

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, December 4, 2008**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick Dugan, Chairperson; Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Al Harrison, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Thomas Nelson and David Phalen.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Wainger-Rush.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation and Parks; Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Patrick Dugan, Chairperson, 5:32 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Patrick Dugan, Chairperson, introduced new Board member, Al Harrison to the Board. Mr. Harrison is the Director of Operations for St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS). He's been with SMCPS for the past seven years and previously lived in Harford County. He was previously the Director of Facilities at the National Aquarium.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas Nelson motioned, seconded by Richard Buckler, to approve the minutes of November 6, 2008; motion carried with all in favor. Robert Hicks motioned, seconded by David Phalen, to approve the Executive Session minutes of November 6, 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 winter Program Guide was provided in the Enterprise and County schools this week; the guide can also be found at County libraries, recreation facilities and on the County website.
- The Department will be implementing the William Smith leadership award for Youth Basketball. This award will recognize seventh and eighth graders in the program who demonstrate leadership, good sportsmanship and athletic skills. This award is dedicated to the memory of William Smith, an outstanding young athlete, who graduated from Great Mills High School and was a participant in the Department's Youth Basketball program.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Rollins provided the Board with a status report and Power Point presentation on several park and facility projects in various stages of planning and development.

- **Chancellor's Run Regional Park 90' Baseball Field** - Improvements to the 90' baseball field are nearing completion. Improvements include: new fencing, walkways, correction of a drainage problem, installation of a bullpen and a batter's box, sod for the grass infield and an irrigation system. Mr. Don Degraeves, American Legion Baseball, and Ms. Donna Bowles, St. Mary's American Little League, attended the September 4th R&P Board meeting to express support for improvements at the Chancellor's Run Regional Park 90' baseball field.
- **Three Notch Trail** – Mr. Rollins reported that Phase II of the trail, from the Northern Senior Activity Center to just past the County line, is now complete. The ribbon cutting for this phase was held on October 14th. Mr. Rollins thanked Mr. Hillman for attending the ceremony on behalf of the Board. Pictures of this ceremony, and others, can be viewed on the County website photo gallery at <http://www.co.saint->

marys.md.us/recreate/photogalleryindex.asp.

- **TNT Phase IVA** – is currently under construction and should be completed later by early spring. The project has been delayed due to wet weather and the need to relocate some utility lines at a lower depth.
- **TNT Phase V** – design and engineering for this phase is about 90% complete. This phase should be out to bid next spring.
- **Chaptico Park Parking Expansion** – Mr. Rollins reported that this project is underway to add additional parking at Chaptico Park; staff anticipates this project will be complete and ready for spring use.
- **Lancaster Park Pathway and Disc Golf** – Design and engineering work for the pedestrian pathway around the perimeter of the park is complete and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by spring 2009. Staff recently received notification that some surplus Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funds can be used to install a disc golf (Frisbee® type) course at this park and into the adjacent Lexington Manor property.
- **Fifth District Park Athletic Field Expansion** – This project is proposed to construct athletic fields on undeveloped land adjacent to Fifth District Park and Lettie M. Dent Elementary School. The fields are needed for youth soccer, football and lacrosse practice to meet the growing demand in New Market, Charlotte Hall and Golden Beach. Joint parking for the fields and school is desired to serve the new fields. It is anticipated that the draft concept plan will be presented to the R&P Board on January 15th. If plans move forward, funds for construction would be requested in FY10.
- **Beavan Property** – The contract of purchase and sale for the Beavan property was recently signed by the BOCC and the Program Open Space funding application was approved by the state Board of Public Works on November 19th. Settlement on the property is expected on or about December 16th.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **MACO** - Robert Richardson volunteered to be a presenter at the upcoming MACO Winter Conference and provide a Power Point presentation on the impacts of possible reductions in the State's Program Open Space land acquisition funding program. Director Phil Rollins and Mr. Richardson will attend the conference on January 8th.
- **PPK** – Mr. Richardson reported that five sectional winners were invited to compete in the Washington Redskins Team Championship Punt, Pass and Kick competition held on Sunday, November 27, 2005 during the Redskins/Giants game at FedEx Field. The St. Mary's County sectional winners who attended the Redskins Team Championship competition were:
 - Boys 8/9 category Brandon Lowe
 - Girls 8/9 category Kaitlyn Polko
 - Girls 10/11 category Sarah Carty
 - Boys 12/13 category Corey Barnes
 - Boys 14/15 category Chris Palmer

Land Acquisition - Mr. Rollins noted that the Governor announced this week that the state has plans to purchase two large tracts of land in St. Mary's County for environmental, recreation and open space preservation. The acquisition of the properties in St. Ingoes and Newtown Neck is expected to be on the Board of Public Works agenda in the near future.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

On behalf of the entire Board, Chairperson Dugan thanked Coleman Hillman for his nearly ten years of service on the R&P Board. Director Rollins noted that Mr. Hillman has been a very dedicated volunteer and thanked him for attending the many events and activities of the Department. The Board presented Mr. Hillman with a plaque as a token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the Board and County.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Coleman Hillman motioned, seconded by Robert Hicks, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of property acquisition as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a) 11. Motion carried 6-0.

Present: Patrick Dugan, Robert Richardson, Richard Buckler, Al Harrison, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Thomas Nelson, David Phalen, Phil Rollins and Kathy Bailey.

Authority: Article 24, Sections 4-210(a) 11.
Time held: 6:20 p.m. – 6:35 p.m.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009, in the public meeting room of the Chesapeake Building, at the Governmental Center, in Leonardtown. The meeting was rescheduled from January 1 due to the New Year's holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on January 15, 2009.