

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
May 28, 2014**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, John Marks, Derek Ludlow, Brad Knatz, Colin Furneaux, Bobbi Tucker and Mike Rodgers

Members Excused: Carolyn Garber, Jim Rodriguez, and Brian Clancy

Staff Present: Candy Sharrer

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 28, 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:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Knatz moved to approve the March 26th meeting minutes. Derek Ludlow seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Trail Project Updates :**
 - **Governor Frank Brown Trail** – County Commissioners approved permission to apply for Maryland Bikeways Grant to supplement funding available July 1, 2015 to connect Mac Beth Way (bike/pedestrian only), construct trail from Mac Beth Way to Route 32 Park & Ride lot and from lot to Springfield Hospital Center near Sunnyside Cemetery.
 - **Westminster Community Trail** – County Commissioners approved permission to apply for Transportation Alternatives Program grant to pay 80% costs of bike/pedestrian connection between Sunshine Way and Sullivan Road (near Westminster Community Pond). Bids received for Bennett Cerf Park to Sunshine Way connection and construction should begin shortly. SHA continues to move forward with Hahn Road to MD Route 140 design with construction planned for spring 2015. SHA has since added a sidewalk installation project that will connect with the trail near CC Times (via crosswalk) and eliminate sidewalk gaps through Goodwin Quarry Road area on south side of town.
 - **Sandymount Park** – Resurfacing completed on areas where needed

- **Capital Project Update:**
 - **Leister Park** – Ribbon cutting was held May 17, thanks to Judy, Derek and Colin for attending. Benches and concrete pads are planned along the trail with additional Park Legacy Fund donations anticipated for benches and disc golf. Phase Two capital request will be presented to the Board in June.
 - **Westminster Community Pond** – Construction underway
 - **Piney Run Park** – New playground installed near lake
 - **Landon C Burns Park** – Pavilion replacement underway

- **Bear Branch Nature Center** – Plans to add observatory on grounds with Westminster Astronomical Society and County Commissioners approved permission to apply for Building Better Communities grant to fund nature based playground at site.
 - **Hap Baker Rest Room Building** – Delivery and installation planned for mid-June.
 - **Krimgold Park** – Construction ongoing, and may need to extend anticipated completion date beyond 12/31/14.
 - **Westminster Veterans Memorial Park** – Traffic study is underway and the next public meeting is anticipated for early summer.
- **Budget Discussions:**
 - Piney Run Park Additional Maintenance Staff Position – Decision made by Commissioners to increase operating budget for FY15 by \$120,000 to contract out mowing of additional 50 acres of tree plantings as well as mowing/removal of hydrilla in 300 acre lake instead of adding position.
 - Sports Complex Privatization – Question raised during budget discussions regarding possible sale/privatization of Sports Complex to save \$203,000 in operating budget. Discussion was short and did not include ramifications to Charles Carroll Rec. Council and Senior Softball league, net savings to operating budget after revenue consideration and possible need for Program Open Space conversion which would require purchase and development of alternative site with at least as many acres (76) and amenities.
 - **Updated Tobacco Use Signage:**
 - Department received grant from Health Department to purchase and install signage at ball fields and playgrounds in county parks as well as create a new brochure for public education.
 - **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Art in the Park** – Saturday, June 7, 2014
 - **Lax Max Lacrosse Tournament** – June 7-8, 2014
 - **Piney Run Summer Kick Off** – June 22, 2014 12 noon – 6 pm; live music, food, crafts

STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVAL:

- Jeff Degitz shared the new draft with the board members with their requested changes made. Jeff shared that after the boards review, he would be happy to address any additional thoughts with an attempt to get a final vote and adopted version this evening.
- Discussion went around the table about a few minor corrections and clarification of terms.
- Derek Ludlow moved to adopt the new strategic plan. John Marks seconded, all concurred and the new draft was approved.
- Jeff thanked the board for their input and said once the revisions were made a final copy would be emailed to each member.

CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION:

- Jeff Degitz shared the proposed 2015 Community Investment Plan with the board. He stressed the importance of their review and attendance at the June meeting for discussion. A few of the items to be discussed will include Leister Park Phase II, Lighting at the Sports Complex, and the boards thoughts on future turf fields in the county. The existing lighting at the Sports Complex has been there since 1990. The new lights with today's technology would be more efficient and hold zero spill of light. Turf fields can cost an average of \$1 million and an additional \$500,000 for upkeep every 10 years. Discussion at the June meeting will be held on the boards thoughts as the possibility of future requests increase for turf fields.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS:

- Jeff Degitz shared that currently our background check for volunteer registration programs with a member volunteering more than one day consists of a registration form and local crime database check. Recently he met with Friends of Carroll County Recreation & Parks informing the group that there has been an increase in interest of back ground checks for program volunteers. The cost for each check could result a fee of \$18-\$20 per volunteer. Councils shared that they may be willing to increase fees to help the county with this cost. Our current goal is to have a plan by December to share with the board.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Judy Baker and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

Candy M. Sharrer

Candy M. Sharrer, Secretary