

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 25, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.
Piney Run Nature Center

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Megan Vaughn (Vice-Chair), Nadine Rosendale, Brad Rockwood, David Ferguson (Chair), Austin Johnstone

Members Excused: Gary Davis, Donald Gerkin, Anita Taylor, Michael Duffy

Ex-Officio Member Present: Lisa Carroll, Acting Director

Staff Present: Brad Rogers, Gina Porter, Dawn Harry, Dylan Collins, Seth Carlson, Ashley Caltrider

Also Present: Administrator- Roberta Windham, Commissioner- Ed Rothstein, Incoming Director- Bob Hicks

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on October 25, 2023, in the Nature Center at Piney Run Park. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Dave Ferguson.

Welcome and Introductions:

Introductions were made around the room and Mr. Ferguson welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Tabled secondary to no quorum.

Director's Report

Lisa Carroll gave the Director's Report:

Welcome to the new Director, Bob Hicks is set to start tomorrow, October 26, 2023. Bob comes to Carroll County with extensive experience after retiring from Frederick County as the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, we are looking forward to his leadership.

Bob Hicks "I am looking forward to working with the boards and staff. As a resident of Carroll County this has been a dream for some time."

The Annual Report is normally complete for Volunteer of the Year, this year we completed it early in order to have at this meeting. This data reflects Carroll County fiscal year 2023.

Strategic Plan Review Austin, Gary, and Kristin have been working on a committee with staff, Gina, Jamie, and Ashley since before Jeff left to review, analyze, and rebuild the strategic plan. Every three years, this is the subject for the October meeting. However, this year, we do not have a quorum to vote and Bob has not had an opportunity to review. We can table this for February or do an E-vote. Once approved, Seth will develop a publishable document. Is there consensus?

All present board members agreed.

The Capital Input Projects Lisa and Will have been meeting with Ashleigh Smith since June. The package is created but work will continue with Director Hicks. We will review and this will be subject in February.

Maintenance- Deferred to Brad Rogers. “This is a project in the making for many years. The Recreation and Parks team is to establish our own Grounds Maintenance Team. The listing for the Foreman was published this morning, the goal is to start there and make sure that we’re starting with the right foundation. Once built, this team will split into Northern and Southern responsibilities. The goal of this team is to shift as many tasks as possible from being complaint driven to being service oriented. This will improve the community experience and allow us to do necessary maintenance and repairs to get the optimum lifespan of our infrastructure.

Additionally, Hashawha has now been without an Administrative Assistant for 7 years. As part of this maintenance transition, Hashawha will again have an administrative assistant who will resume tasks Dawn has absorbed, as well as support the maintenance team.”

Ms. Carroll, “Public Works will be maintaining Charles Carroll Community Center, and Robert Moton Center.”

Cape Horn Lights- The transformer is not hooked up. Everything is in house at the park, we’re waiting on BGE. The goal had been for this to happen this fall, it’s looking like it’s going to be Spring before they’re able to do sports under the lights.

Westminster Veteran’s Park Memorial Garden- This project has been in every aspect Will Brozy’s personal project. He has been hands on in every respect. The concrete is poured and stamped. We will not be making Veteran’s Day for a ribbon cutting, it was an ambitious timeline.

Krimgold- There’s an Eagle Scout project going on this weekend. Will has met with him several times, they’re ready to put this one in.

Playgrounds- We obtained approval to patch some of our poured in place playgrounds.

Pavilions- We’re also making headway with Freedom Park Pavilion and the Piney Run Park Pavilion Projects.

Program Open Space- FY 24 Program Open Space was approved last Thursday. We should see the documentation for that in the coming weeks.

Rec Councils- Have been given a yearend deadline to register as 501c3. Hashawha was the first to do so. With this, they will need to maintain their own check books. Some councils may have challenges. The county is providing recommended best practices, but the Councils can choose their own practice.

Volunteer of the Year- Tuesday, November 7, 2023. We are currently working on the details for signage at the new Charles Carroll Community Center, where this will be held this year.

Charles Carroll Community Center- is beginning to see an influx in scheduling groups and programs. There's currently a plan for a Holiday Basketball Tournament at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

Public Comments:

Mr. Ferguson extended an invitation to comment to Commissioner Rothstein and Roberta Windham.

Commissioner Rothstein "If you can make it to Volunteer of the Year, please do. Volunteers, including this board, are the ones who keep this county running. We're always looking for new ideas, please if you have any suggestions, put them on the table so we can make them happen. The only thing that is a definitive "no" is what's never asked, even at State level. We're always looking for leaders like yourselves."

Ms. Windham "I want to extend a 'thank you' to this advisory board, the volunteers, and Lisa for everything she's done as the Acting Director. It was no small undertaking, and you got it done."

Ms. Carroll was presented with flowers and an engraved bracelet as a token of appreciation.

Ms. Carroll thanked the department staff, Hashawha's Kitchen, Nikki, Dawn, Gina, Dylan, and Piney Run's staff for making this meeting happen.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held February 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Robert Moton Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brad Rockwood, it was seconded by Austin Johnstone, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hicks

Bob Hicks, Director

Ashley Caltrider

Ashley Caltrider, Secretary