

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 28th, 2021 – 7:30 p.m.
Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Kristin Darby, Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Michael Rodgers, Michael Duffy, Anita Taylor, Dave Ferguson

Members Excused: Tom Long, Derek Ludlow, Brad Rockwood, Caitlin Christ

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Ashleigh Smith, Laura Tawes

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on July 28th, 2021 at the Carroll County Office Building in Room 003. The meeting was called to order at 7:31p.m. by Kristin Darby, Board Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Jeff Degitz introduced guest Ashleigh Smith, the Budget Analyst for Recreation & Parks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Tony Rosas moved to approve the May 26th, 2021 meeting; Michael Duffy seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. Capital Project Update

- Westminster Veterans Memorial Park –playground delayed, now looking at mid-September with ribbon cutting to follow; attempting to include sidewalk connection to Windermere Farms community and working with Westminster Baptist Church & HOA to facilitate if possible
- Krimgold Park - paving of parking completed with striping to follow; pavilion delayed
- Sports Complex – installation of lights on soccer field completed
- Gillis Falls Trail – held meeting with rec council who have concerns about increased public access; public meeting to be held to give community update on project; design continues
- Westminster Community Pond – change in park entrance being considered as part of development review process
- Charles Carroll Community Center groundbreaking – possible September date TBD

2. **Land Preservation, Park & Recreation Plan** –Listening sessions to be scheduled in park pavilions this August
3. **Fall 2021 Self Help Requests** – letters mailed to rec council contacts including self help policy, forms and Advisory Board guidance; requests to be presented at September 22 meeting
4. **Park Legacy Fund donation** – currently working on two (2) significant Park Legacy Donations – one for \$17k and another for \$200k
5. **Helping Hands Keep Parks Green** – Two additional parks adopted for clean up: Westminster Community Pond by Carroll County Democratic Club and Freedom Park by Freedom District Lions Club; revamped program to include annual renewal process
6. **50th Anniversary Event** – tickets on sale now, limited to 150; those attending should purchase tickets soon
7. **50th Anniversary logo hunt** – 50 logo stickers placed in variety of park locations throughout county; each scanned code results in entry for prizes; program concludes this weekend with over 781 entries so far

Review & Prioritization of new Capital Project Requests:

The Capital Projects for FY27 were ranked based on importance to the Advisory Board. The Caretaker House at Hashawha is not eligible for POS funding support, therefore will be a discussion with Management and Budget about replacement through a different funding source. Michael Duffy suggested that The Skatepark/BMX Track in City of Taneytown request CPP Funding each year until FY27 as that is a faster way for towns to receive funding. After a brief discussion, the projects were ranked as follows with a motion to approve by Don Gerkin and seconded by Tony Rosas.

1. Northwest Regional Park Phase I Development
2. Union Mills Trails Master Plan and Phase I Implementation
3. Hashawha/Bear Branch Waterless Restrooms
4. Outdoor Basketball Courts at Krimgold & Leister Park (WVMP removed)
5. Skatepark/BMX Track in City of Taneytown
6. Hashawha Caretaker House

Review of priorities of existing projects in capital budget:

The Advisory Board reviewed the FY22 to FY27 CIP budget. After a discussion of the possibility of bidding the waterless bathrooms together for a better cost, it was recommended to move the waterless restroom at Sandymount to FY26 with Cape Horn and move the Northwest

Regional Park Master Plan ahead if possible. Kristin Darby made a motion to approve these suggestions and Anita Taylor seconded.

Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan 2022 Update:

Jeff Degitz discussed the update to the Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan. He will be holding Public Listening Sessions on September 13th at 6:30pm at Freedom Park and on September 15th at 6:30pm at Leister Park. The Draft Plan is due the end of 2021 and the Final Plan is due in 2022.

Other Business:

Tony Rosas has a few volunteer opportunities for Hashawha and the trails that are requested. Jeff Degitz will schedule a time for Tony and Brad Rogers, Bureau Chief of Parks, to discuss those upcoming projects.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. On a motion by Kristin Darby, Don Gerkin seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary