

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, August 6, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Nelson, Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Vice-Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Jake Heibel and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Teresa Howard, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy and James Swift.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dick Buckler moved, seconded Jake Heibel, to approve the minutes of May 7, 2015 motion carried 5-0.

RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE

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

- Fall program guide will be available on August 19th, with open registration on August 24th
- R&P's 2015 fun camps saw 458 campers; last year saw 311
- Therapeutic camps ended today; 38 enrolled in New Horizons; 40 campers and 5 assistants in Camp Inspire.
- Sports camps – saw about the same numbers as last year; staff looking at changes for next year to increase participation
- Summerstock musical – over 60 youth actors, orchestra and crew; 2,300 tickets sold
- Gymnastics – getting ready for meet season; several staff changes and improvements have been made to the facility
- The Gymnastics Center open house is set for October 17th from 3-5 p.m.
- School age centers – are operating at eight schools this year
- Great Mills Pool – the pool will close from September 8th – 20th for seasonal maintenance and to install the bubble
- A full-time ADA Coordinator has been hired by the County; those duties will come away from the Department's Therapeutic Recreation Specialist's workload.
- Ryan Vanderwest was hired as the new Youth Programs and Camps Coordinator for the Department.
- Punt, Pass and Kick is set for October 3, 2015 at Fifth District Park
- The Gateway to Gold Paralympics event is scheduled for October 10th from 10 am – 5 pm at the Sanner's Lake Sports Club.
- The Scott Verbic Memorial Golf Tournament is set for October 2nd.

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. **Three Notch Trail Phase VII** - The concept planning process which will begin this winter will produce alternatives and recommendations for the trail alignment in the California (Wildewood) and Hollywood areas.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields - The project is essentially complete. A ribbon cutting with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County was held on June 9th.

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.

Lancaster Park Improvements – The project to add additional athletic fields and parking is anticipated the project will be rebid later this fall and a construction contract is anticipated to be awarded by March 1, 2016.

Nicolet Park Entrance Project – This project will address the need to design and construct the main entrance for Nicolet Park as originally outlined in the park's master plan. Surveying work for the project is underway.

LPPRP Update – This project consists of updating the County's 2012 approved Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (RP1602). The plan is due to be completed by July 1, 2017.

Elms Beach Park Master Planning - A project to include master planning for improvements at Elms Beach Park (RP1601) was approved for FY2016.

FY2016 Recreation Facility & Park Improvements – Projects include: basketball renovations at Jarboesville and Cardinal Gibbons parks; replacement rubber surfacing at Nicolet sprayground; construction of four picnic shelters adjacent to existing playgrounds; installation of new lighting system for athletic field and roadway area at Cecil Park; replacement of deteriorated asphalt walkways for ADA compliance at various parks; asphalt overlay at Chancellor's Run Park; renovate the 235 storage building; replace deteriorated baseball/softball fencing at various parks; and repair asphalt roadway and parking lot at Jarboesville Park. Also, a generous benefactor came forward and offered to donate the materials and services needed to repair the Drayden Schoolhouse.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 3, 2015.