

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
September 23, 2015**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, Carolyn Garber, John Marks, Mike Rodgers, Jim Rodriguez, and Brad Knatz

Members Excused: Brian Clancy and Derek Ludlow

Members Absent: Tom Long

Staff Present: Candy Sharrer, Ric Buchanan and Lisa Carroll

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on September 23, 2015 at the County Office Building's public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by board chair John Marks.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mike Rodgers moved to approve the July 22, 2015 meeting minutes with one correction (the change of lightening to lightning), Jim Rodriguez seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Westminster Community Pond:** A reopening ceremony was held on September 22nd with Commissioners and Senator Ready in attendance. This project is due to a great partnership with Bureau of Water Resources and effective combination of funding from County Commissioners, Transportation Alternatives Program (SHA) and Program Open Space.
- **Adirondack Chair Auction:** Funds were deposited into the Park Legacy Fund, and the winning bidders were Greenmount Station and Baughers.
- **Krimgold Park:** Final stages of construction are underway with hopes to open the park later this fall. A fundraiser on September 12th for the playground project brought in \$7,000.
- **Winfield Park (Salem Bottom Road):** Continuing to work with local contractor to add fill dirt and rough grade the site. To date, 40,000 cubic yards of dirt have been delivered to site, graded and seeded, and work donated thus far has value of over \$500,000.
- **Park Restoration Update:**
 - Sandymount Park - new backstop fencing completed and trail resurfacing scheduled to begin soon; new playground bid received with installation tentatively scheduled for late fall
 - Hashawha – lake pavilion replacement bids received with late fall installation planned; this pavilion dates back to 1980
 - Piney Run Park – continuing work on siding and window replacement at Nature Center

- **Board of Education Capacity/Budgetary Issues:**

- BOE staff committee recommended the closing of 5 schools – Mt. Airy, Sandymount, Charles Carroll Elementary, New Winsor Middle and North Carroll High Schools; still too early to know final outcome but this could have significant impact on local recreation councils and programs that use the gymnasiums, cafeteria and athletic fields for local programs

SELF HELP REQUESTS:

- *Carroll County Arts Council – Presented by Sandy Oxx*

Sandy Oxx is requesting replacement of console lighting at the Arts Center. The replacement will reduce power consumption and increase productivity.

Total project cost: \$11,006; Rec. Council Contribution: \$2,751.50; County Funds: \$8,254.50

- *Charles Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Jason Sidock*

Jason Sidock is requesting a new privacy fence for Cherrytown Road Park. The fence will give privacy to neighboring homes and help prevent accidental fly balls.

Total project cost: \$3,067.67; Rec. Council Contribution: \$661.92; County Funds: \$2,405.75

- *North Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by John Woodley*

John Woodley is requesting the purchase of new manual height adjusters for Spring Garden Elementary. They will replace the original currently in place over 20 years old. *Contingent on signature from Board of Education

Total project cost: \$1,968.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$492.00; County Funds: \$1,476.00

- *North Carroll Recreation Council – Presented by Jeff Fritz and Jerry Immler*

Jeff and Jerry are requesting replacement of worn out goals at North Carroll Middle, Willow Street and Hampstead Municipal Park. The current condition of the existing goals poses a hazard to the players.

Total project cost: \$5,830.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$1,440.00; County Funds: \$4,390.00

- *Westminster Area Recreation Council – Presented by Herb Eyler*

Herb Eyler is requesting replacement of bleachers at Jaycee Park. The new bleachers with backing and rails will help address safety issues.

Total project cost: \$10,208.97; Rec. Council Contribution: \$2,064.04; County Funds: \$8,144.93

- *Westminster Area Recreation Council – Presented by Zach Blessing*

Zach Blessing is requesting the purchase of wrestling mats for the WARC wrestling program.

Total project cost: \$8,000.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$2,000.00; County Funds: \$6,000.00

- *Westminster Area Recreation Council – Presented by Robert George and Dave Downs*

Robert George is requesting replacement of the current backstop and fencing along third base. A higher backstop and fence will help prevent damage to neighboring homes from foul balls.

Total project cost: \$12,260.00; Rec. Council Contribution: \$2,925.00; County Funds: \$9,335.00

John Marks thanked all the recreation council members for their time and shared that the board would discuss the projects and vote on a decision later in the meeting.

Winfield's request was withdrawn due to no representative being present and Westminster Area Recreation Council withdrew their Friendship Valley request at this time. Total county funds for all seven projects come to \$40,006.18. Jeff Degitz shared that the total county funds for all of the requests is well within the budget.

Brad Knatz motioned to approve funding for all seven projects with a contingency that North Carroll Rec. Council obtains the Board of Education's signature for the Spring Garden Elementary height adjusters. Jim Rodriguez seconded the motion and all concurred.

Jeff Degitz shared that the next step in this process is to take the board's recommendation to the County Commissioners for their approval.

LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEMS:

Jim Rodriguez shared information with the advisory board regarding the Board of Education (BOE) developing a plan to use Lightning Detection Systems at their high school locations. The current standard is if you see it or hear it you take cover and leave the field for a designated period of time. This puts staff, fans and community members at risk and is challenging to determine objectively. The new system would include a sensor which sends electronic alerts to a select group of individuals and sets off a 15 second sound alarm to alert the players. The advance warning system would allow players, coaches, officials, and spectators to leave the premises prior to the lightning event; keeping everyone safe. 2 of 4 companies solicited by the BOE chose to bid on the project and the bid information is slated to go before the BOE mid-October.

PARKS ORDINANCE:

Jeff Degitz shared a copy of the Parks Ordinance with the board. He asked they take some time over the next few weeks to review the document and think of any updates or changes they would like to see made. "Permanent Ban from Park Premises" is one of the areas that will be reviewed. Carolyn Garber added that since Hap Baker wasn't built when the Ordinance was created, it would be helpful to do some research into how other local ranges handle a ban situation. Discussion of the Parks Ordinance will be on the October 28th meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Brad Knatz and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Candy Sharrer

Candy Sharrer, Secretary