

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting and Public Hearing-
Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Budget
December 14, 2016-7:00pm
Department of Recreation and Parks Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Dr. Joel Goodman; Dave Brown; Joanne Kiebler; Sylvia Ramsey; Dan Tracy; Christine O'Connor; and Ed Coleman.

Members Absent:

Jonathan Gresham and Tom Franklin

Staff Present:

John Byrd, Executive Secretary; John Marshall; Laura Wetherald, Chief, Bureau of Recreation; A. Raul Delorme, Bureau of Park Planning and Construction; Mike Milani, Bureau of Administrative Services; Lauren Davis, Assistant to Ms. Wetherald and Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of minutes: Changes were made to the November meeting minutes. Motion was made by Dan Tracy to approve the minutes. 2nd motion made by Christine O'Connor. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Resolution-Presentation by County Vice Chairman, Calvin Ball:

Vice Chairman Calvin Ball honored and presented an award to Laura Wetherald, Josh Fisher, and Greg Fiala.

Dr. Goodman introduced Ed Coleman to the board as a new board member.

Presentation of the FY 2017 Capital Budget by Mr. Raul Delerme:

Dr. Goodman stated that this public hearing is required under Subtitle 4, Section 19.400 of the Howard County Code. The procedure this evening is for the Department of Recreation and Parks Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

Mr. Delerme stated that we are asking for \$11.175 million which is about \$356 thousand more than what we asked for last year.

Project: N3102-FY2000 BLANDAIR REGIONAL PARK

A project to master plan, design, and construct a 298-acre regional park, and restore the 19th century Blandair Mansion and out buildings located off MD175 in Columbia.

Project: N3103-FY2000 PARKLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

This project establishes a fund for County-wide park land acquisition and related expenses. This project allows the County to move quickly to acquire land which becomes available, and satisfies one or more of the following objectives: addresses State and County Greenway objectives, protects sensitive natural resources threatened by development, acquire additions to existing parks, and/or satisfies park and open space needs as identified in the 2005 and 2012 Land Preservation, Recreation and Recreation Plan.

Project: N3105-FY1995 MEADOWBROOK PARK

A project to master plan, design, and develop an 84-acre park located southeast of MD100/US29. Facilities have been determined by the master plan and citizen input.

Project: N3107-FY2000 ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK

A project to provide additional improvements at Rockburn Park to include the synthetic turf field, parking, a restroom and utility extensions. This park is located at Landing and Montgomery Roads.

Project: N3108-FY2004 PARK SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENTS

This project will provide replacement of all types of park facilities and related engineering to include equipment, or building elements which have deteriorated beyond routine maintenance efforts. This project will also address small park upgrades.

Project: N3109-FY2004 PARKS RESURFACING PROGRAM

A project to fund roadway, pathway, trails, parking lot, playground and game court resurfacing, replacement and additions within the County's park system. Improvements may include speed humps, chokers or other traffic calming devices as needed.

Project: N3932-FY2000 WESTERN REGIONAL PARK

A project to design and construct a 160-acre regional park located northwest of the intersection of Carrs Mill Road and MD97. Included will be concession, restroom, pavilion and all utilities.

Project: N3940-FY2000 NORTH LAUREL PARK

A project to design and construct a 51-acre park and swimming pool lying northeast of North Laurel Road and Washington Avenue. Facilities are being determined by a citizen's advisory committee and a master plan effort.

Project: N3947-FY1999 NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

This project will develop neighborhood playground facilities on County parkland or open space throughout the County where community need has been demonstrated.

Project: N3953-FY2000 CENTENNIAL LAKE RESTORATION

A project to design and construct improvements to Centennial Lake to include dredging, artificial aeration, and shoreline stabilization.

Project: N3957-FY2003 TROY PARK & HISTORIC REHABILITATION

A project to acquire an additional 5 acres, rehabilitate an 1820 historic house, and design and construct a 106-acre Regional Park and Community Center/Athletic Complex at MD100 and US1.

Project: N3958-FY2003 HISTORIC STRUCTURES REHABILITATION

This project creates a fund for the preservation and rehabilitation of historic properties under the management of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Work may include archeology studies, historical assessments, design and engineering related to historic buildings and site improvements.

Project: N3959-FY2005 PATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE SITE WORK

A project to design and construct site improvements related to the historic Patapsco Female Institute located on Sarah's Lane in Ellicott City. The improvements will include: upgraded roads, parking, retaining wall reconstruction, walkway and stairway reconstruction, historic fencing, lighting, gazebos, restroom, storage space, caretaker's office, caterer's prep room and landscaping.

Project: N3960-FY2006 ROBINSON PROPERTY NATURE CENTER

A project to design and construct a nature center and related site improvements on the former Robinson property located at Cedar Lane and Harriet Tubman Lane.

Project: N3962-FY2008 CENTENNIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

This project consists of improvements to Centennial Park to include replacement of field lights, synthetic turf field, expanded parking, pond to stream retrofit, stream bank stabilization, maintenance shop/office addition, boat rental expansion, roadway/parking repairs and upgrades, and new signage.

Project: N3963-FY2009 PATHWAY and TRAIL REHAB and EXPANSION

A project to rehabilitate and expand the existing Pathway and Trail System throughout the County. Rehabilitate and expand the existing pathway and trail systems which currently extends from Savage Park through Columbia to Dorsey's Search and throughout the County. Project includes an evaluation and possible improvements to the RT29 Pedestrian Bridge and its approaches.

Project: N3964-FY2007 ALPHA RIDGE PARK ADDITIONS

A project to design and construct a restroom, parking expansion, a pathway and parking lot courtesy lights within Alpha Ridge Park located on RT99 just east of Sand Hill Road.

Project: N3965-FY2007 MIDDLE PATUXENT IMPROVEMENTS

A project to design and construct a restroom, storage building, parking improvements and bridges in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area located southeast of the intersection of MD108 and Trotter Road.

Project: N3967-FY2007 SOUTH BRANCH PARK

A project to design and construct a seven-acre park located at Old West Friendship Road and the Patapsco River just south of Sykesville. Improvements include utility connections, building renovations, court games, playground, pathways, and parking.

Project: N3968-FY2007 CEDAR LANE ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

A project to upgrade the athletic field lighting and fencing at Cedar Lane Park located at MD108 and Cedar Lane. Upgrades will include no spill lights for all existing lighted fields.

Project: N3970-FY2008 RECREATION and PARKS HEADQUARTERS EXPAN

A project to design and construct site improvements and additional office and warehouse space for the Recreation and Parks Headquarters on Oakland Mills Road in Columbia.

Project: N3971-FY2009 FOREST CONSERVATION MITIGATION EASEMENT PGM

A project to conserve or create forested areas within the County through the use of developer fees in accordance with local and State forest mitigation requirements. This project will fund the acquisition of non-County owned property to create forest conservation mitigation easements and to undertake planting on the sites acquired utilizing fees paid in lieu of mitigation on individual development sites. This project will also hire a contractual employee to manage the program

Project: N3972-FY2011 DEFAULTED FOREST CONSERVATION and LANDSCAPING

A project to provide for planting of shrubs, trees, as necessary in a subdivision or site where a developer failed to install the forest conservation improvements and landscape improvements in accordance with the approved forest conservation plan, landscape plan and developer agreement.

Project: N3973-FY2014 EAST COLUMBIA LIBRARY ATHLETIC FIELD and SITE IMPROVEMENTS

A project to upgrade the athletic fields at East Columbia Library, located off of Cradlerock in Columbia. Upgrades will include no spill/glare ballfield lighting and synthetic turf fields.

Project: N3976-FY2025 SOUTH FULTON PARK

A project to master plan, design and construct a 84-acre community park located off of Rt29 and Murphy Road, north of the Patuxent River. Facilities will be determined by a citizen's advisory committee and a master plan effort.

Project: N3977-FY2025 KIWANIS PARK EXTENSION

A project to master plan, design and construct an additional 30-acre site adjacent to the existing Kiwanis Park and to improve the existing park site.

Project: N3978-FY2018 PARKLAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

This project establishes a fund for County-wide park land acquisition and related expenses. This project allows the County to move quickly to acquire land which becomes available, and satisfies one or more of the following objectives: addresses State and County Greenway objectives, protects sensitive natural resources threatened by development, acquire additional land adjacent to existing parks, and/or satisfies park and open space needs as identified in the Departments most recent Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP).

Public Comments:

Dr. Goodman reminded speakers that their comments are limited to three minutes. Dr. Goodman has the right to limit discussion if it is not germane to items of the "Draft" FY2018 Capital Budget and Ten Year Capital Improvement Program. Written comments and suggestions on the Capital Budget and Improvement Program will be received in the office of the Department of Recreation and Parks through 5:00 p.m., December 31, 2016.

Bibu Hi Perutte-Foster: 10115 Stansfield Road, North Laurel, MD 20723

“Good evening everyone, I am very happy to see the pool on the agenda for the North Laurel Community Center. Tonight I am representing the Southern Laurel Civic Association. I think that area would be happy to know that a pool is in the works for this area. How about I ask for \$15 million plus \$500 thousand to get this swimming pool built in 2019. If that is not possible, can we have the \$15 million in our Fy19 budget so that we can get the pool built in 2020. We need this pool because the population is growing, we do not have a swimming pool in this area, and it cost us extra money to go to PG County to use their pools.”

“My second issue is can we please put bathrooms at High Ridge Park by the tennis courts. Thank you.”

Bureau of Parks Updates-John S. Marshall, Chief

Park Operations Division:

- Rockburn Branch Park completed ADA accessible trail connecting field 7 & 8 to the other side of the park (by the cul-de-sac).

Natural Resources Operations & Management Section:

- Megan Mills completed eleven Stream ReLeaf Projects planting 556 trees and shrubs and seven Turf to Trees Projects planting 1,187 trees totaling six acres.
- The Departments’ Managed Deer Hunt Program has harvested 112 deer for the season and Sharpshooting has 11 deer.
- HCPSS has hired the educator position for Robinson Nature Center and they should start by Jan. 1st.
- Robinson Nature Center coordinated with Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Volunteer Coordinator, Kristi Giles concerning a Conservation Stewardship project. The project included working with teen volunteers from the zoo removing invasive plants and replanting with native trees and shrubs throughout the forest understory.
- Robinson Nature Center hosted Volunteer Family Work Day for Howard County Recreation and Parks. Where scout troops, families, and nature center volunteers weeded the service road rain garden, removed invasive plants from the forest understory, and planted additional perennials in the rain garden.

- At the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Cheryl worked with Jeff and volunteers to plant 95 native trees and shrubs during two tree planting events (Nov 8th and 15th) in the woodcock habitat management area and Dave's Meadow transitional edge planting. A Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee Grant through the Forestry Board (\$1,493) funded 65 of the trees and shrubs.
- The Heritage Section led Homeschool History Days at Waverly Mansion. 1,002 people visited Ellicott City Historic Sites during November.
- Nearly 1,000 people visited Santa at the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin on two dates (12/2 – 12/3).

Horticulture and Land Management Division:

- Projects
 - Transplanted Wye Oak seedling to Native Tree Arboretum at Western Regional Park
 - Preparing landscape additions to Belmont for MHT review
 - Nineteen trees were added to the Western Regional Arboretum during the Family Volunteer Day
 - Decorated trees with the holiday lights at Centennial Park and Baldwin Commons
 - Planted a thousand bulbs at Belmont - late daffodils and autumn crocuses
 - Contractor has planted 5,000 daffodil bulbs for Columbia's 50th anniversary at different sites in Columbia

Other

- Belmont Manor and Historic Park – outdoor events closed for the winter
- Heritage sites also closed for winter.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Delorme stated that the Land Preservation Plan will be sent out.

Bureau of Recreation:

Ms. Wetherald stated that Mr. Marshall, herself, and about 8 other staff members have been

proofing the CAPRA Self-Assessment. CAPRA is the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies and we are up for our 4th accreditation. The self-assessment covers 101 standards that we maintain as an agency and we also have to show evidence of compliance. We just found out this week that our 3 visitors that will be coming to see us will be here around the end of March. The board will be asked to be involved in the social for CAPRA and meet some of the visitors.

Ms. Wetherald stated that holiday Mart was a huge success. We had about 125 more people than we had last year. In 2009 we had about 1,700 people attend and jumped up to 2,600 this year. We have been doing this for 44 years. This year we also had a caterer for the event. There were about 125 new people this year attend the event.

Ms. Wetherald stated that we have also been evaluating our summer camps. We run about 1,100 camps during the summer. We did a SWOT analysis of everyone's pros and cons of what worked and what we need improvements on.

Ms. Wetherald stated that Badminton has become very popular and has filled up very quickly for the winter.

Ms. Wetherald stated that we have started the Wine in the Woods planning for the 25th year. We are going to have a special wine to celebrate our 25th year. We also have several sponsors already on board.

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

Mr. Byrd reported that Mike Milani working through the budget process. It looks like our operation budget request is going to be about 7% higher.

Mr. Byrd reported that we had a lot of promotions this year.

Old Business:

Dr. Goodman presented that Recreation and Parks stepped up as a co-sponsor of a model solar system walk and provided the plants and expertise for the project. Woo Salam created the signs

for the project. Dr. Goodman is very happy with the whole process of the project.

Mr. Byrd state that in the bylaws, all officers shall serve on the board for one year and there is no limit on how many times a person may be re-elected.

Ms. O'Connor made a nomination to re-elected Dr. Goodman as the president. Dr. Goodman accepted the nomination. Dan Tracy second the motion.

Mr. Tracy made a nomination to re-elect Sylvia Ramsey as vice chair. Ms. Ramsey accepted the nomination. Motion made to re-elect both Dr. Joel Goodman as president and Mr. Sylvia Ramsey as vice chair.

Mr. Byrd reported that Dave Brown is not an official member of the board but he can be if he needs to fill in for the Board of Education member.

Mr. Brown stated that he values the opportunity to attend our board meetings and has always been a supporter of Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Coleman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Ramsey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.



Dr. Joel Goodman, Chairman

John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary