

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, February 1, 2018
5:30 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Caroline King, Chairperson; Patrick Murphy, Vice-Chair; Dick Buckler, Jake Heibel, Tom Nelson, Fred Parker.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Bellis, Floyd Warren and Ashley Varner.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Shepherd, R&P Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Bart Ludlow, St. Mary's Little League, and Bob Richardson, Babe Ruth Baseball, also attended.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Caroline King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Nelson moved, seconded by Fred Parker, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

AGENDA DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Draft R&P Board agendas will now be emailed to members the Friday before the meeting for input by noon on Monday. The final agenda will be emailed to the Board and posted on the County website on the Tuesday before the Thursday night meeting.

FY2019 OPERATING & CAPITAL REQUESTED BUDGETS

Operating Budget

Mr. Shepherd referred members to the handouts provided on the FY2019 Operating and Capital budgets. He introduced Bart Ludlow, St. Mary's Little League, and Bob Richardson, Babe Ruth Baseball, who were present to comment on the proposed \$5 per registrant fee to offset the cost for hourly employees and law enforcement in County parks. Comments were:

- Bart Ludlow – Supports R&P and agrees staffing is needed in parks. Thinks fee increase should be paid for from the General Fund and not by users.
- Bob Richardson – Also agreed that the fee is needed for staffing in parks. He sees parking concerns and issues with multiple sport users in parks at the same time. He also supported the fee increase being paid for from the General Fund.
- Caroline King – Agreed staff is needed in parks; asked about greatest need times. Tyrone Harris stated weekends and evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. are the greatest times of need.
- Patrick Murphy – All agree staffing is needed; the question is how to pay for it. He supported the staffing being paid from the General Fund and possibly increasing the level of staffing for more presence.
- Tom Nelson – How much do participants pay now to play? Little League - from \$50 to \$125 per registration; Babe Ruth - from \$60 to \$145.
- Jake Heibel – This is a safety and quality of life issue in today's world. General Fund should cover the cost; alternative would be to utilize a combination of funding sources.

The Board did not formally vote on the proposal; however, the consensus was that additional staffing is needed in County parks during sporting events.

Mr. Shepherd referred to the memo to the CSMC regarding the FY2019 budget submittal outlining the changes proposed for the next Fiscal Year. The 10% increase in the Parks Division budget includes new expenses such as:

- Funds associated with improved athletic field turf - grass seed, top soil, fertilizer, new aeration machine, and new dump truck.
- Cost for electricity, trash and portable toilet service, supplies, playground safety and replacement parts, and tree removal services.
- Funds for waterfront park management such as three ATV's and a beach cleaning machine.
- New minimum wage increases for park attendants.

Capital Budget

Mr. Shepherd provided a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget requests and referred to the CIP handouts. David Guyther, Parks Manager, gave a brief update on several projects.

Mr. Shepherd noted he feels this is a solid plan for next fiscal year. He anticipates the R&P Board budget review will begin in December for future years.

FY2018 Parks and Facilities Improvements (updates)

- Basketball Courts at Lancaster and Nicolet Parks - Color coating and striping will be done in spring when weather warms; the courts are open for use.
- Dorsey Park Improvements – The irrigation should be installed in February (weather permitting); the well permit is being processed with installation also expected in February. Bermuda grass sprigged in early June.
- St. Inigoes Bulkhead – engineering work is underway.

FY2019 Parks and Facilities Improvements (requested)

- Lighting at Fifth District Park
- Replacement playground at Wicomico Shores Public Landing
- Asphalt roadway at St. Clement's Shores Park
- Paving at USCT Interpretive Center
- Renovate tennis courts at Cardinal Gibbons and Town Creek; Cecil Park
- CRRP stairway replacement
- Wicomico improvements
- Entrance at Great Mills Pool
- Replacement bleachers
- Skate park improvements

WIECK PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Chairperson Caroline King provided an overview of the work to date on the Wieck Playground project. R&P developed a committee of original Project Playground members, one R&P Board member (Chairperson King), citizens and staff. Nine meetings have been held over the course of about six months. Recommendations were based, not only on the committee's experience, but from nearly 600 survey responses and citizen input received during the October 5, 2017 R&P Board meeting. She stated that the committee has had a tough job of balancing public input with budgetary and other constraints. In summary, much thought has gone into the design to provide a unique, "fantasyland" playground, that also includes ADA upgrades, rubber surfacing, shade, fencing, seating options, and

open areas for running. The committee hopes to finalize the plan in the next few weeks so that equipment can be ordered for installation in early summer.

DRAFT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Fred Parker moved, seconded by Tom Nelson, to approve the 2017 Draft Annual Report as written. Motion carried with all in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Shepherd reported that the Recreation Enterprise Fund is doing well; current retained earnings are approximately \$700,000. Some recent Gymnastics Center enhancements due to available funding were: a new spring floor, new tumble track and chalk eater.

He also reported the ribbon cutting ceremony and proclamation for Black History Month will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the renovated Drayden African American Schoolhouse. All are invited to attend.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on _____.