

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, May 6, 2010  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lisa Rush, Chairperson; Al Harrison, Sabrina Hecht, Julie Lemmon and David Phalen.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Richard Buckler, Patrick Dugan, Robert Hicks and Tom Nelson.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Phil Rollins, Director; Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; David Guyther, Parks Manager; Tyrone Harris, Park Operations Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**David Phalen moved, seconded by Julie Lemmon, to approve the minutes of April 7, 2010 with two corrections; motion carried 5-0.**

### **RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

Arthur Shepherd provided an update on Recreation Division programs and events.

- Carver Recreation Center – The annual site visit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century afterschool program was held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. MSDE staff participated in the review and provided favorable comments on the program.
- Gymnastics - Twenty-two gymnasts competed at this year's State meets from levels 4-7. The Center hosted a Mason Dixon meet April 23-25<sup>th</sup> with approximately 400 gymnasts competing. The Mason Dixon State meet will be held the weekend of May 15-16<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual Scott Verbic Memorial Golf tournament team roster is now full. The tournament will be held on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Summer Camp Registration – R&P summer camp registration is now open.
- Great Mills Pool - The dome is scheduled to be removed on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; however, due to mechanical problems it may be removed earlier and operate as an outdoor pool a few weeks earlier than planned.
- Football – A meeting was held yesterday with Club Directors and plans for the upcoming season are moving forward.
- Social Media – the R&P website is now linked to Face Book in an effort to further market the Department's programs and events.

### **PARKS DIVISION REPORT**

David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, provided a Parks Division update and a Power Point presentation on some recent projects.

- The Piney Point Landing bulkhead replacement project is now complete. The bulkhead includes some additional tie up areas for boaters and a boardwalk.

- The Bushwood Wharf minor roadway erosion control project was completed this week.
- Mr. Guyther also provided some photos of the new picnic pavilion near the entrance of the disc golf course at the Lancaster Park south parcel.
- The Parks “garage building” and surrounding area was cleaned of debris and trash. This is one of the Flat Tops units at the former Lexington Manor. This building will be used for storage and supplied for the Parks Division.
- The new walkways and parking enhancements are now complete at the Carver Heights Community Park.
- Plans are moving forward to replace the aging pier at St. George’s Island this year and the River Springs public landing pier next year.

Chairperson Rush asked if there are any plans to resurface the old road system/trails in the Lancaster Park south parcel. Mr. Rollins stated that, due to funding constraints, there are no plans for that at this time.

Mr. Rollins introduced Tyrone Harris, Park Operations Coordinator, who gave a brief report on County park operations. Staff is currently busy coordinating spring park usage with various leagues. He explained the inclement weather policy notifications. Citizens can call the cancellation line, visit the website, or receive a text message for cancellations. Cancellation decisions are normally made by 3:00 pm on weekdays and by 6:00 am on weekends. If there is no decision from R&P by 3:00 pm, it’s up to the leagues on whether the fields are safe to play on. League Presidents can call Mr. Harris if fields become playable later in the day on weekends; in that case the league would be responsible for the field conditions. The challenge is recognizing that weather conditions may be different at Chancellor’s Run Park than at facilities in the north end of the County.

## **FY11 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Rollins stated that the BOCC hosted a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27 at Chopticon High School on the recommended FY2011 budget. There have been no additional cuts or changes to the Recreation and Parks Department budget. The final work session is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> and BOCC is scheduled to adopt the budget on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rollins noted that the State legislative session ended recently with no additional cuts to Maryland’s Program Open Space.

## **PARK POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Draft Lightning & Extreme Heat Policy - Mr. Rollins provided a draft Lightning and Extreme Heat policy for the Board’s review. Some questions were raised on the Heat Index; staff will research this further and bring the draft back for consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Rollins also provided some information on lightning safety signage from the Department of Public Safety that will be posted in County parks. Also, citizens can visit the County website and sign up for emergency notifications from Public Safety.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Carver Heights Community Park – The BOCC and R&P will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground at the Carver Heights Community Park on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board will tour the Carver Recreation Center at 4:00 pm and hold the ribbon cutting at about 4:20 pm.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields – R&P received preliminary project approval for the Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields from DPW&T for the storm water management plan portion of the project. The project should be out to bid this summer and be under construction this fall.

Three Notch Trail Phase V – Mr. Rollins reported that the County held a pre-bid meeting for Phase V of the trail today. Three potential bidders attended the meeting. The bid opening date is June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Staff anticipates the project will be under construction this summer. This phase runs from John V. Baggett Park at Laurel Grove to MD Route 5 in Mechanicsville.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

County Managed Elms Hunting Area – Staff continues to work on the plans and procedures to make 85 acres of the County lease area at the Elms property available for bow hunting for deer this fall. To hunt on the site, hunters must have a valid Maryland hunters' license; sign a liability waiver; have a permit from R&P displayed on the vehicle dash; and sign-in and sign-in out at the information kiosk.

UCAC Civil War Memorial – The UCAC received a State Bond Bill to assist with funding the Union Civil War Memorial to be constructed at Lancaster Park. The UCAC is working on other fundraising efforts to cover the costs of design, engineering and construction of the project. The group hopes to have the memorial completed by late fall. The memorial will be located toward the rear of the park, near the beginning of the disc golf course.

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 3, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on June 3, 2010.