

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, September 7, 2017
5:30 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bellis, Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Fred Parker, Caroline King and Ashely Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jake Heibel, Patrick Murphy, Thomas Nelson and Floyd Warren.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Shepherd, R&P Director; Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. League representatives were also in attendance to comment on the field use plan.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Doug Bellis called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dick Buckler moved, seconded by Ashley Varner, to approve the minutes of August 3, 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

ATHLETIC FIELD USE PLAN & PUBLIC INPUT

Arthur Shepherd, R&P Director, provided a brief introduction of the athletic field use policy as it relates to inclement weather situations. Comments were as follows:

Dan Skane – St. Mary's Soccer. The current plan works for his league; however, challenges arise when games need to be rescheduled. Would like to see additional facilities and could use artificial turf fields; would like to look at ways to spread field loading; need irrigation and lights at Chaptico Park; and long-term goal would be to have indoor facilities available.

Tim Norris – Leonardtown Wildcats Football & Cheer. Has a good working relationship with R&P and appreciates improvements at Dorsey Park; could use another field for practice.

Bob Richardson – Babe Ruth Baseball. Also has a good relationship with R&P. Cancellation policy is working with the waivers. League needs lights at the 60' field at Fifth District Park to allow for fall baseball.

Mr. Shepherd outlined the upgrades underway for Dorsey Park. Two hourly staff members will be on duty to provide traffic/parking management.

David Guyther, Parks Manager, provided a Power Point presentation of existing conditions at various athletic fields.

Caroline King suggested: 1) communication to the leagues on short and long term project plans and, 2) information on how they can assist with projects. The plan will be discussed again

during the October Board meeting.

PARKS DIVISION REPORT

David Guyther provided a report on current park and facility improvements.

- Clarke's Landing – boat ramp renovation underway.
- St. Inigoes Public Landing – engineering for project underway.
- New Pickle Ball Courts at Chancellor's Run Regional Park – Work on these new courts is programmed for FY18.
- Dorsey Park Improvements – Staff has obtained the quotes for the restroom and field improvements done at the park.
- Basketball Courts at Lancaster Park and Nicolet Park - Will begin in the next few weeks.

PROJECT UPDATES

John G. Lancaster Park – The ribbon cutting ceremony for improvements at Lancaster Park will be held on Tuesday, September 26th at 2:00 p.m.

Snow Hill Park – Tyrone Harris provided an update on the weekend activities at the park. Staff anticipates the park being open full time in spring 2018.

LPPRP – The final draft Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP) was approved by the County Commissioners on August 22, 2017.

Elms Beach Park Master Plan – The final draft Elms Beach Park Master Plan was approved on August 29, 2017.

Wieck Playground – The meeting for community input will be held in conjunction with the R&P Board October meeting.

Museum Division Manager – The new Museum Division Manager, Karen Stone, began work on September 5, 2017.

Mr. Buckler asked if an update on the Recreation Enterprise Fund can be provided; Mr. Shepherd stated that can be scheduled for the November meeting.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on October 5, 2017.