

**RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**May 22, 2024**

**Robert Moton Center**

**Unapproved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Nadine Rosendale, Kristin Darby, Austin Johnstone, Meghan Vaughn, Anita Taylor, Gary Davis, Donald Gerkin, Lynn Karr-Kratz

**Members Excused:** David Ferguson, John Woodley

**Ex-Officio Member Present:** Bob Hicks, Director

**Staff Present:** Lisa Carroll, Stacey Widener

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on, May 22, 2024, in the Friends of Robert Moton Meeting Room at the Robert Moton Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ms. Vaughn.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Welcome and Introductions were exchanged around the room.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The motion to approve the March minutes was made by Ms. Darby, it was seconded by Mr. Johnstone, the vote was unanimous.

**Director's Report- Mr. Hicks**

*Staffing Updates:* A few of our staff members are here today.

Stacey Widener, Office Assistant, is taking minutes tonight since former Administrative Assistant Ashley Caltrider left last month to go to the Comptroller's Office.

Lisa Carroll, Recreation Bureau Chief, will have some updates for us.

We have hired a new Administrative Assistant, Kaitlyn Craven, who will start on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Kaitlyn comes highly recommended by way of Baltimore County, previously with Code Enforcements, Liquor Board and Permits Approvals Inspections.

As mentioned at our last meeting, Gina Porter left as Superintendent of Piney Run Park to go to York County, PA as their new Director of Recreation. Dylan Collins has moved into the Superintendent's position at Piney Run as of a couple weeks ago and is doing a great job. Dylan is very good with numbers and finance. He is currently in the process of doing interviews and hiring his assistants.

Our community park maintenance staff is now fully staffed. In March, they were still looking for one more hire. They have hired that last person and so we now have Steve Aberts in the Maintenance Foreman position with three maintenance specialists. It is good to have them separate from DPW in that we have our own people we can call and respond with and no longer

need to put in work orders. It is working out very well. The one thing we did have to contract out was the mowing because we don't have the equipment that DPW has. But overall, it has worked out very well.

### *Current Projects*

Lisa Carroll spoke about the new STEM Summer Camp that we will be running at the Charles Carroll Community Center. She also mentioned that the department will be getting an intern for the summer starting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Jilienne is a 2024 graduate of Brown University and will be going to Johns Hopkins for grad school in the fall.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual TR Day at the Farm Museum from 11:00a – 2:00p. We currently have over 300 participants registered to attend. The event is open to all to attend. We will be having hamburgers and hot dogs and a DJ. There will be a lot of service coordination groups set up with booths. This is always a great event, and we encourage everyone to attend. Please give positive thoughts for a nice sunny day and no rain.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> we will be having our Family Summer Bash with the Reagan Years at the Farm Museum. This will be a fundraiser for the Park Legacy Fund. 12 & under are free, 13 and older will be \$20 if pre-ordered, \$25 at the gate. There will be food and drink vendors, as well as craft vendors and artisans. Fingers crossed for good weather as it was cancelled last year due to rain.

### *Completed Projects*

Freedom Park pavilion number two is completed as is Piney Run Park pavilion number two.

On April 13 we had our 1<sup>st</sup> annual classic car show at Landon C. Burns Park. It was very well received and attended, and Jamie is already trying to figure out where we can run it next year to accommodate more cars and people.

Recreation and Parks Chair and Commissioners were invited to a ribbon cutting on May 18<sup>th</sup> for the National Blue Star Garden at Westminster Veteran's Memorial Garden. Commissioner Rothstein spoke as a 31-year veteran of the Army and Garrison Commander at Fort Meade. There were color guards and a 21-gun salute. We worked in cooperation with the Carroll Garden Club, who did a lot of work, to have it designated as a National Blue Star monument. The garden club also provided refreshments for the event.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> we had our fishing rodeo at Krimgold Park. An 8-year-old won it with a 17 inch largemouth bass

### *Upcoming Projects*

We are looking to do a challenge course playground at Freedom Park. This goes back to when Jeff was still here. The Nathan C. Baker Foundation was interested in putting in a challenge course, like an American Ninja course. We would move the smaller playground next to the new Shelter 2 at Freedom. The new challenge course is a pretty good-sized area and close to almost \$400,000. It took a while, but the foundation came up with the majority of the money and then we have an anonymous donor who has donated to the Park Legacy Fund to supplement

the rest. It will have a nice archway entrance with the names on it. On the challenge course there will be a synthetic turf type surface. It's fully ADA compliant. There is only one other playground like this in the state of Maryland.

Maryland State Board of Public Works approved Cape Horn Phase Two Field Lighting Project. The infrastructure was established in Phase One, hopefully, they can quickly hook into that, and we will have those lights ready to go.

We will be subcontracting with BGE to participate in a smart energy saver program with lighting upgrades in Mayeski Park and Deer Park. The subcontractor will be covering 100% the cost. The program is state program through Empower Maryland

We've replaced the surfacing on the playground at Leister Park and created a concrete border that we didn't have previously to contain the surfacing. We will also be installing a Gaga pit, which is a game similar to dodgeball. A local resident asked us about providing this and she is going to fund it all herself. We also fixed the drainage pipes so the water will no longer pool and will drain off into the stormwater pond.

We have approval to start our site work for future shelter that will be going in at Bear Branch. We are currently trying to figure out some issues with getting 220V electricity run out there. The pool at Hashawha was renovated and is ready to go for summer camps. It looks great. It was quite an endeavor with staff having to get in daily to scrub the sides and filter off the sediment from that.

We have approval for Phase 2 lighting at Cape Horn Park. Luckily when we did Phase 1, we put in the infrastructure for phase 2.

#### *Remarks by Director Hicks regarding self help*

"I think we we're going to get a lot more in self-help, actually. I think it went from ... \$90,000 originally but we might have like 120,000 in there tomorrow." "I know with our CIP we're going to be substantially less than we have in previous years. Last year we had 2.4 million for program Open Space to help with capital development and they were down to 876,000, so it's a big drop... not as many houses sold and that's of course where the funding comes from for programs across the state..."

#### **Public Comments:**

Carolyn Garber asked a couple questions regarding self-help for the Equestrian Center for this fall or next spring and also about a potential Rail Trail in Taneytown. Director Hicks mentioned repeatedly calling Maryland Midland railroad to try and obtain right of way permits but they do not call back. The previous director also was unsuccessful with attempt to talk to someone at the railroad. Director Hicks said he will continue to call monthly and be the squeaky wheel.

#### **Adjournment:**

The next meeting will be held June 26, 2024, at 7:00 PM, location to be determined.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Darby, it was seconded by Mr. Gerkin, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned, time not recorded.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bob Hicks*

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Bob Hicks, Director

*Stacey Smith Widener*

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Stacey Smith Widener, Secretary