

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, September 1, 2011
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Wainger-Rush, Chairperson; Sabrina Hecht, Robert Hicks, Julie Lemmon and David Phalen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Buckler, Patrick Dugan, Al Harrison and Tom Nelson.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Rollins, Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Lisa Wainger-Rush, Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Phalen moved, seconded by Robert Hicks, to approve the minutes of August 4, 2011; motion carried 5- 0.

HURRICANE IRENE IMPACTS ON PARKS AND FACILITIES

Mr. Rollins introduced David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, who provided a short Power Point presentation on the recent hurricane impacts on parks and facilities. The Parks Division staff inspected all the parks and public landings. No park buildings were damaged in the storm; however, approximately 60 trees are down at various parks. A considerable number of large trees are down at Dorsey Park, Lancaster Park disc golf course, Three Notch Trail and at the Great Mills Pool. Fence damage was experienced at Baggett Park and at the Cecil Park tennis courts. The roof was damaged at the Gymnastics Center; classes are temporarily canceled due to water clean up inside the facility. All the parks and facilities are now open for public use. Some facilities were closed for a few days due to power outages.

No damage was experienced at the St. Clement's Island Museum; however the museum was closed for several days due to power outage. Some minor flooding was experienced at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and some portions of the new boardwalk were damaged.

Mr. Rollins thanked the Parks Division staff for working long hours to clean up debris to open the parks and for their weekend help with the Department of Public Works and Transportation.

LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

Board members were provided with the latest draft of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The plan was updated after Board and citizen input from the meeting of August 4, 2011. Changes included:

- Updated the Needs Analysis list on page III-15 to reflect multipurpose fields for team sports, indoor facilities for basketball, volleyball etc., pedestrian and bike trails, and water access as primary needs; and baseball/softball fields as secondary needs.
- Page III-20 was revised to reflect comments from the Southern Maryland Trail Riders organization regarding the need to develop equestrian trails, possibly at Chaptico Park; parking for trailers is also needed.
- Page III-21 was updated to add a bullet to continue to plan for development at the Tudor Hall Farm waterfront for boat docking, waterfront trail system, and environmental interpretation that provides greater public access to Breton Bay and supports passive recreation.
- Page III-22 was also revised to reflect the need for equestrian trails as there are a significant number of equestrian enthusiasts in Southern Maryland.
- Other minor editing changes were made as needed.

Sabrina Hecht asked if staff could enlarge the Myrtle Point Park master plan picture in order that the text and legend can be read more easily. She suggested that more pictures be added of projects currently underway.

Chairperson Rush suggested combining accessible shoreline and fishing spots.

Robert Hicks moved, seconded by Julie Lemmon, to endorse the draft LPPRP chapters I, II, and III as presented by staff, with the recommended revisions noted during tonight's meeting; motion carried 5- 0.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Three Notch Trail Phase VI - The kick-off meeting for the design and engineering of Phase VI of the trail, from MD Route 5 to MD Route 236 in New Market, was held on August 3, 2011. The engineering firm of A. Morton Thomas, Inc. is currently working on the 30% design drawings; it's anticipated that will be completed by the end of September.
- Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields - The County expects to award a contract for the Charlotte Hall athletic fields in the near future; there have been some delays with the Procurement process on this project.
- Lancaster Park Design – The County will be advertising for the design and engineering for additional parking and multi-purpose fields for youth sports at Lancaster Park in FY12.
- Leonardtwn Park Design – The County will also be advertising in FY12 for the design and engineering for a new community park at the Hayden Farm property. The park is envisioned to include multi-purpose athletic fields, a playground, parking and restroom facilities. R&P is exploring the feasibility of using the SMC Public Schools designer for the new school at the Hayden Property to design the park.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Recreation Division Manager Position – Mr. Rollins informed the Board that Ms. Jessica Hale has been hired as the new Recreation Division Manager. She is scheduled to begin work on Monday, September 19th.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., in Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on October 6, 2011.