

St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission
July 6, 2005

Minutes

Attendance: Mac McClintock, Bernadette Lewis, Kathleen Lyon, Joseph Bush and Pam Oravcz

Staff: Cynthia Brown, Division of Community Services

The meeting was convened at 5:05 by the Chairperson, Mac McClintock.

The guest speaker, Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, Recreation, Parks and Community Services, was introduced by M. McClintock.

Mr. Shepherd announced the month of July is National Recreation and Parks Month. This year is the 21st year for Summer Stock and the Department is featuring the musical, Beauty and the Beast. Over 140 people auditioned for various positions and parts. The show will be performed on Thursday, July 22 through Sunday, July 24, 7pm nightly. There will also be a matinee on Saturday.

The grand opening of the swimming pool in Great Mills occurred last year. There is currently a 50% increase in attendance with approximately 70 more people there per day than last year at this time. Mr. Shepherd accredited the increase to the management. The pool is now available for special events and after hour parties. The Spray Park at Nicolet Park is attracting between 120 to 170 individuals a day. In Nicolet Park there is also a skate park with picnic pavilions to enhance the family atmosphere.

The Summer Camps has over 1,200 enrollments at 28 different camps including New Horizons, a camp for individuals with disabilities and handicaps. The Recreation Division also just took over the Summer of Safety, Arts and Reading (SOSAR) Program that was previously with the Community Services Division. The SOSAR Program is being held St. Peter Claver and Banneker Elementary. There are 135 enrollees combined between the two program sites. The SOSAR Program provides free breakfast and lunch to the program participants. Meals are funded by the Maryland State Department of Education. Transportation is also available to all SOSAR participants. The summer camp programs begin at 6am and end at 6:30 nightly. There are 180 part time employees and five coordinators who make the programs successful. This is the first year the Recreation Division has provided specific camps for the age group of 11 – 13. Adventure camps are now available for this often overlooked age group.

The Recreation Division sponsors several fund raising activities per year to help fund scholarship programs. The scholarships are given to families who meet income eligibility guidelines. The Fall Festival is being held this year along with the 8K walk/run as a fundraiser for the scholarship program.

There are 300 other Leisure Programs featuring ballroom dancing, dog obedience, karate, and gymnastics to name a few. Gymnastics is offered for recreation as well as teen competition.

Anyone can enroll for the camps by stopping by the office located at 23150 Leonard Hall Road or fax an enrollment application which can be retrieved from the county's website www.co.saint-marys.md.us The fax number is 301-475-4108.

The Recreation Division provides discounted tickets to King Dominion, Six Flags and Busch Gardens. Some tickets are even at a lower discounted cost for specials days. Tickets are available from May through September 9th and can be purchase at the Leonardtown office.

Cynthia Brown gave a financial report of \$1,490 for the new fiscal year which began July 1, 2005.

Adjournment – 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Roach