

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Monday, July 7, 2008**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Thomas Nelson, David Phalen, Lisa Wainger-Rush.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Dugan and Andrew Roper.

RECREATION, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; David Guyther, Parks Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Coleman Hillman motioned, seconded by Robert Hicks, to approve the minutes of June 5, 2008. Motion carried with all in favor.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, provided an update on Recreation Division programs and activities.

- The attendance at the Great Mills Pool is up compared to the same period last year. Total attendance for June 2008 was 5,569; total attendance for June 2007 was 4,304. A new swim session began this week.
- Open skate night at Leonard Hall Recreation Center began on June 30. The Leonardtown Library is also hosting a summer program at LHRC.
- Basketball camp began this week; sports camp enrollment is expected to exceed last year's total.
- Summer day camps are progressing well, with no major incidents. An enhanced inclement weather announcement plan has been implemented at the camps this season.
- Plans continue to move forward for this year's Summerstock musical – Seussical. The cast has 65 members and the ages range from 7 to 21. This year's performance will be held over two consecutive weekends, July 18-20 and July 24-27 for a total of eight shows.

PARKS DIVISION REPORT

David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, provided an update on the following parks and public landing projects.

- The Cecil Park Tennis Courts are nearing completion. Wet weather has delayed the project somewhat, but it should be completed by the end of this month.
- The small block building at the Dorsey Park football fields has been completed.
- Chain link fencing has been installed at field one at Chancellor's Run Regional Park.
- The Lancaster Park picnic pavilion installation is now complete; picnic tables and trash cans are on order for the pavilion.
- Mr. Guyther reported that there is a challenge with maintaining nature trails in County parks. Some trails have been established by Parks staff; other trails have been established by citizens. Recently, a citizen and several children got lost on the trail at Baggett Park; in this case citizens made foot paths off the trail and that contributed to them getting lost. The Parks Division may place some additional signage along trails to help with this. Robert Hicks noted that GPS mapping might help.
- Mr. Guyther reported that recycling containers have been installed at most parks. During April, May and June staff collected about 78 pounds of aluminum; 460 pounds of glass; and over 1,000 pounds of plastic.
- Managing the crowds at Elms Beach Park has been a challenge, especially during holiday weekends. Mr. Guyther visited the park on Friday, July 4th at about 2:30 pm and there were about 250 cars present with over

1,000 people in attendance at the park. Extra park attendants and a deputy were present for most of the holiday weekend to keep the crowds under control. Several alcohol and other citations were issued. Over 150 bags of trash were collected just from Saturday's attendance. The Division paid attendants and the deputy \$1,245 for monitoring the situation over the holiday weekend. Mr. Rollins stated that this situation will continue to be monitored; perhaps a fee will need to be charged and the park may close when the maximum attendance is reached. The Department requested funding in the FY09 budget for additional hours for park attendants, but that was not approved. Mr. Rollins stated that the Department and Board should give serious consideration to bringing forward an Elms Beach Park expansion project in the next Capital Improvements (CIP) budget due to the park's increased use. He reminded the Board that this project was in the draft CIP several years ago, but wasn't funded due to fiscal constraints.

PROJECT UPDATES

- **Three Notch Trail** – Mr. Rollins informed the Board that the construction on Phase II of the trail from the Northern Senior Center to Deborah Drive in Charles County is moving forward. Over 50% of the paving has been done. A ribbon cutting for this phase will be held in the fall. The Phase IV-A project, from Wal-Mart to Chancellor's Run Road, is currently out to bid; the bid closing date has been set for July 24 and construction should begin later this fall. Plans for Phase V, from Baggett Park in Laurel Grove to MD 5 in Mechanicsville, are nearing approval. The County is hopeful Phase V will receive Transportation Enhancement Funding for construction.
- **Lancaster Park Pathway** – A purchase order has been issued for the perimeter pathway at John G. Lancaster Park. It is anticipated that the work will begin later this summer.
- **Chaptico Park Parking Expansion** – Plans are nearing approval to expand the parking at Chaptico Park by about 100 spaces. It is expected that this work will begin later this summer or fall.
- **Chancellor's Run Regional Park** – This project includes a replacement playground and shelter, new fencing, color coating the basketball court and a new roof on the hall of fame building.
- **Tennis Courts** – After the Cecil Park tennis courts are completed, the Seventh District Park tennis courts will be resurfaced. It is anticipated this work will begin in August.
- **Great Mills Pool** – Staff will be constructing a shelter around the generator at Great Mills Swimming Pool.
- **Fifth District Park Athletic Fields** – Planning will begin in FY09 for the addition of practice and game fields at Fifth District Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rollins announced the following public meetings which will be held to solicit public input regarding the update of the County's Comprehensive Plan – Quality of Life in St. Mary's County. Board members and other citizens are encouraged to attend. All meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

- Wednesday, July 9 at Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School
- Thursday, July 10 at Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department
- Wednesday, July 16 at Leonardtown Middle School
- Wednesday, July 23 at Lexington Park Library
- Thursday, July 31 at Ridge Elementary School

Mr. Rollins informed the Board that member Andrew Roper resigned from the Board due to other commitments. He thanked him for his years of service on the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Nelson motioned, seconded by David Phalen, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of property acquisition as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a) 11. Motion carried 7-0.

Present: Robert Richardson, Vice Chairperson; Richard Buckler; Robert Hicks; Thomas Nelson; David Phalen; Andrew Roper; Lisa Wainger-Rush; Phillip Rollins; and Kathy Bailey.

Authority: Article 24, Sections 4-210(a) 11.
Time held: 6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2008, in the public meeting room, of the new Chesapeake Building, at the Governmental Center, in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 4, 2008.