

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
October 22, 2014**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Brad Knatz, Judy Baker, Brian Clancy, John Marks, Carolyn Garber, Colin Furneaux, and Derek Ludlow

Members Excused: Bobbi Tucker, Mike Rodgers and Jim Rodriguez

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Matt Purkins, Brad Rogers, and Candy Sharrer

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on October 22, 2014 at the Piney Run Park Yurt. The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m. by board chair Judy Baker.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Knatz moved to approve the September 24, 2014 meeting minutes, John Marks seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Trail Project Updates:**
 - **Westminster Community Trail/Transportation Alternatives Program** –Did not receive requested amount of \$174,720 to construct trail from Sunshine Way to Westminster Community Pond – did receive \$25,000 in funding for engineering of project; intersection with sidewalk at Sunshine Way completed
 - **Gov. Frank Brown Trail** – Commissioners authorized acceptance of \$131,600 grant; working to complete grant agreement and work plan required by funding agency

- **Request to Develop an ORV Trail in Union Mills Area:** We have been approached once again by Mr. Wind O'Neal and the Motocross Council, Ltd. with regards to the need for ORV trails in Carroll County. They met with the Westminster Aero-modelers who expressed a willingness to co-exist in the Speigal Hill area of Union Mills. I have shared concerns regarding the impact on the existing multi-use trails and surrounding homes in the area and have encouraged them to look at other locations.

- **Needs Assessment Survey:** We will be developing a needs assessment survey to distribute to random households in the coming months to help gauge our effectiveness as an agency as well as measure and prioritize citizens' desires for additional or new types of facilities.

- **Updated Fee Schedule:** We will be meeting with the new Board of County Commissioners in December to present an updated fee schedule for our major park facilities.

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Bark N Howl at Bennett Cerf Dog Park – Saturday, October 25 from 10 am – 3 pm
 - Volunteer of the Year – Thursday, November 6 @ 6:30 pm at the Robert Moton Center in Westminster

TURF FIELD UPDATE:

Jeff Degitz shared several funding concepts discussed by the Turf Field Committee. Part of the struggles that has affected the progress of building a turf field are resources, tax base, and local funding priorities. The committee input thus far has focused on funding turf fields for 8 high school locations over the span of 10 years. To accomplish this, bonding would likely be necessary for County funded portion with Board of Ed contributing funds through fundraisers and sponsorships, and rec council contributions through program surcharges. Two other possible locations include the Sports Complex which could be supported by major sponsorship and the currently undeveloped Dulany Property through a public/private partnership.

ACCESS PASS (PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES):

Jeff shared that there has been a recent request for special access into county parks with fees for persons with disabilities, similar to the Maryland State Park Disability Access Pass. Question arose whether or not Hap Baker Firearms Facility should be included in this access. Jeff said he would look into this site and access further and report back. A suggestion was shared that the Access Pass should be limited to Carroll County Residents only.

Derek Ludlow proposed the following motion: an individual with a disability requesting a park pass must show a state approved Maryland State Park Pass for Persons with Disabilities at the gate during their first visit, then we will issue them a season's pass for the year free of charge at that park. Colin Furneaux seconded and all concurred to approve.

ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION:

Jeff shared the 2014 Annual Report with the board, giving recognition to Becky Kishter who does the layout and design of the publication. He shared several new items and interesting facts, and then asked the board to look over at their convenience.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- John Marks asked how the progress of Leister Park is coming along. Jeff shared that we have raised \$5,942.00 for Disc Golf and are expecting to start the construction of the first 9 holes in the near future.
- Colin Furneaux requested that a thank you note be sent to Hashawha kitchen staff in appreciation of their efforts related to the excellent lunch provided at the meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Brad Knatz and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

Candy Sharrer

Candy Sharrer, Secretary