

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, May 7, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dick Buckler, Vice-Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Jake Heibel, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy, Jim Swift and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Teresa Howard and Tom Nelson.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Ms. Mary A. Owens attended to make a request to name Field #3 after former Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Swift moved, seconded Doug Bellis, to approve the minutes of February 5, 2015; motion carried 7-0. There were no official minutes of April 2, 2015 as there was no quorum.

PARKS DIVISION UPDATE

Director Brian Loewe introduced David Guyther, Parks Manager, who provided a report on activities of the Parks Division. Highlights included: issues experienced at public landing over the winter; spring preparation of athletic fields; work on basketball courts; installation of solar lights at Lancaster Park; vandalism at parks and facilities; and filling seasonal Parks Maintenance Division Positions. Mr. Guyther provided a PowerPoint presentation of some of the projects and issues discussed.

REQUEST TO NAME FIELD #3 AT CRRP FOR FORMER COMMISSIONER KENNETH DEMENT.

Ms. Mary A. Owens appeared before the Board to present a request to name Field #3 at Chancellor's Run Regional Park for former County Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement. She detailed how Kenny Dement had a long and active career in softball in St. Mary's County. In addition to many other accomplishments, he was the founder and organizer of the first slow pitch league in the County and was known as "Mr. Softball."

Caroline King moved, seconded by Ashley Varner, to endorse naming Field #3 at Chancellor's Run Regional Park for former County Commissioner Kenneth R. Dement. Motion carried with all in favor.

RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD CY2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board reviewed and approved the draft annual report document that was previously e-mailed to members.

Jake Heibel moved, seconded by Patrick Murphy, to approve the CY2014 Annual Report and to have staff forward the document to the CSMC.

FY2016 BUDGET UPDATES

Director Loewe provided a brief budget update to the Board. The budget public hearing was held on April 14, 2015. The CSMC are set to approve the FY2016 Operating and Capital Budget on

May 12, 2015. The recommended budget includes a merit increase for full time employees and a 1% pay increase for hourly employees.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Brian Loewe provided an update on the status of several park and facility improvement projects.

Three Notch Trail Phase VI - Construction on this phase began in March. This Phase will run from MD Route 5 in Mechanicsville to MD Route 236 in New Market for a distance of about five miles. This section will link already completed sections in Laurel Grove and Charlotte Hall and will provide 11 miles of trail in the north county area.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields - The project is nearly complete. Staff is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for early June. There was some damage done to the fields from vandals driving vehicles on the new fields; staff has repaired the damaged areas.

Leonardtwn Park - The overall concept for the former Hayden Farm site (taking into account schools, recreation, library and senior center) is currently being considered by the CSMC. The Phase I and II archeological studies are complete on the site. Construction funding for the park was moved from FY2017 to FY2018.

OTHER BUSINESS

Director Loewe presented requests for Alcohol Consumption Permits from the Friends of the St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums and the Optimist Club of the Seventh District for events to be held at Museum Division facilities. Requests included:

- Chamber of Commerce After Hours – June 24, 2015
- Jazz and Seafood Festival - July 11, 2015
- Blessing of the Fleet Weekend – October 2-4, 2015

Patrick Murphy moved, seconded by Ashley Varner, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permits for the Friends of St. Clement's Island and Piney Point Museums and the Optimist Club of the Seventh District. Motion carried with all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on August 6, 2015.