

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

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patrick Dugan, Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Thomas Nelson and David Phalen.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson; Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Patrick Dugan, Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the July 7, 2008 regular and executive session minutes was deferred as there was no quorum.

**DIVISION AND PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Rollins provided the following Division and program updates.

- The Recreation Division and the Maryland Saltwater Fishing Association sponsored a Hooked on Fishing event at Point Lookout State Park on July 18, 2008. Over 200 summer camp participants attended the event.
- Most summer day camps have concluded for the season; however, sports and specialty camps are still ongoing.
- Staff is working on preparations for the 2008-2009 before and after school year programs.
- All indications are that the Great Mills pool had great attendance this summer. Staff is preparing to replace the blower at the pool and construct a shelter over the outside generator at the pool.
- This year's summerstock musical – Seussical, was a huge success with record attendance. Over 3,600 attended on the eight show dates.
- The annual Punt, Pass and Kick event is scheduled for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Fifth District Park.
- A fall Fitness Festival is being planned for Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. This event will promote fitness and wellness to youth and adults.
- The fall 2008 program guide will be inserted in the Enterprise newspaper on or about August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

- **The Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse** renovation and expansion project is nearing completion. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the project will be held in late September or early October. The Clubhouse will feature the new "The Riverview" restaurant; banquet facilities will be available for rental.
- **Three Notch Trail** - Mr. Rollins reported that the County received a letter dated June 25<sup>th</sup> from Governor O'Malley's office indicating approval of the award of \$771,000 in Transportation Enhancement Funds for Phase V of the Three Notch Trail. Plans for Phase V, from John V. Baggett Park in Laurel Grove to MD 5 in Mechanicsville, are currently being reviewed by County and State agencies. It is anticipated that this phase will be under construction by summer 2009. Phase II construction, from the Northern Senior Center in Charlotte Hall to just past the County line at Deborah Drive, is nearing completion. A ribbon cutting for this phase will be held in early October. Also, the contract for construction of Phase IV-A, from Wal-Mart to Chancellor's Run Road, was recently awarded to Great Mills Construction; it is anticipated the construction will be underway within the next month. Because the construction of FDR Blvd. is being considered, this phase of the trail will be constructed in two sections. The section of the trail from Chancellor's Run Road to Pegg Road will need to be designed and constructed in coordination with FDR Blvd. Also, private developers are building sections of the trail in the

California area (Phase III); some sections that do not move forward within the next few years may end up being built by the County, as funding permits.

- **Chaptico Park Parking Expansion** – The contract for construction of about 100 additional parking spaces at Chaptico Park was also recently awarded. It is expected that this work will begin later this summer or by early fall.
- **Tennis Courts** – A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the new and renovated tennis courts at Cecil Park in late September or early October. The Seventh District Park tennis courts will be resurfaced beginning in August or early September. The tennis courts at Chancellor's Run Regional Park (CRRP) were recently color coated.
- **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.

#### **NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARKS CONFERENCE**

Mr. Rollins provided information to the Board on the 2008 National Recreation and Park Association Congress and Exposition. This year's conference will be held in Baltimore, MD and staff from Recreation and Parks plans to attend. He encouraged Board members to try and attend Citizen's Day on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>; Board members who are interested should contact Mr. Rollins to see if any ride or registration cost sharing opportunities are available. Mr. Rollins plans to give a presentation on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> on spray parks.

#### **REQUEST FOR ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION PERMIT**

Director Phil Rollins presented a request for an alcohol consumption permit from the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad for an annual picnic to the Board for consideration. The event will be held at Miedzinski Park on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the rain date is Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. Board members in attendance approved the permit; members not present will be contacted via e-mail for their vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Dugan asked how the management of Elms Beach Park has been going since the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Mr. Rollins stated that park is still being heavily used, but no significant problems associated with overcrowding have been noted since the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. Staff continues to monitor the situation; an admission fee may need to be charged next year to cover the costs associated with additional staffing needed at this park.

Mr. Rollins reported that a map of parks and public landings is on the County website, on the GIS page. The page will help citizens find the location of parks and get directions; it will also link to individual park pages.

Mr. Rollins also reported that the BOCC is still considering acquisition of the Beavan Property in the California area. The BOCC had questions regarding perk tests on the property and the possible habitat of the Eastern narrow-mouthed toad. A perk preservation plat should be completed within the next few weeks and staff has received comments from MD DNR on the property's potential habitat for the toad.

Mr. Rollins informed the Board that the St. Mary's County Library is exploring a new location for the Leonardtown Library. It has been suggested the new library might be built on the Governmental Center complex, where the current baseball/softball field and flex field are located. Staff is preparing a recreational impact statement on the proposed project if that location is selected for the new library.

The Department received a letter from the Presidents of the St. Mary's American Little League, St. Mary's National Little League and American Legion Baseball. The letter requested input on the improvements planned for the 90' baseball field at CRRP. One of the items staff believes the leagues would like to see is a grass infield at this field; the reason that has not been done is that the current field allows multi-use; a grass infield would restrict use to 90' play. Staff plans to meet with the leagues in the near future to discuss this and perhaps invite them to the next R&P Board meeting.

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

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2008, in the public

meeting room of the new Chesapeake Building, at the Governmental Center, in Leonardtown.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

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