

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 24, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Robert Moton Center

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Nadine Rosendale, Gary Davis, Brad Rockwood, Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Megan Vaughn (Vice-Chair), and Dave Ferguson (Chair)

Members Excused: Michael Duffy, Anita Taylor, Kristin Darby, Austin Johnstone

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Ashley Caltrider

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 24, 2023, at the Robert Moton Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Ms. Vaughn.

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Vaughn welcomed all in attendance.

Director's Report:

Staff Updates – Patrick Carney has been hired at the new Park Naturalist at Piney Run Park starting on May 25, 2023. After 32 years with Carroll County Recreation and Parks (and 44 years in the field), Jeff Degitz will be retiring at the end of June.

Freedom Park Donation – A meeting was held this month with original donor and members of Nathan Chris Baker Foundation (NCBF) to select equipment, review donation status and confirm signage. Over \$400k total will be available once NCBF receives \$75k commitment from the State and equipment will be ordered this summer.

Westminster Veterans Memorial Park – Funds from the Gillis Falls Trail project that was terminated will be reallocated to the memorial garden and additional tree planting behind Bezold Avenue. Hardscaping bid will be awarded in early June and completed this summer. Planting of trees to occur in fall with dedication of area to occur around Veterans Day in November.

National Trails Day – On June 1, County Commissioners will issue a proclamation celebrating 30th anniversary of the Carroll County Equestrian Council celebrating National Trails Day (NTD). In 1993, the Council was one of only 10 groups recognized nationwide for their efforts to promote NTD.

Westminster Community Pond Weed Control – Treatment for invasive aquatic weeds at the pond began last month and we have already seen improvements. Monthly treatments will continue through September.

Charles Carroll Community Center Ribbon Cutting – The ribbon cutting for the new Charles Carroll Community Center has been tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2023, at 9 am. There will

be opportunities to tour the building that morning and an open house will be scheduled shortly after.

Strategic Plan Update – Committee of staff and Board members met May 2 and will meet again tomorrow May 25. There has been some excellent discussion and idea sharing and the group is making great progress.

Former Students & Friends of Robert Moton – We continue to work closely with this group regarding their goal of establishing a museum in the Robert Moton Center. The Board of Elections is expected to leave this building due to space constraints and this may create an opportunity for the museum and possible expanded community use of building.

Recreation Council Tax Issue – Staff are working with the Comptroller, County Attorney and Risk Manager to address issues related to recreation council finances and liability coverage. Next meeting is scheduled for May 26 with communication to recreation councils to follow.

E-Bike: – The Advisory Board’s recommendation for E-Bikes was taken to the Board of Commissioners on May 18. Two speakers were present and shared their perspectives. One was strongly opposed secondary to personal perspective as an equestrian trail user. The Board of Commissioners voted the next step go to public hearing with a date TBD.

Review of Capital Request Input:

Mr. Degitz- The first step for the budget process for next year, is to review input received regarding possible projects and needs. At this point the goal is to find out what you’d like to see the presentation of additional information on, at the next meeting. Will Brozy will create project estimates, and you can vote.

Municipalities:

- New Windsor – turf field, dog park and other amenities on 5-acre parcel (former stormwater lagoon site)
- Hampstead – Expand and enhance Chief Sites Skateboard Park
- Hampstead – Construct indoor pickleball court facility

Recreation Councils:

- North Carroll - Lighting of baseball and softball fields at Cape Horn Park (previously submitted)
- Westminster Area – Lighting of athletic fields at Kate Wagner Park (previously submitted)
- West Carroll – Community center with basketball courts, activity room and athletic fields to replace lost usage at Springdale Preparatory School (previously submitted)
- Friends of Hashawha/Bear Branch – Planetarium project upgrade
- Friends of Hashawha/Bear Branch – ADA upgrades to Bear Path trail
- Winfield – Replace existing field lighting at Mayeski Park to LED and add new lights to 90’ baseball diamond
- Winfield - Add bathrooms at Mayeski Park

- Winfield - Add meeting room to concession building at Mayeski Park

Staff Submitted:

- Replace Piney Run lower comfort station with new ADA compliant restroom
- Rebuild damaged Soisson fishing pier at Piney Run
- Construct new park office outside gate at Piney Run
- Nature Center stamped concrete patio at Piney Run
- Replace boat house wooden deck with stamped concrete at Piney Run
- Install specialized rowboat launches to safely transport boats to water at Piney Run Park
- Parking lot expansion near pavilions 4 & 6 at Piney Run Park

Public:

- Barbara Conaway - Swing set & shade sails at Bohde's Place playground at Krimgold Park
- Ashley Collier - Request for new regional park at the Harrison Leishear property on Route 27

Board Discussion & Elimination:

Point of consideration- requests larger than anticipated capital budget funding

Point of consideration- new capital requests will likely be six years out

Point of consideration- requests with known alternative funding opportunities

Point of consideration- property ownership (Board of Education, Municipal, County)

Summary of Projects Requested for June Meeting Discussion

* Lighting Projects:

1. North Carroll- Lighting of Baseball & Softball fields at Cape Horn Park
2. Winfield- Replace existing field lighting at Mayeski Park to LED
3. Freedom Park LED Lighting

* Replace Piney Run lower comfort station with new ADA compliant restroom

* Construct new park office outside the gate at Piney Run

* Is there an option of adding meeting space to the existing Concession Building at Mayeski?

Mr. Degitz- There are projects that due to large costs may be split across several years and there will also be instances where alternative funding can be sought. However, the project expense cannot be anticipated to be the amount with alternative funding. Budgeting is for the entire project in case no alternative funding is received.

Program Updates:

Lisa Carroll provided Recreation updates.

- Therapeutic Recreation Day is June 13th at the Carroll County Farm Museum
- June 17th there's a movie night at Sandy Mount, "The Bad Guy"
- June 23rd is Family Fest at Freedom Park
- July 1st starts Park and Rec Month- there will be a scavenger hunt
- There are four movies planned for the month of July
- July 26th ADA- there's a lunch at Deer Park to mark this occasion

- The County Commissioners are doing their passport summer program for kids, this is a great activity with a lot of prizes

Other Business-

Mr. Davis mentioned that it was recently brought to his attention that the agreement between the Board of Education and Rec and Park is original to the 1970's. Should this be reviewed and updated? Mr. Davis expressed concerns about inconsistency in the partnership with schools. The accessibility for many programs isn't being granted.

Mr. Degitz- The Joint Agreement from 1972 has never been significantly changed or updated. The usage procedures have been updated several times as needed.

Mr. Degitz stated that staff would review the agreement and possible issues with the Advisory Board at an upcoming meeting.

Public Comments-

Mr. Ferguson opened the floor for public comment, there were no comments.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Rockwood made the motion to approve the March 22, 2023 meeting minutes, Mr. Gerkin seconded, all concurred and the minutes were approved.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, June 28th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., location to be confirmed later.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gerkin, it was seconded by Mr. Rosas, and the vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Ashley Caltrider

Ashley Caltrider, Secretary