

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

**Meeting of Thursday, July 1, 2004**

**MINUTES**

**Board members present:** Robert Harper, Chairperson (joined the meeting at 6:00 P.M.); Coleman Hillman, Vice-Chairperson; Greg Hambright and Jody Payne.

**Board members absent:** Kaki Burruss, Sam Brown, Dorothy Gass, Robert Richardson and Andrew Roper.

**Recreation and Parks' staff and others present:** Phil Rollins, Director of Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Coleman Hillman, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:30 P.M. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of the May 6, 2004 minutes was deferred until the next Board meeting.**

**RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE**

Director Phil Rollins introduced Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, who provided an update on Recreation Division projects and programs. Mr. Shepherd informed the Board that July is National Recreation and Parks Month and the Department is celebrating with events, programs and summer camps.

- The Great Turtle Race was held on June 18, 2004 with 160 turtles entered and 400 people in attendance.
- The Scott Verbic Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Friday, June 4, 2004 and raised \$4,800. These funds are used to provide scholarships for youth who can't afford the full cost of enrolling in the Department's programs.
- The year's Summerstock musical, "HONK," will be held from July 29 through August 1, 2004 at Great Mills High School; evening shows are scheduled for 7 p.m.; Saturday matinee is 1 p.m.
- Summer camps and sports camps are in full swing.
- The Sprayground at Nicolet Park has averaged approximately 100 patrons per day since opening.
- The Skatepark at Nicolet Park plans to host the Mid-Atlantic Series finale on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- The Great Mills Swimming Pool hosted 2,700 admissions during the month of June.

Mr. Rollins updated the Board on Division of Community Services' upcoming events. The Summer of Safety, Arts and Reading (SOSAR) camps are being offered at the St. Peter Claver Church and the Gospel Tabernacle of Prayer. Citizens are invited to enjoy Freedom Fest 2004 on Sunday, July 4th (rain date July 5th). This free event dedicated to family fun will be held at SMC Fairgrounds.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Smithsonian Folklife Festival** – Mr. Rollins reported that on June 16<sup>th</sup> the skipjack “Joy Parks” was moved from the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanhip to the Smithsonian Institute for the annual Folk Life Festival held on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The Joy is one of four historic vessels permanently loaned to the County by the Lundeberg School. The boat is the centerpiece of the 2004 Smithsonian Folklife Festival program, *Waterways: Charting a Future for Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities*, which runs June 23 – June 27 and June 30 – July 4. Museum staff, Museum Board of Trustees and Friends of the Museum members and volunteers are staffing the exhibit to help inform visitors of the County’s maritime history.

### **Park Construction Projects**

- **Chaptico Park** – Construction of the nine field soccer complex is nearing completion; after additional seeding, the soccer complex will be open in spring 2005. The BMX track is also under construction and may be open this fall. Coleman Hillman asked if there are plans to plant trees around the new soccer fields at Chaptico Park. Mr. Rollins stated that there is some landscaping to be done as part of the project; he will check on whether trees will be planted near the fields.
- **Nicolet Park** – Phase II of Nicolet Park is under construction and includes two basketball courts, a baseball field, a picnic pavilion, and accessible pathways, and is anticipated to be completed by fall.
- **Three Notch Trail** - Staff anticipates that construction will begin this fall and be completed this in spring 2005. A groundbreaking ceremony for the trail was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2004.

**Update on Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Indoor Recreation Center** – The ad for receiving Expressions of Interest proposals from recreation facility developers/operators was recently placed in the *Enterprise*, *Baltimore Sun* and the *Washington Post*. A pre-proposal meeting will be held on July 8, 2004; the deadline for submitting proposals is August 20, 2004. The solicitation specified that the facility is intended to serve multiple indoor sports including soccer, roller hockey, field hockey, lacrosse, basketball and volleyball, as well as other recreational activities. An evaluation committee consisting of County staff, Recreation & Parks (R&P) Advisory Board members and citizens shall review and evaluate submittals and make recommendations to the R&P Advisory Board and Board of County Commissioners.

**Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan** - The Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Board and the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board hosted a public, kick-off meeting on June 21, 2004, at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, for the preparation of the County’s 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP). Coleman Hillman, Dorothy Gass and Greg Hambright represented the Board. The new guidelines place greater emphasis on a more integrated approach to open space, agricultural land preservation and natural resource preservation than in past plans. The draft plan is due to be submitted to DNR by January 2005 and the final plan is due by July 2005.

Greg Hambright thanked citizens who attended the LPPRP meeting to express their interests, suggestions and concerns.

### **FY05 CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Myrtle Point Park Master Plan** - The County has included funding in the County’s FY2005 Capital Improvement Program for master planning for Myrtle Point Park. During the planning process, the BOCC will consider the park as a future site for multi-purpose athletic fields and a boat launching facility.

**Charlotte Hall Community Recreation Center/Park Master Plan** – Additionally, the County has appropriated funding in FY2005 for site analysis and master planning for the 40-acre Northern Senior Center site as well as funding for architect and engineering services to design and engineer a Community Recreation Center on the property. The Recreation Center will either connect to or be in close proximity to the Senior Center to create the opportunity for shared space between youth, adult and senior programming in a multi-generational center.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Elms Management Plan Hunting Issue** – During the November 2003 Board meeting, the Board received feedback from several recreational hunters on the impact of the new lease area as it relates to hunting. Hunters expressed concern with the decrease in the size of the hunting area and indicated that the previous boundary was more than adequate for hunting. It was decided at the November meeting that the previous boundary would be observed for that season, since the new lease wasn't officially in effect until signed by the County and state.

The plan was prepared to set the organizational framework and responsibilities for managing the 1,020 acre site over the next 10 - 25 years. The plan was adopted by the BOCC on March 11, 2003. The property was purchased in 1975 by the State as a potential future location for an electrical generating power plant. Users of the Elms property include St. Mary's County Public Schools, Elms Beach Park operated by R&P, recreational hunters through DNR's Wildlife Heritage Division, and biology students from St. Mary's College. A revised boundary line was established as a result of the adoption of the plan. The plan defines two broad use areas for the property; the 543-acre DNR area would contain the future power plant site, forest preservation areas, and wildlife habitat areas. The remaining 476 acres will be leased by DNR to the County for the Elms Beach Park and the Elms Environmental Education Center (a new combined lease was signed by the BOCC on April 27, 2004 and is expected to be executed by the State in the near future).

The Elms lease area map will be e-mailed to Board members. Mr. Hillman asked if the improvements to the existing signage were made at the park; Mr. Rollins will check on this with DNR representatives who will attend the next Board meeting.

**Alcohol Consumption Permit** - Mr. Rollins presented an application form for alcohol consumption for the Fourth Annual Potomac River Jazz and Seafood Festival to be held on Saturday, July 10, 2004. R&P staff approves requests for alcohol consumption permits for parks having picnic pavilions; requests for alcohol consumption at other parks and facilities require Board concurrence. The event sponsor, the Friends of St. Clement's Island Potomac River Museum, will obtain a license from the St. Mary's County Liquor Board.

**Greg Hambright motioned, seconded by Jody Payne, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Potomac River Jazz and Seafood Festival. Motion carried 5-0; (Robert Richardson indicated his vote by e-mail earlier in the day).**

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board of St. Mary's County will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 5, 2004 in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board August 5, 2004.

A tape recording of the meeting is kept on file in the Recreation and Parks' office for one year.