

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, September 2, 2010  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Buckler, Vice-Chairperson, Sabrina Hecht, Robert Hicks, Julie Lemmon, Tom Nelson and David Phalen.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patrick Dugan, Al Harrison and Lisa Rush.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Richard Buckler, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**David Phalen moved, seconded by Sabrina Hecht, to approve the minutes of August 5, 2010; motion carried 5-0.**

**RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

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

- Great Mills Pool – The pool will be closed from Sept 7 -19<sup>th</sup> to install the air supported structure and for fall maintenance.
- Gymnastics Center – Session VI of the recreational program registered 477; last year saw 419. This is the single highest first session registration in 12 years.
- Before and After School Care – Summer Camp has ended and before and after care began for the new school year. Enrollment is currently 167 participants.
- Carver Recreation Center – The after school program began at the Carver Recreation Center for children in the Lexington Park area. Homework help, computer lab, and other items that foster positive youth development are being offered.
- Margaret Brent Recreation Center – Recent improvements at the Margaret Brent Recreation Center included gym floor repairs and painting.
- Leonard Hall Recreation Center – Interior and exterior painting will be done this fall.
- Fall Fitness Festival – The third annual Fall Fitness Festival is scheduled for Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am -2pm. Games, activities and health and fitness screening and information will be available.
- Youth Football – Opening day was held on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and was very successful. There are 4 clubs with 40 teams this year. There is still work to be done, but Youth Football is off to a good season. There are some parking issues at Lancaster Park that need to be addressed in the near future.

**PARKS DIVISION REPORT**

Tyrone Harris provided an update on Parks Division projects and activities.

- Youth Soccer – Mr. Harris reported that youth soccer participation is increasing and that presents challenges in finding places to practice, play games and park. Fall baseball is also beginning. Staff is busying making sure all the fields are maintained and in good condition for the games. Opening day for recreational soccer is October 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Chancellor's Run Regional Park – The Bermuda grass at CRRP looks great, as it thrives in dry weather.
- Park Rock – Mr. Harris reported that the Park Rock event will be held this weekend at CRRP. The event will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon 8:00 pm. Approximately 70 bands are scheduled to perform on six stages over the weekend. Staff, event security and deputies will be on site for security. Parents are welcome to stay for the event.
- Elms Beach and Myrtle Point Parks – Staff continues to deal the challenges that increased usage has brought to Myrtle Point and Elms Beach parks (trash, after hours use, overnight camping, open fires, etc.). Park attendants will monitor the park on the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Most of the patrons on holiday weekends are not St. Mary's County residents.
- Sprayground at Nicolet Park – The sprayground will close after the holiday weekend for the season.
- Dorsey Park Tennis Courts – Mr. Harris thanked the St. Mary's County Tennis Association for help in raising funds to cover the electricity costs for the lights at the Dorsey Park tennis courts.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Three Notch Trail Phase V – The construction contract was awarded for Phase V of the trail to Great Mills Construction, Inc. Staff expects construction will begin this month and should be completed by summer 2011. This phase runs about three miles from John V. Baggett Park at Laurel Grove to MD Route 5 in Mechanicsville.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields – Staff has received all the necessary plan approvals for the project. The specifications were sent to the County's Procurement Office and it is anticipated the project will be out to bid this fall. It is anticipated the new fields will be ready for use in spring 2012.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park – An enhancement project to address parking, pedestrian circulation and landscaping is underway at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park. The project is moving forward according to schedule and should be completed this fall. Mr. Rollins provided a handout with pictures of the progress on the project.

St. Clement's Island Museum Collections Management Facility – The County appropriated \$150,000 in FY09 to the Friends of the Museums to construct a Collections Management Facility for the County Museum Division. The Friends will contribute up to \$50,000 for the project. The building is an environmentally controlled, 30' x 50' storage facility for museum collections on the grounds of the St. Clement's Island Museum. The facility is being built to County standards by the Friends and will be turned over to the County to manage and maintain. Construction of the facility is essentially complete. Required critical area planting will be done in the fall when the weather is cooler. The Friends group is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony this fall. Mr. Rollins provided some photos showing the facility.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Alcohol Consumption Permit – Director Phil Rollins presented a request for an Alcohol Consumption Permit from the Seventh District Optimist Club for the upcoming annual Blessing of the Fleet festivities to be held October 1, 2 & 3 at the St. Clement's Island Museum site.

**Robert Hicks moved, seconded by Julie Lemmon, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Seventh District Optimist Club's 2010 Blessing of the Fleet activities. Motion carried with all in favor.**

Park Site Visits – Mr. Rollins asked Board members if they would like to schedule park and facility site visits. An email survey will be sent to members to determine if they would like to do this in the fall or in the spring and which sites they would like to see.

Marketing Public Waterfront Sites - Sabrina Hecht suggested some increased marketing to promote the public waterfront landings and public waterways. Mr. Rollins noted that the Department is working on some web and electronic marketing strategies and recently worked with MD DNR on a Water Trails in Western St. Mary's County guide that helps promote the landings. St. Mary's County Tourism is currently focusing on sports and outdoor recreation marketing. The trade off with this is that we are currently experiencing overcrowding at sites such as Myrtle Point and Elms Beach parks.

Myrtle Point Aquaculture Project – Mr. Rollins informed the Board that Mr. Raymond Combs has made application to the State to place oyster cages and oyster floats in three areas totaling about 11 leased acres off shore of Myrtle Point on Mill Creek and the Patuxent River. The floats and cages will extend a maximum of 150 feet channel ward of the mean high water line. The purpose of the project is to commercially raise oysters to marketable size. R&P staff attended an informational hearing on the project on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rollins sent a letter to MDE regarding R&P's understanding that minimal impacts are expected with regard to recreational uses of the park and shoreline (wading, swimming, future County plans for the site, etc.). A map of the proposed leased areas will be sent to Board members.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on October 7, 2010.