

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Brad Rockwood, Dave Ferguson, Kristin Darby, Anita Taylor

**Members Excused:** Tom Long, Caitlin Christ, Michael Rodgers, Michael Duffy, Megan Vaughn

**Staff Present:** Lisa Carroll, Laura Tawes

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 22, 2022 at the County Office Building in the public hearing room 003/004. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Donald Gerkin, Chair Elect.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Jeff Degitz, Commissioners, Board members and staff introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Kristin Darby moved to approve the March 23rd, 2022 meeting minutes; Tony Rosas seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. **Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County Walks in the Park** – Commissioners continue to attend these monthly walks co-sponsored by Department and Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County. Next walk is June 21 at Krimgold Park at 2 pm.
2. **Share Your Recreation and Parks Story**– Board members are encouraged to share their recreation and parks story with a brief video message. Videos can be submitted using cell phones, virtual meeting format or recorded at County Office Building. Visit <https://carrollcountymd.gov/ccrpstory>
3. **Piney Run Big Fish contest** – Current leader is Jeff Goodale who caught a Striped Bass on May 14 measuring 42 inches and weighing 34.05 lbs.
4. **Capital Budget Update** – Commissioners added the Union Mills Recreation Area master plan project to the proposed budget and moved up Cape Horn Park field lighting to FY23 using Local Park and Playground Infrastructure funding from the State.
5. **2022 Land Preservation Park & Recreation Plan** – We have received comments from Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources regarding our draft plan. We are addressing comments with anticipation of completed plan being submitted by July 1.

6. **Friends of Liberty Reservoir (FOLR)** – We are continuing to support efforts of this volunteer group to perform clean up days on Baltimore City owned reservoir property. FOLR is requesting reopening of decommissioned areas for an expansion of their efforts. Commissioner Rothstein has sent communication to Mayor Scott in support of this request.
  
7. **Town Program Open Space Projects FY23** – Twenty-five percent (25%) of Carroll County’s Program Open Space (POS) funds are dedicated to municipal projects. The amount for FY23 is 554,748 with four towns likely receiving \$138,687 each. This year’s requests include the following:
  - Hampstead – Sugar Maple Park obstacle course playground and family picnic area
  - Manchester – Christmas Tree Park athletic field lighting
  - Mount Airy – Summit Ridge Park playground replacement
  - Sykesville – Millard Cooper Park pedestrian bridge rehabilitation
  - Sykesville – Sykesville liner trail rehabilitation
  
8. **Return of Bus Trips** – Multiple bus trips are scheduled this fall including trips to Philadelphia Flower Show and overnight trip to Flight 93 Memorial & Fallingwater as well as musicals at Allenberry Playhouse, Totem Pole Playhouse & Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

**Capital Budget Discussion:**

Jeff Degitz presented potential projects for FY29 to the Advisory Board. Effort was made to solicit input from Recreation Councils, Municipalities, General Public and Department Staff.

- Central Carroll – add a second basketball court next to the existing court at Deer Park
- Central Carroll – regrading of ball diamonds (Deer Park & Sandymount)
- Central Carroll – pour concrete pads under all bleachers at Deer Park & Sandymount Park
- Freedom Area – replacement of athletic field lighting at Freedom Park with efficient LED lighting
- North Carroll – addition of field lighting on 2 ball diamonds at Cape Horn Park
- West Carroll – community center with 2 basketball courts, a cheer room & athletic fields
- Westminster Area – addition of athletic field lighting at Kate Wagner Park
- Municipalities – No requests submitted
- General Public – No requests submitted
- Department Staff – basketball courts to be located at Leister and Krimgold Parks (resubmission)
- Department Staff – county wide investment in Park information signage

Advisory Board members recommended that Park Development Manager, Will Brozy, obtain estimates for the following proposed projects:

- Field lighting for Freedom Park, Cape Horn Park and Kate Wagner Park
- Basketball courts at Leister and Krimgold Parks
- Signage at the Parks

These estimates will be presented at the June Advisory Board meeting.

### **Staffing Update:**

Jeff Degitz updated board members on staffing changes within the department. Trish Cross resigned as Marketing Specialist to be a FT mom. The job was posted and closed without a selection/hire and has now been posted as Open Until Filled. Tony Bassani, Maintenance Specialist at Piney Run, resigned to accept an Accounting internship at a higher salary consistent with his pursuit of an Accounting degree. Keiran Mayers was internally promoted to fill Tony's position. Matthew Decker resigned from Sports Complex Manager position to accept a position with Howard County Recreation & Parks. This change allows him a shorter commute and more opportunities for advancement in a larger department. Becky Kishter has been named Acting Sports Complex Manager and Jamie Noel is now Acting Recreation Coordinator.

Piney Run is experiencing significant PT staff shortages due to a variety of reasons:

- Salaries are not viewed as competitive with local businesses
- Due to less staff, employees are being asked to do more and different tasks
- New manager – different styles and new initiatives
- Summer camp staffing sufficient if nothing changes
- Need Park Assistants (11) and Park Rangers (3)
- Boathouse remains closed and the gatehouse closed this week
- Issue to be discussed with Commissioners on May 26th

### **Upcoming Events:**

Lisa Carroll gave an update on upcoming events that Recreation and Parks will be involved in. Art in the Park is Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 4pm in the Longwell Parking Lot in Westminster. Therapeutic Recreation Day is Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 2pm at the Farm Museum. In collaboration with the Partnership for a Healthier Carroll, Walk in the Park occurs once a month at a different location and time. Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway is a free movie that will be shown at Sandymount Park on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:50pm. July is Park & Recreation Month. Gnome stickers are going to be hidden within our parks for a scavenger hunt. There will be a Gnome Your Wine event at Piney Run Park on Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm. Gnomeo & Juliet will be a shown for free at Mayeski Park on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:50pm.

Laura Tawes gave an update on the Family Summer Bash which is being held on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 9pm at the Sports Complex. This event is to benefit the Park Legacy Fund.

**Other Business:**

Tony Rosas inquired about an update on the new Sheetz location at the corner of Rt 140 and Sullivan Road, next to Westminster Community Pond. Jeff Degitz will contact Development and Review to find out the status.

Dave Ferguson mentioned the recent vandalism at various Parks and suggested Wi-Fi solar cameras. In his research, he has found them to cost around \$450. Dave also suggested having AED's available in each Park in case of emergency. Jeff requested that Dave forward information regarding possible products.

**Public Comments:**

Buddy Brown, President of the Winfield Rec Council spoke with the board members about the need for field space for a new Cricket program. He is requesting a new field to be moved online at Krimgold Park to allow for the program to run. There is interest of approximately 250 kids.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Kristin Darby, Tony Rosas seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeff R. Degitz*

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Jeff R. Degitz, Director

*Laura Tawes*

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Laura Tawes, Secretary