

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
October 28, 2015**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Carolyn Garber, Derek Ludlow, John Marks, Mike Rodgers, Jim Rodriguez, Tony Rosas, Sue Ruppert, Tom Long, and Brad Knatz

Members Excused: Brian Clancy

Members Absent: Judy Baker

Staff Present: Candy Sharrer, Ric Buchanan, Lisa Carroll, Matt Purkins, Bruce Dutterer, Brad Rogers, and Sandy Buterbaugh

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on October 28, 2015 at Piney Run Park's Yurt. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Board Chair John Marks.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Knatz moved to approve the September 23, 2015 meeting minutes, Tony Rosas seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Krimgold Park** – Is in the final stages of construction; looking at early December ribbon cutting; local fundraising effort for playground has raised \$45,000 thus far.
- **Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan** – Working with Department of Planning staff to update new plan; due to State in 2017; documents both inventory and need.
- **Board of Education Capacity/Budgetary Issues**
 - BOE school closure/redistricting outcome will have significant impact on local recreation councils and program use; more options being considered by BOE.
- **Park Restoration Update**
 - Sandymount Park - trail resurfacing underway; new playground construction underway
 - Hashawha – lake pavilion replacement bids received with late fall installation planned
 - Hashawha – replacement pavilion near cabins will be constructed by staff 2015/2016
 - Piney Run Park – continuing work on siding and window replacement at Nature Center

- **Volunteer Background Checks** – Briefing Commissioners on 10/29/15 regarding plan to bid service and review purpose and funding sources.
- **Annual Report** – Copies of 2015 annual report distributed to Board members; will be presented to Commissioners on 10/29/15; copies will be available at major park facilities & County Office Building, and will be available online.

PARKS ORDINANCE – POSSIBLE CHANGES DISCUSSION:

Jeff Degitz started the discussion with focus on section 94.114 Permanent Ban from Park Premises. Jeff shared that the ban is specific to the incident location. The level of offense includes endangerment however each offense is situation dependent. Due to the possible wide range in situations there is currently no sign posted at parks listing offenses resulting in a permanent ban.

94.999 Penalty – Under the section of Violations and penalties the words “up to and including” should be added in relation to fines and imprisonment.

94.073 Domestic Animals – Discussion went around about possibly defining in detail “domestic” animal.

94.071 Smoking and Tobacco Products – There is mention of undesignated areas in this section however the parks do not have designated areas posted. Also last year a tobacco free parks policy was instituted. Wording for this section as well as 94.074 Fires should be revisited.

94.054 Picnic Areas – Discussion went around about possibly eliminating this section. Sandy Buterbaugh shared that patrons at her park have been known to use the parking lot for picnics and sometimes other areas.

Discussion of adding sections for Metal Detecting, Geocaching, and Remote Control/Unmanned Aircraft and Model Rockets went around and was highly favored.

Jeff Degitz shared that the next step in the process is to meet with the county attorney to discuss changes. The parks ordinance will then be revisited at the February advisory board meeting.

MARKETING PLAN:

Jeff Degitz shared a copy of the Carroll County Department of Recreation & Parks Marketing Plan Draft for the Boards review. The plan includes department objectives and current actions taking place. One newly added initiative is a welcome letter to new residents of Carroll County from Recreation & Parks. The letter welcomes new residents, tells them a little about the department and shares how to find additional information through our website, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Recently a small magnet with Recreation & Parks information was added to the mailing. Jeff also shared that the Commissioner’s office recently hired a Public Information Specialist which is a welcomed addition and we are all looking forward to joining efforts.

RECREATION COUNCIL – FACILITY USE ALLOCATION:

Jeff Degitz shared information on facility use allocation in hopes of giving the Board a better understanding of the process concerning councils, athletic areas and schools. The department

works with councils and leadership to try and schedule time fairly. It is understood that areas largely populated have more schools giving that area more facilities and time to coordinate. If a group/council from outside that area requests time, they are given an opportunity of using any remaining time left after time allocated to the areas rec council.

Jeff also shared that Krimgold Park will be opening in December initially giving that area an extra 3 athletic fields for use and more once future road improvements are completed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Jason Sidock from Charles Carroll Recreation Council shared his recent experience in trying to set up a local hayride event at a Carroll County Public School (CCPS) site. Jason has asked that the department look into the Board of Education's (BOE) position on local school usage and update the policy for a better understanding.
- Jim Rodriguez shared an update on the Lightning Detection System for CCPS. With the BOE approval, they are currently working with WeatherBug to install systems at 8 high schools. The system includes a 15 second alarm and strobe light. All schools will have designated personnel notified at every occurrence. In addition, there may be opportunities to work cooperatively at sites used by Recreation and Parks.
- The Board discussed and unanimously agreed that the Commissioner's should be included in the invite for March meeting.

OTHER COMMENTS:

John Marks asked that we share with Hashawha Staff the Board's thanks for a wonderful lunch.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Tom Long and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Candy Sharrer

Candy Sharrer, Secretary