

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 14, 2018- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
Conference Room #1
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Tom Franklin; Dave Grabowski, Joanne Kiebler; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Daryl Anthony; Cindy Vaillancourt

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Ms. Ramsey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Ramsey to approve the minutes. Mr. Coleman and Ms. Kiebler seconded a motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- Transition team for the new County Executive will meet with the Department in the coming weeks
- Veterans Memorial Park planned for Columbia by Lakefront.
 - Will be owned by Howard County Recreation and Parks but may be managed by the Columbia Association

- Plan to open in Fall 2019
- 50th year of Department of Recreation and Parks. Established in November 1968

Bureau of Parks:

Natural & Historical Resources Division

Forestry and Enforcement

- Megan Mills facilitated Mayfield Woods Elementary School Students Branching Out planting
 - planted 170 trees with entire 7th grade class

Natural Resource Conservation Section

- Jeff Claffy coordinated MPEA's October 23rd Conservation Stewardship Project
 - planted 94 trees and shrubs with 15 volunteers and 4 MPEA staff

Robinson Nature Center

- Received donation from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tree-mendous Program of 60 native trees for the understory and forest edge.
 - Plantings will occur throughout October and through December with various Nature Center volunteers and volunteer groups.
- Led the "Ladies Night Hike" with Kelly Vogelpohl
 - 16 participants
 - asked for the development of a ladies hiking series that would take them to different parks throughout the county.
- Posted #LeaveTheLeaves campaign on social media
 - post got over 350 shares

Living History & Heritage

- Four Ghostly Guides programs ran at the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park and the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum, bringing in a total of \$1,600
- 2,127 people toured the historic sites in Ellicott City in October
- Partnered with Robinson Nature Center with the program *Finding the Way to Freedom*, about the Underground Railroad in Howard County

- Living History and Heritage Program's first school's out program "*For the Union!*" a Civil War themed session plus after-care ran successfully at the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum
 - The section brought in \$12,877.34 in revenue for this month

Park Operations Division

- Preparing natural turf fields for winter
 - Aeration, seeding and fertilizing
- Staff assisted with numerous festive Halloween events held throughout the County:
 - Hocus Pocus was the film featured on October 18 for Movie Night at Centennial Park
 - Rockburn Branch Park hosted EAAA Haunted Experience on October 19 – 21 and October 26 – 28. Despite the rain, which caused several dates to be cancelled, approx. 700 attended the event.
 - 6th annual Barkoween costume contest on October 28 at Worthington Dog Park
 - Belmont hosted a ghost tour of the manor house and grounds on October 23
 - Park staff assisted with the Truck or Treat event held on October 27

Horticulture & Land Management Division

- Rain has still been a factor in October!

Miscellaneous

- Water Fountains with Bottle Filler donation project
 - Marketing is working up a winter campaign to purchase a water fountain as a holiday gift
 - Spring campaign to begin in March
 - 7 fountains donated to date
- Upcoming Events
 - Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum Train exhibit on November 23
 - Former Director Jeff Bourne's retirement party on November 16
 - Bollman Truss Bridge lighting & holiday tree lighting in Savage on December 1 at 6:00pm

- Santa comes to the Baltimore & Ohio Ellicott City Station Museum on December 8, 15, and 22
- Holiday Mart at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood on December 1
- Deer Santa at Robinson Nature Center on December 2
- Search & Rescue Training, Robinson Nature Center on December 5
- Belmont Manor has an Open House on December 2 from 1:00pm-5:00pm
- Belmont Manor has another Open House on December 16 from 3:00pm-6:00pm in partnership with the Howard County Conservancy

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Construction has been slow due to rainy weather
- Received approval on \$485,000 for Troy Park biddings
 - Stadium Field
 - Total of \$2.1 million in funding
- Received a call regarding a plot of land located along Woodbine Morgan Station Road. Since this property is along the South Branch of the Patapsco and adjacent to other County owned property, the Department has asked Real Estate Services to appraise the property for purchase.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Recreation Licensed Childcare (RLC) has 448 children on waitlist
 - Down 200 from the start of school year
 - Bringing in more staff to decrease waitlist even more
- Turkey Bowl 2019 on November 19 and 20
 - Children from different childcare schools compete against each other at Blandair Park
- Other RLC events include: spelling bee, dance competition, and March Madness Basketball Tournament
- Christmas in the Park is scheduled for December 8 at 4:00pm
 - Facebook statistics show 470 people have said they are attending while over 7000 are interested in the event
- Holiday Mart is on December 1 at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood
 - 136 crafters
 - Expecting over 2000 people in attendance

- Truck or Treat Event
 - Was moved indoors due to rain
 - 1500 people registered
- New customer service program being implemented at Community Centers for new staff hires
- Quidditch Tournament at Troy Park
 - Over 20 college teams participated
 - University Maryland won the tournament

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Continuation Budget for FY20 from FY19
- New hires for Blandair maintenance shop are not needed until FY20

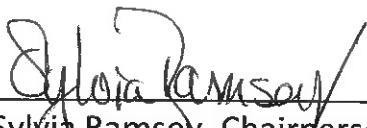
Old Business:

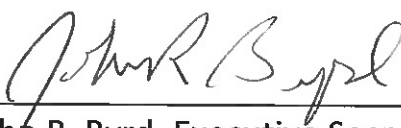
- Mr. Grabowski thanks the Department for the help with the Haunted Experience
 - 28 volunteers came from the staff at Recreation and Parks

New Business:

No New Business

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.


 Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


 John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary

