

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, April 7, 2016**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bellis, Vice-Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Jake Heibel, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Nelson, Valerie Brodsky.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Also in attendance was Joe Kittner, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., who presented information on Three Notch Trail Phase Seven concept planning efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Richard Buckler moved, seconded by Fred Parker, to approve the minutes of February 4, 2016; motion carried 7-0.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager, who provided a report on current activities of the Recreation Division. Highlights included:

- Spring 2016 Program Guide – new guide out and registration is open
- Summer Camp Employment – Staff job openings are available; applications on website
- Summer Camps – Registration opened March 1st; camps start June 20th for eight weeks
- Easter Egg Festival – was held on March 19th; approximately 2500 in attendance; 800 hunted for eggs
- Paralympics - Athlete Don Balcom plans to try out for the Rio Olympics
- Pool Extravaganza – this event will be held on April 12th at Great Mills swimming pool
- Daddy Daughter Dance – held on February 6th; 240 people attended
- Will Smith Awards – were held on February 19th at Great Mills High School
- Mother Son Kickball – held on April 3rd; over 80 participated in this event
- Summerstock Musical – this year's performance is "*The Little Mermaid*"
- School Age Care – Now taking reservations for 2016-2017 school year.
- New Van – the Division has a new van for Teens on the Go and other programs
- Orioles Trip – is scheduled for June 5th
- New York City Trip – is scheduled for May 7th

PHASE VII THREE NOTCH TRAIL CONCEPT PLANNING

Brian Loewe, R&P Director, and Joseph Kittner, of Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., provided and overview and Power Point presentation on the status of concept planning efforts for Phase VII of the Three Notch Trail. This phase of the trail is envisioned to run from Wildewood north to MD 245 Leonardtown/Hollywood Road. Discussion centered around three examined alignments: MD235 (A); Scenic (B); and Local Roads (C). Alignment A general parallels MD 235; alignment B parallels MD 235 and is partially located on the SMECO utility corridor; and alignment C is an on-road alignment on a network of local roads. Then a fourth option, the MD 235 (A) and Scenic (B) Hybrid, was discussed as an option with good potential. The Hybrid alignment would primarily serve transportation needs from the County Airport south past Wildewood and more scenic/recreational needs from the Airport northward.

Questions/comments from the Board included:

- Estimated costs for land acquisitions
- Estimated costs per mile of the concepts
- Considerations for use of the SHA right-of-way
- Provisions for parking
- Rural character and recreation value versus transportation needs
- MD 235 alignment versus roadway and scenic options
- Number of road crossings
- Rationale on rating development

These items will be addressed at the follow-up presentation which is anticipated for May 5, 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice-chairperson Bellis asked about the tennis court windscreens at Dorsey and Cecil parks; Parks Division staff will get back to him regarding the matter. He noted the nature trail at Dorsey Park is well maintained. Dorsey Park restrooms opened on April 1st; before that time portable restrooms were available.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on June 2, 2016.