

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 27, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
County Office Building 003/004

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Anita Taylor, Megan Vaughn (Vice-Chair), Nadine Rosendale, Gary Davis, Brad Rockwood, David Ferguson (Chair), Donald Gerkin, Kristin Darby, Austin Johnstone, Michael Duffy

Members Excused: None

Ex-Officio Member Present: Lisa Carroll, Acting Director

Staff Present: Will Brozy, Ashley Caltrider

Public Present: Matt Muller, Shawn Franklin, Kenny Stockdale, Noreen Brown, George Jarboe, Frank Roelke, Michelle Scott, George Bowers, Tony Rosas, Scott Walthour, Lori Doyle, Larry Holston, Meghan Bunting

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on September 27, 2023, in the Reagan Room at the Carroll County office Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Dave Ferguson.

Welcome and Introductions:

Introductions were made across the board and Mr. Ferguson welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Donald Gerkin made the motion to approve the July 26, 2023, meeting minutes, Kristin Darby seconded, all concurred and the minutes were approved.

Department Report

Updates within the department were presented by Lisa Carroll.

- New Director has been selected. The start date is October 26, 2023. Bob Hicks is a Carroll County resident, currently the Deputy Director in Frederick County, and carries a very strong parks background.
- In July, the Department forwarded the self-help applications to Recreation Council leadership, along with the guidance for applying, based on requests from the Advisory Board. Guidance includes, but not limited to, submitting a complete application on time, submitting applications as a separate request, unless at the same location, and prioritizing the submissions.

Presentation of Self-Help Applications

Central Carroll Recreation Council- \$3056.00- Request presented by Frank Roelke
1st request- Finksburg Baseball is requesting ball dirt for Roaring Run Park (Priority 3- Other Property) - 4 fields

2nd Request- Finksburg is also requesting ball dirt for Deer Park (Priority 1- CCRP Property)- 1 field

Charles Carroll Recreation Council- \$10,282.00- Request presented by Tony Rosas
Combined request for ball dirt and replacement garage doors at Charles Carroll Park (Priority 1). The garage doors must be commercial grade, 8x7 T50 (two). There are two baseball fields in need of dirt. This park has not been available to the council for several years secondary to the construction of the Charles Carroll Community Center. The application was submitted after the deadline with information currently pending receipt.

Freedom Recreation Council- \$37,588.00- Multiple request presenters:

1st Request- Sykesville Baseball- \$13,920.00- Request presented by Lori Doyle, Request for Freedom Park (Priority 1)- Fields 1-6 & Obrecht Road Park (Priority 1)- Requesting Ball Dirt 12 loads (9 for Freedom Park and 3 for Obrecht Rd)

2nd Request- Shooting Stars- Freedom Optimist Soccer- \$11,921.00- Presented by Scott Walltower-Freedom Park (Priority 1)- 20x10 storage shed for adaptive equipment for the growing adaptive recreation league.

3rd Request- South Carroll Dog Park (Priority 1)- \$11,747.00- George Jarboe & Noreen Brown- Requesting poured concrete pads and shade a shade structure.

Mr. Gerkin asked if the South Carroll Dog Park made a request last year.

Mr. Jarboe confirmed that an agility course was put in secondary to self-help funds from a request last year.

North Carroll Recreation Council- \$10,388.00- Request presented by Matt Muller- Christmas Tree Park (Priority 3) Requesting funds for improvements to Ball Field B, CCC Fencing has provided a quote to replace the backstops and raise the fencing to improve safety.

Westminster Area Recreation Council- \$27,260.00- Multiple request Presenters:

Westminster Girl's Softball- \$11,400.00 Jaycee's Park- Dugout Fencing- Not Present

Westminster Area Lacrosse- \$6,631.00- Presented by Megan Bunting- Kate Wagner Park (Priority 1)- requesting funds to replace the foldable lacrosse goals. Existing goals are greater than ten years old. They have been welded to increase longevity, but repairs are no longer a sustainable solution. These goals are used by Westminster Area Lacrosse, a program with over 500 participants, as well as by the community.

Anita Taylor requested clarification of the quantity of goals to be purchased.

Ms. Bunting confirmed that the quote is for eight goals.

Westminster Baseball Association- \$929.00-Presented by George Bowers- Avondale Run (Priority 2) Requesting 1 load of ball dirt, Linwood Landscaping will spread the dirt.

Westminster Baseball Association- \$3656.00- Presented by Mr. Bowers- Winter's Mill High School (Priority 2)- requesting 2 loads of premium mix ball dirt.

Westminster Baseball Association- \$4,644.00 Kate Wagner, Landon C. Burns, Bennett Cerf Park- (Priority 1)- Requesting ball dirt for 6 fields, last requested in 2020.

Winfield Area Rec Council- \$15,686.00- Winfield Youth Softball- Mayeski Park (Priority 1)- Presented by Larry Holston- requesting to rebuild the dugout to improve safety and align with the other fields.

Woodbine Area Recreation Council- \$3,740.00- Salt Box Park- (Priority 1)- Presented by Shawn Franklin- requesting 4 loads of ball dirt for two fields. Have not requested funds for ball dirt since 2018.

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch- \$15,500.00- Bear Branch Nature Center (Priority 1) Presented by Michelle Scott- Requesting funds to build a butterfly house. The basic design is a hoop style greenhouse with a removable roof. The roof is in place for hibernation months, and then open for pollinators. This is the first in Carroll County, the plan is 20X32X12, and the location is behind the Nature Center.

West Carroll Recreation Council- \$14,177.00- Francis Scott Key Junior Eagles Wrestling- requesting funds for wrestling mats. Request was incomplete/ made after the deadline. No one was present.

Throughout discussion, the board considered the parameters outlined in the letters for request. If there was no representation for the request at the meeting, the request was dismissed. Discussion included rec council priority, historically granted requests, and consideration of equitable distribution. There was a consensus to attempt to allocate funds to Charles Carroll Recreation Council secondary to the program restarting.

Ms. Darby made the motion, "I move to remove the dugout fencing at Jaycee's Park, the wrestling mats for Eagles Wrestling, the request from South Carroll Dog Park, and the request from Charles Carroll Recreation Council- unless there's carryover, which should be allocated to Charles Carroll Recreation Council for ball dirt."

Michael Duffy seconded this motion.

The motion passed with a vote of seven "yes" and three "no".

Ms. Carroll clarified, "The Board of Commissioners is to review our recommendation and decide if this is approved or not."

Gary Davis, "No one present was left out completely."

Mr. Ferguson, "The last several years there's been a fair distribution throughout the county with this process."

Other Business:

Presented by Ms. Carroll:

- 501(c)(3) requirements for Rec Councils- they are tasked with a deadline of December 31, 2023, for Recreation Councils to obtain their own non-profit status with the IRS. A

workshop/ information session will be held at the 911 training center to answer questions on October 4th at 6:00 pm

- Nature Center repairs- Piney Run Park Nature Center sustained significant damage in a storm this summer, a tree branch landed on it. Tomorrow, we are requesting concurrence from the Board of Commissioners to accept a bid for the repairs. Currently, it's being closely monitored and is well covered with a temporary repair to avoid internal damage.
- Westminster Veterans Memorial Garden- Construction is underway, however, progress has been slow. It will not be prepared for a Veteran's Day ribbon cutting.
- Cape Horn Lights- This project is also currently delayed. The lights are there, set, and ready. There have been challenges with BGE to get the lights run to the transformer. The pole for the wiring to run to the transformer sits on the Church property next to the park. Property owners have granted permission, this is the last step to completion.
- Strategic Plan- Attached to tonight's handouts is a draft copy of the 2023 strategic plan that the committee, Austin, Gary, Kristin, and several staff members have worked to build this over the last few months. Please review, it's normally subject for discussion/vote at October's meeting.

Public Comments:

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

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Ms. Carroll provided an update on the upcoming event.

The Volunteer of the Year recognition will be held on Tuesday November 7th. Induction into the Hall of Fame for 2023 will include 3 inductees. Next step is for the Advisory Board to review, score, and forward to the Department. Scoring deadline is October 4, 2023, with the top 3 being inducted into the Hall of Fame. The recommendation is for the board to form a committee of 3-5 board members to score the nominations, with coring will be done electronically.

Mr. Ferguson, "Were there four last year?"

Ms. Carroll, "Yes, two couples were nominated and awarded as two inductees to the Hall of Fame."

This year's Nominees:

- Lona Greensfelder – Central Carroll
- Carolyn Garber – Carroll Equestrian
- The Malachowski Family – Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch
- Frank Baylor – Arts Council
- Brad Rockwood – West Carroll
- Ray Owings – Dept. of Recreation and Parks

Ms. Carroll, "This year, Advisory Board member Brad Rockwell is a nominee, he cannot be part of the scoring committee. Would the board prefer several members score for all, or would the board prefer to individually score?"

The board preference was individual scoring.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, October 25, at 12:30 p.m. at Piney Run Nature Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gerkin, it was seconded by Ms. Darby, and the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Carroll

Lisa Carroll, Acting Director

Ashley Caltrider

Ashley Caltrider, Secretary