

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 29th, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Members Present: Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Brad Rockwood, Michael Rodgers, Megan Vaughn

Members Excused: Tom Long, Caitlin Christ, Michael Duffy, Dave Ferguson, Kristin Darby, Anita Taylor

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, William Brozy, Laura Tawes

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on June 29, 2022 at the Robert Moton Building in the Friends of Robert Moton Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Donald Gerkin, Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **Share Your Recreation and Parks Story**– Board members are encouraged to share their recreation and parks story with a brief video message – thanks to Tony Rosas for submitting video. Videos can be submitted using cell phones, virtual meeting format or recorded at County Office Building. Visit <https://carrollcountymd.gov/ccrpstory>
2. **Volunteer Hall of Fame** – Staff planning to contact rec councils this summer regarding their HOF nominees for Fall of 2022. Last year, the Advisory Board decided that they would induct up to 5 new members for 2021 and then reduce to 3. Original intent was to reduce yearly maximum from 5 to 3 after first couple of years due to backlog. This year's selection process will be the first year where it's limited to no more than three (3) inductees)
3. **Westminster Veterans Memorial Park Ribbon Cutting** – Ribbon cutting scheduled for Tuesday, July 12 at 9 am.
4. **Carroll Community College Artificial Turf Field** – Commissioners included funding for a turf field at Carroll Community College in FY23 budget. First planning/design meeting held today, and project will be managed by Bureau of Building Construction.
5. **Family Summer Bash** – Event to be held on Friday, July 15 from 4 – 9 pm.
6. **Capital Budget Update:**

- a. New play equipment installed at Hashawha, Landon C. Burns and Charles Carroll with Cape Horn Park coming soon
- b. 2 new shade structures are being installed at SC Dog Park this week
- c. Design effort continuing for Bark Hill and Gillis Falls trails
- d. Hashawha/Bear Branch paving completed
- e. Deer Park LED field lighting completed at main field

Staffing Update:

Jeff Degitz provided an update on recent changes in staffing. The new Marketing Specialist, Seth Carlson, will start on July 7th. Significant progress has been made filling vacant positions at Piney Run Park: 23/23 summer camp positions, all 3 Park Ranger positions, 3 / 4 FT Park Assistants and 2/7 PT Park Assistants. Unfortunately, Park Superintendent Chris Duffy resigned to accept a position outside of Maryland and the job is currently posted as Open Until Filled with several interviews scheduled next week. Park Maintenance Supervisor Wayde Blank is serving as Acting Park Superintendent until position is filled.

Presentation of Capital Projects:

Will Brozy presented five proposed Capital Projects for FY29.

1. Cape Horn Park – Phase 2 Lighting of Sports Fields

New field lighting to two baseball diamonds at Cape Horn Park. Primary project components include: extend power supply from the multipurpose field lighting project; install a stainless-steel outdoor enclosure mounted on a concrete pad for lighting gear and power panels; set transformer (BGE to provide transformer and wire) purchase and install Musco LED lights, light poles, controllers, wiring and ancillaries.

Estimated Cost FY 29: \$1,215,000

2. Kate Wagner – Field Lighting

New field lighting to four fields – 2 upper and 2 lower. Primary project components include: work with BGE to bring power into the park sufficient to light all 4 fields; install a stainless-steel outdoor enclosure mounted on a concrete pad for lighting gear and power panels; set transformer (BGE to provide transformer and wire) purchase and install Musco LED lights, light poles, controllers, wiring and ancillaries. Jeff Degitz will be reaching out to Board of Education staff regarding permission to add lighting to site that is owned by Carroll County Public Schools.

Estimated Cost FY29: \$3,000,000

3. Freedom Park – Relamping of all Sports Fields

This project will replace all the existing High Pressure Sodium lamps (HIDs) with high efficiency LEDs while utilizing the existing poles and underground wiring for six baseball fields and two multipurpose fields.

Estimated Cost FY 29: \$2,300,000

4. Outdoor Basketball Courts at Krimgold & Leister Parks

Basketball courts with acrylic overlay would be constructed at these two park locations. All-inclusive including site work, asphalt paving, acrylic court surfacing, accessible walkways, and all appurtenances.

Estimated Cost FY29: \$195,000

Other Business:

Jeff Degitz mentioned that July is Park & Recreation Month. There will be a proclamation by the Commissioners in Early-July during Open Session. Lisa Carroll shared the calendar of events with the Board for Park & Recreation Month. The theme this year is Gnomes and will include a Gnome Hunt with 25 stickers placed around our various parks.

Lisa also gave an update on the Story Strolls that the Department has partnered with the library and Partnership for a Healthier Carroll. Permanent Story Strolls are currently located at Deer Park and the latest will launch at Leister Park soon. The collaborating groups are planning to add Story Strolls to Freedom and Sandymount next.

Member Comments:

Comments were made regarding Deer Park's new fields and proximity to Route 32 (Mike Rodgers) and whether additional re-seeding would occur on playing fields (Megan Vaughn). Will Brozy confirmed that additional seeding is planned for the fall of 2022.

Tony Rosas expressed concerns about a recent trail work day at Bear Branch Nature Center where county staff performed additional maintenance and widening of the trail section that volunteers had cleared. Jeff Degitz said he was aware of the concern which was largely due to communication. Chief of Parks Brad Rogers and trail maintenance leaders Jason Irla and Ken Harris have been in communication since then and remain committed to working together to make ongoing improvements in that area.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, July 27th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Tony Rosas, Brad Rockwood seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary