

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Thursday, November 2, 2016  
5:30 PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Nelson, Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Vice-Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker and Ashley Varner.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jake Heibel.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Loewe, R&P Director, and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Also in attendance from the Department of Economic Development were: Chris Kaselemis, Director; Carolyn Laray, Tourism Manager; and Andrew Ponti, Tourism Coordinator; Dan Fenton and Bethany Parker from JLL Hotels and Hospitality Group were present via teleconference. Adam Bossi, of GreenPlay LLC, the consulting firm working on the update of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan also attended.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Caroline King moved, seconded by Dick Buckler, to approve the minutes of October 6, 2016; motion with all in favor.**

**DRAFT TOURISM & HOSPITALITY MASTER PLAN**

Director Loewe introduced staff from the Department of Economic Development: Chris Kaselemis, Director; Carolyn Laray, Tourism Manager; and Andrew Ponti, Tourism Coordinator who, along with Dan Fenton and Bethany Parker from JLL Hotels and Hospitality Group, presented the draft Tourism & Hospitality Plan to the Board. They provided a Power Point presentation and handouts to the Board which detailed the plan as a “compilation of an extensive and inclusive process that has been designed to take a comprehensive look at how to develop and grow the local tourism economy.”

Doug Bellis – Did the plan look at sports tournaments; JLL – yes, that is covered in Emerging Markets Master Plan areas, under Sports.

Patrick Murphy – The challenge will be balancing needs of local citizens with tourists, i.e. sports field and facilities inventory and water access points (which areas to prioritize for enhancement). JLL – the plan would recommend enhancements at places that could handle more visitors and take a planned and organized approach.

**DRAFT SMC LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS & RECREATION PLAN**

Director Brian Loewe introduced Adam Bossi, Project Manager, of GreenPlay LLC, the firm that has been contracted to update the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan who provided an update on the status of the efforts to update the LPPRP to date.

Draft Plan presentation highlights included:

- An update on the plan update process and progress to date

- Review of the draft document (Executive Summary; Introduction and Planning context; Parks and Recreation chapter; Natural Resources Land Conservation chapter; Agricultural Land Preservation chapter; and Appendix items).

Plan completion anticipated timeline:

- Final comments on draft from R&P Board – November 10, 2016
- Presentation of draft plan to Planning Commission – December 12, 2016
- Presentation of draft to Board of County Commissioners – January 10, 2017
- Draft plan submission to State – January 31, 2017

**Fred Parker moved, seconded by Patrick Murphy, to approve the draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.**

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

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

- Future Leonardtown Park Site – The barn demo portion of the project is now complete. The environmental testing should begin within the next few weeks.
- Lancaster Park Improvement Project - Project to add multi-purpose fields, parking and entrance road is progressing on schedule. Work this month included screening of topsoil and spreading and fine grading topsoil on both athletic fields. Play fields will be seeded next week. The parking lot was rough graded and storm water management was laid out to be installed.

## **NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2016. The December meeting was subsequently canceled.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on February 8, 2017.