

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting  
February 26, 2014**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mike Rodgers, Judy Baker, Brian Clancy, Jim Rodriguez, John Marks, Derek Ludlow, and Carolyn Garber

**Members Excused:** Bobbi Tucker, Brad Knatz, and Colin Furneaux

**Staff Present:** Bruce Dutterer, Lisa Carroll, and Candy Sharrer

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

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on February 26, 2014 at the County Office Building public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by board chair Judy Baker.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Jeff Degitz introduced new board member, Derek Ludlow and shared a few words on former Board member Lew Baylor's passing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Judy Baker moved to approve the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes. Brian Clancy seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- **Westminster Community Trail** – Funding is in place and we are waiting for warmer weather to complete Bennett Cerf Park to Sunshine Way section of trail. We did not receive BRTB/CMAQ grant we applied for to cover local portion of construction from Hahn Road to Route 140. However, SHA has informed us that they will be paying entire construction cost with exception of acquisition of small construction easement.
- **Governor Frank Brown Trail Project** – Funding in the amount of \$100,000 available July 1 for a bicycle/pedestrian connection between the two sections of MacBeth Way. Engineering and design for this section is underway now. In light of the increased SHA funding for the Westminster Community Trail, \$200,000 that was recommended for this project in FY 17 has been moved up to FY 15 and may be used as possible match for additional grant funding.
- **Monocacy River Small Boat Launch Area** – Carroll & Frederick Counties combined to purchase 7 acre parcel at MD 140 bridge (Frederick County side). Settlement occurred today and Carroll's portion of the acquisition cost was \$26,500 with no commitment for ongoing maintenance or development costs. We will continue to work with Frederick County to pursue grant funding to develop launch area.
- **Disc Golf** – We are continuing to receive donations to support construction of a disc golf course at Leister Park.
- **Capital Project Update**

- Leister Park Phase I construction almost complete; tot lot installation to occur this spring; official ribbon cutting will be held in spring when weather improves
- Krimgold Park – construction on hold due to weather; anticipated completion date of 12/31/14
- Westminster Community Pond – park closed for construction; projected re-opening of Fall 2014
- Westminster Veterans Memorial Park – still in planning/design phase; looking at possible monument/sculpture ideas to be included in park
- Piney Run Park – new playground to be installed by end of March
- Sandymount Park – paving overlay of walking trail scheduled for spring

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

- *Central Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Robert Freter*

Robert is requesting the replacement and installation of new playground at Sandymount Park. The equipment is rapidly deteriorating and is dangerous for use.

Total project cost: \$20,000.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$5,000.00; County Funds: \$15,000.00

The second project request is for new lacrosse goals and nets to replace old rusted goals at Deer Park and Carroll Community College.

Total project cost: \$2,250.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$562.00; County Funds: \$1,688.00

The third project request is to install two covered dugouts on the baseball diamond at Deer Park's Memorial Field.

Total project cost: \$14,373.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$3,593.00; County Funds: \$10,780.00

- *Freedom Area Recreation Council – Presented by Steve Burke*

Steve is requesting the installation of glass backboards in the gym at South Carroll Senior Center. The current boards are over 5 years old and are made of metal.

Total project cost: \$4,336.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$1,084.00; County Funds: \$3,252.00

- *North Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Mike Hernandez*

Mike is requesting to repair the existing sheds and for field renovations at Hampstead Elementary. The sheds are currently too small for all of the equipment and fields are out of shape.

Total project cost: \$6,510.00; Council Contribution: \$1,321.00; County Funds: \$5,189.00

The second project presented by Amber Riley is for field renovations at Christmas Tree Park. The field is currently unsafe for players to use and hasn't had renovations in over 10 years.

Total project cost: \$20,000.00; Council Contribution: \$4,930.00; County Funds: \$15,070.00

- *West Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Brad Rockwood and Kevin Wilson*

Brad is requesting field renovations at Bark Hill Park as current playing conditions are unsafe.

Total project cost: \$6,170.00; Council Contribution: \$930.00; County Funds: \$5,240.00

- *Westminster Recreation Council – Presented by Chris Henneman and Chad Voguel*

Chris is requesting ball diamond mix for Kate Wagner and Landon Burns. Current playing conditions are unsafe and the last renovation was over 6 years ago.

Total project cost: \$11,250.00; Council Contribution: \$1,692.00; County Funds: \$9,558.00

- Chris also mentioned that there is a goose problem which causes potential health risks to the players. Carolyn mentioned working with the Friends of Bennett Cerf Dog Park to find

a Border Collie to chase them off. Jeff Degitz said he would speak with the members about this option.

Mr. Degitz stated that the requests totaled \$65,777 and the remaining County Fund available is \$44,428. This makes the total requests over \$21,349 of the available funds. The Operating and Capital Budget members will meet to discuss the projects and then a recommendation will be emailed to the Board for a vote. Once this is completed, the projects then go to the County Commissioners for their recommendation.

Judy Baker thanked everyone for coming out and for their time this evening.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:**

- Jeff shared a copy of the old Strategic Plans Mission/Vision and a copy of the new draft's Mission/Vision. He asked that the board take some time to review the changes and be prepared to share any thoughts and changes during the next meeting in March.

### **GENESSEE & WYOMING VACANT RAIL ROAD LINE:**

- Jeff shared with the board some information and photos of an inactive rail line running from Taneytown to Kingsdale, and then up through Pennsylvania into Littlestown. The Maryland portion would make an outstanding trail with a 4 mile stretch which would be usable for horseback, bikes and joggers. A letter was sent to Genessee & Wyoming Railroad General Manager, David Hart sharing our interest in a rails to trails project or rail banking. As this has been approached previously in the past, Jeff is in high hopes that with a new contact at Genessee & Wyoming that the response will be favorable.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Mike Rodgers asked if there was a way to speed up the Self Help decision process so the council representatives have time to make their repairs before the season starts. Discussion commenced with different ideas. Jeff shared that once the capital committee meets, an email could be sent to the board with recommendations for a vote which would speed up the process.
- Jim Rodriguez asked if the council representatives could hand in their three estimates at the time of request to help speed up the process. Jeff shared that we have typically accepted one due to how time consuming the estimates are and worked on collecting the others after the vote. Judy Baker suggested to the representatives at hand, having the three quotes available at the time of Self Help project submissions.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Judy Baker and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

*Candy M. Sharrer*

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Candy M. Sharrer, Secretary