

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 26th, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Brad Rockwood, Tony Rosas, Michael Duffy, Dave Ferguson, Anita Taylor, Michael Rodgers

Members Excused: Tom Long, Kristin Darby, Megan Vaughn, Donald Gerkin

Staff Present: Will Brozy, Laura Tawes, Seth Carlson, Brad Rogers, Gina Porter, Dawn Harry

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on October 26th, 2022 at the Piney Run Park Nature Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:01p.m. by Dave Ferguson, Vice-Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Jeff Degitz, Board members and staff introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Rockwood moved to approve the August 10th, 2022, meeting minutes; Michael Duffy seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved. Michael Rodgers moved to approve September 28th, 2022, meeting minutes; Brad Rockwood seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **Staff Updates** – Megan Erpenstein from Baltimore County selected as new Program Coordinator with start date of October 27; Program Associate position posted as open until filled.
2. **New Marketing Initiatives** – Seth Carlson is working with staff to complete a staff recruitment brochure for Piney Run Park and a department sponsorship brochure promoting opportunities throughout the calendar year in one document. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by year's end.
3. **Self Help Program and School Playgrounds** – When recent round of projects was approved by Commissioners, a brief discussion occurred regarding funding for school playgrounds. This issue may be discussed again during budget process.

4. **Recreation & Parks Archery Program** – With the retirement of Tina Shupp, the history of this program was uncertain. We have arranged to transfer program to the City of Westminster where Tina will be employed part time as an instructor. This ensures that this audience will continue to be served while also freeing up program and storage space at the Robert Moton Center for other uses.
5. **Addressing Need for Pickle Ball Courts** – The two tennis courts at Piney Run Park have been underutilized and need resurfacing. Because of the lack of other county parks with similar courts and the large number of tennis courts available at the region's three (3) high schools, the area at Piney Run will be converted into eight (8) pickleball courts
6. **Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** - Thursday November 10 at 7 pm at Carroll Arts Center with light refreshments at 6:30, ceremony at 7 pm.
7. **Santa Calling 2022** – This annual event will be held on Thursday, December 8. Volunteers needed for Santa & helpers/elves with shifts at 5, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 pm
8. **Volunteer Hall of Fame** – We have communicated with the recreation councils that they can now send in nominations at any time throughout the year with a cut off for each year's ceremony to help promote more nominations
9. **Outgoing Board Members** – Thank you to outgoing Advisory Board members Mike Rodgers and Tom Long whose terms end in December. We are working with the Commissioners' Office to advertise for replacements who would be appointed in early 2023.

Capital Budget Issues:

Jeff Degitz provided the board with an update on various Capital Budget issues including:

1. Concerns from the Budget Office re: Waterless Restrooms at Cape Horn Park (replacement), Sandymount Park (new) and Hashawha
 - a. Initial cost vs. cost of spot-a-pots
 - b. Ongoing cleaning/maintenance costs
 - c. Staff feel that the service level of waterless restrooms at staffed parks (Hashawha) would be higher
 - d. Counter arguments:
 - i. User experience
 - ii. Ongoing costs for spot-a-pots as well
2. There is insufficient funding to support Cape Horn Park Phase I lighting
 - a. Funding is projected to be sufficient to light 1 field with existing funds but not enough to light two as requested

- b. If waterless restroom is eliminated at Cape Horn Park, there is a possibility that funding could be used to support the lighting. This option was discussed briefly with NCRC President and no objection.
3. Basketball courts at Krimgold and Leister Park are still a priority and should have sufficient funding to include in CIP
4. Freedom Park lighting replacement
 - a. Currently the funding is not sufficient to include in the plan unless there are additional POS or LPPI funds allocated for FY24. That will not be known until Spring 2023.
5. There are multiple issues with regards to available funding for the following projects:
 - a. Gillis Falls Trail viability Phase I & II
 - b. Timing of rail trail acquisition/development
 - c. Impact of inflation on project costs and budgets

The consensus of the board would be to remove the Waterless Restrooms at Cape Horn and Sandymount Parks only from the budget if necessary to allow funds to be utilized for other projects.

Preliminary E-Bike Discussion:

The board members and staff participated in a discussion regarding E-Bikes. Jeff Degitz provided information on the classes of E-Bikes currently on the market in the US. US Natural Parks permit the use of Class 1 bikes with a power rating of 750w or less. National forest and grasslands permit Class 1, 2, & 3 E-Bikes on motorized trails and roads. MD State Parks permit E-Bikes only where motorized vehicles are allowed such as interior public roads, parking lots, etc. E-Bikes are prohibited on State Park trails with exception of Class 1 E-Bikes only being permitted on the Torrey Brown Rail Trail and the Western Maryland Rail Trail.

According to Dawn Harry, Class 1 E-Bikes have been seen at Hashawha. Brad Rogers' concern is that the use of these bikes on trails would require wider, longer, and straighter trails. This would need to be taken into consideration for future trail development when looking at site distance and other considerations. A more in-depth conversation with public comment will take place at the next Advisory Board meeting on February 22nd, 2023.

Other Business:

A brief discussion took place regarding the location of future board meetings. Beginning in 2023, May, June & July board meetings will be held at the Robert Moton Center. February & September board meetings will be held at the County Office Building in Room 003 for Self-Help Requests. March board meetings will be held at Bear Branch Nature Center and October board meetings will be held at Piney Run Nature Center.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023 at 7:00 p.m in the County Office Building. On a motion by Michael Rodgers, Tony Rosas seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 2:08p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary