The batting cage is currently a safety hazard as it is rusted and leaning. The bleachers are for the fans and parents to have a place to sit to watch the ball game.  
Total project cost: \$5,100.00; County funds - \$4,000.00; Council funds - \$1,100.00
- **Charles Carroll Recreation Council** – Talara Kumrow, presented a request to add a storage building and about 66 tons of infield dirt to the Cherryown Road Field. The dugouts need replaced but storage for the equipment is needed first. With the money that is being requested, Talara plans to budget enough to repair the pavilion as well.  
Total project cost: \$5,212.00; County funds - \$3,909.00; Council funds - \$1303.00
- **Westminster Area Recreation Council** – Chris Henneman with Westminster Little League is requesting about 100 tons of field dirt for Field #1 at Kate Wagner Park. The plan is to take 3 to 4 inches off the field and re-do the field with the new dirt.  
Total Project cost: \$3,500.00; County funds - \$2,975.00; Council funds - \$525.00
- **Winfield Recreation Council** – Joe Belinko presented a project request for an athletic wall that would be located on the ridge by the practice fields between Linton Springs and Century High School. It would be used by all recreation and high school teams primarily for lacrosse and soccer, both boys and girls. This would allow an approved space designed to accommodate student athletes.  
Project cost: \$12,000.00; County funds - \$9,000.00; Council funds - \$3,000.00
- **Woodbine Recreation Council** – Kenny Stockdale with Woodbine Recreation Council presented a request for 80 tons of ball field mix and 20 tons of blacktop millings. The ball field mix is to replace the infield dirt lost to wind erosion and water damage. The blacktop millings are to repair the driveway.  
Project cost: \$2,220.00; County funds - \$1,857.00; Council funds - \$363.00

Discussion followed on the request from Joe Belinko with the Winfield Recreation Council. The funding is available for all of these self- help requests, but is suggested that Mr. Belinko contact the School Board or the Athletic Booster to request help with the funding. The board was all in favor of the requests. Mr. Joe Cook motioned to approve and Mr. Walter Schemm seconded the motion. Jeff Degitz is to schedule time with the Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

### **SMOKING IN THE PARKS:**

At the previous Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting it was brought to the Boards attention that the current policy bans smoking within 50 yards of playing fields. The Board has previously suggested extending the policy to the playgrounds as well. After further investigation by Jeff Degitz and Brad Knatz, it has been found that the County Ordinance gives the ability to designate this type of ban within the park. Brad Knatz agrees to take a stand with banning smoking near the playgrounds as well, but there is no need to get wrapped up in the enforcement of it. A simple standard sign is all that is needed. Walter

Schemm prefers that there be only one sign located at the parking lot. Jeff mentioned that there is a tobacco coalition that offers funding for the “no smoking” signs. Jeff Degitz asked the Board if they would like to take a position on it. It was noted by Brad Knatz that the power to do so already exists in the County Ordinance. Walter Schemm took a motion to add the prohibition of smoking in playgrounds to the current policy which bans smoking with 50 yards of playing fields. The motion was seconded by Sam Case and the Board was all in favor with Lewis Baylor abstained from the vote.

### **NAME YOUR NEW PARK:**

Jeff Degitz brought to the Board’s attention that Recreation and Parks wanted to raise public awareness by giving citizens an opportunity to “Name Your New Park”. The 32 acre park located near Route 97 and the Windemere Farms Development is anticipating some playing fields, playgrounds and trails. Citizens were encouraged to give names and the reason behind the meaning of the name for a \$50.00 valued prize for the winning name. A news story was advertised on WBAL- Channel 11 which generated a lot of feedback for this newest park in the Westminster community. The name of the park will be announced at the March Board meeting after being voted on by the sub-committee of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Bobby Herman, the state coordinator and NoVa ambassador for disc golf presented to the Advisory Board about this organized sport and how he would like to have it at our facilities. Mr. Herman shared how disc golf is a very fast growing sport with men, women, and children and is enjoyable for recreation. Disc Golf is low impact and inexpensive and can fit into many different locations. Currently, there are about two dozen courses in Maryland with courses at Seneca Creek State Park, and Patapsco State Park. These have been very successful and Mr. Herman is asking the Board to consider adding a disc golf course in Carroll County. It was questioned by Brad Knatz on how you go about starting such a course. Bobby stated that he looks at different parks, at different times of the day, and for different elevations before designing the course. Mr. Herman also mentioned that disc golf in feet, is what golf is in yards. Jeff Degitz mentioned that Krimgold Park, Leister Park, and Freedom Park are three locations that could be considered for a disc gold course. Brad Knatz told Mr. Herman that the Board would like him to come back at the March meeting to discuss this even further.

### **MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:**

Jeff Degitz wanted to update the Board regarding Gary Davis’ question at the previous Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting. Mr. Gary Davis brought to the Board’s attention that a realtor visited the Winfield Recreation Council Meeting and was offering a donation back to the council in return for any referrals that resulted in sales. Jeff Degitz contacted the Ethics Commission and was told that they cannot do it on this conditional basis.

Jeff introduced the newest Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Member, Judy Baker. She was formally with CARC, Deer Park Recreation Council and has previously served 8 years as a Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Member. Welcome back Judy!

Colin Furneaux asked to be updated on the Bennett Cerf Park renovations. Jeff explained that renovations on the first and second bridge are now completed and the trail has been paved. It is moving forward and is to be completed this spring. Jeff mentioned that Random House has not only donated the land but about \$3000.00 as well.

On a motion by Brad Knatz, seconded by Joe Cook, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

*Chelcee M. L. Fandel*

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Chelcee M. L. Fandel, Secretary