

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
June 26, 2013**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Brad Knatz, Lewis Baylor, John Marks, Carolyn Garber, Bobbi Tucker, and Judy Baker

Members Excused: Colin Furneaux, Walter Schemm, Gary Davis, Jim Rodriguez, and Brian Clancy

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Bruce Dutterer and Candy Sharrer

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on June 26, 2013 at the County Office Building's public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by board chair Judy Baker.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Knatz moved to approve the March 27th meeting minutes. John Marks seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Staff Update:** Introduction of new Bureau Chief of Recreation, Lisa Carroll. Lisa stood and shared a little about her background and coming from Anne Arundel County.
- **Dog Park** – We now have over 160 members registered with over 200 dogs; a grand opening was held in the Spring and was attended by Commissioner Shoemaker.
- **Recreation & Parks Month** – We are once again joining with the National Recreation & Parks Association and departments across the country to celebrate July as Recreation & Parks month. We have developed a calendar of recommended activities and Commissioners will issue a proclamation tomorrow. The calendar is a good way to highlight the Park activities and will be distributed around the county.
- **Park Legacy Fund** – We have received over \$29,000 in donations to the Park Legacy Fund this year, an increase of over 300% from last year's total. The next scheduled fundraiser will be held on July 30 at the Westminster Greene Turtle. In the past working together with the Greene Turtle on this event has proven to be successful with the County receiving over \$500.
- **Westminster Veterans Memorial Park** – The first public meeting was held to get input regarding the park. Over 50 people attended and the majority of the input focused on the need for more fields, concerns about traffic, noise, lights, property values, etc. We have established an email address of wvmpcomments@ccg.carr.org to collect additional input for after the public

meeting. The next meeting will feature several draft master plan concepts and will be held in late August.

- **Dedication of Ronnie Legore Field at Maveski Park** – Wanda Legore raised over \$100,000 towards construction of this new field in memory of her late husband; field was officially dedicated on Sunday, April 28.
- **Month of Sundays Summer Concert Series** – Once again co-sponsoring series of free concerts every Sunday in July at Westminster City Park; proceeds from discount amusement park tickets fund Carroll County's contribution.

TRAILS DISCUSSION:

- As mentioned during the March meeting, Jeff Degitz shared that many requests have been brought forth for new trails in the county. Liberty Reservoir trails make up 32 miles of trails, so if included in our count it puts us over what we are looking to establish. Keep in mind that the reservoir trails are not user friendly for walking and stroller patrons as well as handicapped patrons as the trails are not ADA compliant. Jeff's suggestion is to perhaps not include the reservoir trails in the count.

PRESENTATION OF CAPITOL PROJECT REQUESTS:

- **Gillis Falls Trail Construction:** Establish an additional 8,000 lf compacted stone pedestrian walkway/trail connecting Salt Box Park to Gillis road. An NRT Grant will be applied for to help cover some of the expenses on the bridge and tail installation. **Total Cost, \$286,000**
 - Brad Knatz shared his concern on the fact that the project has been on hold for 11 years due to the possibility of using the property for a reservoir. Jeff stated that if the reservoir were to be built, it would be a ways in the future.
 - Carolyn Garber shared her concerns for emergency vehicle respondents. Bruce stated that there will be two entrances in place.
- **Sandymount Park – Tennis and Basketball Court Replacements:** Remove old tennis and basketball courts and replace with new HMA paving, fabric, seal, paint, install new nets, basketball standards and replace fencing and gates. **Total Cost, 98,400**
 - Bruce shared that the courts are over 35 years old and are in bad condition and in need of repair.
 - John Marks asked if the schools being so close use this park regularly. Jeff responded that this is park property and that though the school may be close to the park they only utilize it for special events.
- **Deer Park – Tennis and Basketball Court Replacements:** Over-lay the existing Tennis Court with fabric and new HMA paving, seal, paint, install new nets, basketball standards at Deer Park. **Total Cost, \$69,200**
 - Bruce commented that it's been 10 years since they addressed this property.
 - Judy Baker asked about the life expectancy of the fabric and if there is something to prevent another repair in 10 more years. Bruce stated that the fabric should prevent damage going past a surface crack and that this material repairs easily.

- **Double Pipe Creek – Boat Ramp Design and Construction:** Contractual services to pour concrete staircase and ramp for a safe and accessible entrance. *Total Cost, \$76,000*
 - Bruce mentioned that this project is needed due to the stair case being grown in.
 - Brad Knatz asked if this area is for smaller boats such as kayaks and canoes. Bruce stated that it is. Current access is a steep embankment and not ADA accessible.
- **Bear Branch – Climbing Rock:** Purchase and installation of a climbing rock for the Bear Branch Nature Center. This includes the purchasing of new safety surface, and construction of a walkway/ramp etc. *Total Cost, \$104,700*
 - Bruce stated that this is also an educational piece for the park with the rock in an animal shape themed for the nature center. He added that a thick rubber spongy material will be placed at base.
 - Judy Baker asked how high the piece will be and if harnesses are needed for liability issues. Bruce said that the rock will be around 9’ tall (as most of the others at our parks are) and harnesses aren’t needed as the children should be monitored.
 - John Marks asked if there will be warning signs posted around the climbing rock. Bruce said that there is no warning required for this piece and also that they have a safety surface around the base in case of falls. Jeff added that several of our parks have them and it would be a great addition for Hashawha.
- **Westminster Community Trail Section 2 (Grant Funds):** Establish a pedestrian walkway/bike trail connecting the south side of Hahn Road with the existing Md. State right-of-way along Route 27. The project requires a pre-engineered bridge installed to cross an existing drainage area. *Total Cost, \$199,500*
 - Bruce stated that we need to come up with 80% of the total project cost. A Maryland Bikeways grant will be applied for to help cover some expenses.
- **Governor Brown Trail (Grant Funds):** Establish a pedestrian walkway/bike trail connecting the north end of the existing Park and Ride along Rte. 32 South in Eldersburg. The project required a pre-engineered bridge installed to cross an existing stream. *Total Cost, \$173,600*
 - Bruce shared that with this project we also need to come up with 80% so a Maryland Bikeways grant will be applied for to help cover some expenses. He also mentioned that this is state property and there is an agreement that the county can utilize this space for trails.
- **Quaker Hill Park – Design and Engineering:** Design and engineer the proposed park site for grading, seeding, sediment and erosion control, storm water management, and fencing. **Total Cost, \$81,600**
 - Bruce mentioned that this area is near the Lehigh Property and was given to the county in exchange for Siebel Field.
 - Brad Knatz asked how long the engineering specs are good for. Jeff said that it all depends on the length of time between the specs given and the start of the project, due to changes that could occur in the property. If included in approved CIP, we would request construction funds in the following year.
- ❖ Brad asked if we had funding for everything. Jeff said that based on funds and the recent economy reports we should be able to move forward.
- ❖ Bobbi asked if there are Federal Grants to help keep the parks ADA compliant. Jeff responded that they do some funding that we can apply for but there has to be some prioritizing. There isn’t enough to cover larger projects.
- ❖ Jeff said that the projects will be given to the Capitol Committee for review and brought back to the table for discussion during the July 24th meeting.
 - Capitol Committee members to be emailed to Advisory Board

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Lisa Carroll stood and shared some information about her recent events.**
 - This year's Lax Max Tournament took place in June and continues to be a very successful event. 256 teams registered, 14,000 participated and 26 fields were used this year. The event brings community together and shows a strong involvement by volunteers. Lisa is currently contacting local businesses to see how they fared over the weekend's event.
 - Taking place again this year in July is our 3rd Annual Park Pursuit family event. This event is held in celebration of Park & Recreation Month. It gives the community a way to learn from nature and get to know our county parks.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Brad Knatz and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

Candy M. Sharrer

Candy M. Sharrer, Secretary