

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
March 23, 2016**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Judy Baker, Brad Knatz, Mike Rodgers, Derek Ludlow, Tom Long, Tony Rosas, Sue Ruppert, and Jim Rodriguez

Members Excused: Carolyn Garber and John Marks

Members Absent: Brian Clancy

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

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on March 23, 2016 in the Algonquin Building at the Hashawha Environmental Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by board vice chair Derek Ludlow.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Thanks were expressed to the Hashawha kitchen staff who once again provided an excellent lunch for all in attendance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tom Long moved to approve the February 24, 2016 meeting minutes, Mike Rogers seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- **Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan (LPPRP):** Staff are working on the latest update plan which is required by State in order to receive Program Open Space funds. Updated plan is due in 2017 and we are distributing a brief survey to gather additional data to supplement what was collected in 2014 Needs Assessment Survey.
- **Volunteer Background Checks:** Process underway and running smoothly with over 1,000 background checks completed.
- **Westminster Community Trail:** Commissioners approved use of funds for construction of trail connection from Westminster Community Pond to Carroll County Commerce Center. We are also designing an additional connection to Autumn Ridge community to possibly be funded in connection with future business park expansion.
- **Westminster Veterans Memorial Park:** Next public meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 31 at 7 pm to provide an update on planning/design efforts and discuss vehicular access to the park.

- **Westminster Community Pond:** A recent letter to the editor complimented park renovations while expressing desire for benches. Funding has been exhausted for the project and we are attempting to solicit donations to fund benches (similar to Leister Park).
- **Parks Ordinance Changes:** Proposed changes to the Parks Ordinance were presented to Commissioners. The next step is a public hearing which is scheduled for April 21.
- **Park Restoration:** Piney Run Nature Center project completed with new siding, roofing and windows – completion by in house staff resulted in estimated county savings of \$90,000. 2 pavilions replaced at Hashawha that were built in 1980 (one contracted and one with in house labor). One pavilion at Deer Park (built in 1985) has been removed.
- **Tennis or Pickle ball:** We have funding to resurface tennis courts at Deer Park and Sandymount Park next year. We are currently surveying two active pickle ball groups that play at South Carroll Senior & Community Center and Robert Moton Center to see if they would use outdoor courts and if so, consider painting courts at Deer Park accordingly.
- **School Closing Issues:** Continuing to work with BOE staff in attempt to facilitate usage beyond end of school year; future of buildings to be determined.
- **County Budget Process:** The budget presentation with the Commissioners is scheduled for April 7 in the morning. The focus will be on capital budget in three areas: finishing what was started (projects like Krimgold and Leister Park), maintaining existing park infrastructure and funding new projects like trails which are most heavily requested and serve all ages including growing aging population.

CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMISSIONERS:

- Commissioner Weaver shared his thanks to the Department of Recreation & Parks for all they do for the county. He also shared that the Commissioners have an Open Door Policy to all staff.
- Commissioner Wantz also shared his thanks to the staff, Advisory Board and Jeff Degitz for all they do. He went on to share his appreciation for how well the community and staff communicate and work together bringing further awareness to Carroll County Parks.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAM OPEN SPACE UPDATE:

- **Winfield Park** – project continuing to move forward thanks to contractor donations of fill dirt and grading; buffer trees planted and post and cable installed to delineate parking area; will be working with Winfield Recreation Council and additional support committed by Nathan Chris Baker Foundation
- **Mayeski Park** – continued to receive complaints regarding condition of entrance road; hoping to secure funding in capital budget and to work cooperatively with Board of Education to resurface
- **Program Open Space** - Discussion regarding pending legislation that is supportive of Program Open Space that would repay some past diversions of funding and help prevent future diversions

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR / INTRODUCTION OF DEREK LUDLOW AS CHAIR:

Derek Ludlow nominated Mike Rodgers as Vice Chair, seconded by Brad Knatz and motion carried by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Bruce Dutterer reminded Board Members about upcoming Park Legacy Golf Outing fundraiser on June 3, 2016

Mike Rodgers spoke in favor of funding parks and preserving open space as this action helps bring people to Carroll County and keeps them here

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Jim Rodriguez and second by Tony Rosas and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Candy Sharrer

Candy Sharrer, Secretary