

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

July 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Robert Moton Center

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Megan Vaughn (Vice-Chair), Austin Johnstone, Tony Rosas, Kristin Darby, Donald Gerkin, Nadine Rosendale, Michael Duffy

Members Excused: Anita Taylor, Brad Rockwell, Gary Davis, David Ferguson (Chair)

Ex-Officio Member Present: Lisa Carroll- Virtual

Staff Present: Will Brozy, Ashleigh Smith, Ashley Caltrider

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on July 26, 2023, at the Robert Moton Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Megan Vaughn (Vice-Chair).

Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Vaughn welcomed all in attendance. Ashleigh Smith introduced herself as the budget team contact for R&P.

Approval of Minutes:

Tony Rosas made the motion to approve the June 28, 2023 meeting minutes, Donald Gerkin seconded, all concurred and the minutes were approved.

Department Report

A. Director's Report Provided by Lisa Carroll:

➤ Park Updates -

- Spotted lantern fly has been spotted again this year, predominantly at Hashawha. If you see them, report them and kill them.
- Prior to his retirement, Jeff Degitz contacted Ken Whalen requesting permission to name a park after him. With his blessing, Old Liberty Road Park will be converting to Whalen Park in the near future.

➤ E-Bike Update –

- On July 20th, the Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to article 94 section 033 to change the ordinance to allow class 1 e-bikes only on designated trails and increase education on trail etiquette. Open session June 29 results were about a 50/50 split, with a notable number of equestrians from PA. Efforts to educate the community on trail etiquette have already been occurring at Hashawha. The Department will continue with added signage, pamphlets, and a social media educational video.
- As it's on the Department to define the trails that this amendment will allow E-bikes on, and much of the opposition was from the equestrian council, the Department would like to discuss this directly with the Equestrian Council. The hope being that some discontentment may be resolved if there is a multipurpose trail designated to not allow e-bikes.

Mr. Rosas asked how this would be enforced.

Ms. Carroll stated “manpower is not increasing. It would be much like enforcing leash restrictions.”

Ms. Vaughn observed “Many people whom opposed the e-bikes were perceiving them to be dirt bikes.”

Michael Duffy stated “The issue I keep coming back to is that to state a trail is off limits is to create an expectation that will be enforced. There isn’t an ability to do so.”

Ms. Carroll, “Another thing that came out of this conversation is that some people realized that they’re actually using Class 2 E-bikes without realizing it.”

Mr. Rosas questioned “Can this open liability with ADA compliance?”

Ms. Carroll “I don’t foresee legal implications. We’re still meeting ADA compliance by having ADA accommodating areas. The expectation is not that every area be ADA accommodating.”

Mr. Gerkin, “I question how the optics look. A lot of time and consideration went into getting this amended. Would it come off almost as walking back that progress?”

Ashley Caltrider, “Is there a central trail that this would impact, or will it effect either the northern or southern part of the county specifically?”

Ms. Carroll, “There are equestrian trails in the southern part of the county with jumps and features that do not accommodate bikes. They also have concern with the back side of Piney Run being a multi-purpose trail, the angles and room for their trailers are limited, an influx in cars may make it impossible to get a horse trailer in or out. We will have future conversations regarding equestrian trails.”

Kristin Darby, “Could we meet with them?”

Ms. Carroll “September will not be ideal. We have Self-Help projects that month. Their next meeting is August 1st if anyone is available. It would be better to move forward sooner rather than later. The signage will be QR code based, if wording changes, it will be easily updated.”

- **Trash-Free Parks update** – Trash-free Park pilot program – going well for facilities- at the Community Pond, Landon C Burnes, North Carroll Community Pond, and Double Pipe Creek. The pilot also entails cans being removed from the fields, unless a council request, they remain. Being a slow time for youth sports, we will not know until August, when field usage increases, how well the program is going.

B. Capital Project Updates – Will Brozy

- C. Fall 2023 Self Help Requests** – Applications went out July 10th. They’re due back September 9th. They will be formatted and prepared for presentation at the September meeting. Applicants will be present.

We will attempt to use the display equipment in the county office building 003/004 rather than printing copies of every project for everyone. A pdf will be distributed prior to the meeting in

September. Thus far one person has reached out with questions. The budget this time is \$92,000.

Ms. Vaughn, "Do most applicants come to us or are there some we don't see?"

Mr. Brozy, "They come to you."

Mr. Gerkin, "This is the larger review for Self Help, in the Spring there's less money to work with."

Review and prioritize of new Capital Projects -

The board agreed that the Mayeski request to expand their existing structure is the last priority request and most likely not feasible in this manner.

Ms. Darby made a motion for:

Priority 1- Piney Run ADA Restrooms

Priority 2- Freedom Park Lighting Upgrade

Priority 3- Cape Horn Lighting Installation

Priority 4- Mayeski Lighting Upgrade

Priority 5- Piney Run New Office Building- Additional Information Sought

Priority 6- Mayeski- Existing Structure Expansion- Not Feasible

Mr. Rosas seconded the motion.

The vote was called with a unanimous consensus.

The dates of the lease on Freedom Park should be confirmed before committing.

Mr. Rosas seconded the motion.

It was called to vote with a unanimous vote.

Other Business:

Ms. Carroll:

"There will be a ribbon cutting at Charles Carroll Community Center on August 8th."

"I will have a second interview for the Director position on August 10th. I have had two phone interviews so far. It's possible there will be a new director by September."

"Thank you, Tony, for your service on this Advisory Board. This meeting will be the last before your term ends."

Mr. Rosas shared The Commissioners response on the Advisory Board's letter concerning Charles Carroll.

Public Comments:

No Comments.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the county office building room 003/004.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rosas, it was seconded by Mr. Gerkin, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Carroll

Lisa Carroll, Acting Director

Ashley Caltrider

Ashley Caltrider, Secretary