

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019- 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; Dave Grabowski, Daryl Anthony; Joanne Kiebler; Sabina Taj; Anna Boyd, Student Member

Members Absent:

Tom Franklin

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

Sabina Taj is the new member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board. She is representing the Howard County Board of Education.

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 Mr. Anthony seconded a motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments.

Director's Report:

- MACo Conference in January
 - Expressed the benefits of synthetic turfs.

- Discussed Program Open Space
- Have met with the staff of the new administration.

Bureau of Parks:

- The Natural Resource Conservation section met with two members of Central Audubon of Maryland to set up a study block along Patuxent Branch Trail for a Climate Change pilot study involving the Eastern Bluebird and White-breasted Nuthatch (12/10)
- Placed four 4-post feeders in Dorsey Hall Open Space, one at the Robinson Nature Center, and one at Western Regional Park (UDSA-Deer Study, with some of ours that we loaned them, are currently operating 20 4-posters. We normally manage 10-12).
- Meagan Downey and Stacey Yankee worked together earlier this year to submit an application to the National Informal STEM Education (NISE) Network for their 2019 Explore Science: Earth and Space Toolkit. We have since received notice we were selected to receive one of the toolkits when they come out in February.
- Grant agreements for both B&O projects (caboose and diorama) were sent to Recreation & Parks at the end of the month. Start date for diorama project is being planned. Still finalizing plans for caboose restoration.
- Marketing, qualifying properties and preparing planting plans for our biggest year of the Turf to Tree program yet, with a budget of \$120,000.00.
- Staff news:
 - a. Kenneth Miller – New hire, will be in charge of the Horticulture section of Horticulture and Land Management
 - b. Stacey Yankee – Leaving to take a position with California State Parks
 - c. Bill Sullivan promoted to Operations Supervisor I assigned to Schooley Mill Park in Zone 3

Department of Recreation & Parks Snow Procedures

- Prior to a snow event
 - a. Maintenance – pre-storm
 - b. Review Procedures
 - c. Scheduling
 - d. Staff that go to Department of Public Works – CDL and Pick-up trucks
 - e. Staff responsibilities
 - i. Headquarters

- ii. Ellicott City
 - iii. maintain access to shops
- During the snow event
 - a. Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - i. Coordinates request for service and funnels down to the DOC
 - ii. Makes decisions for the Department
 - b. Department Operations Center (DOC)
 - i. Takes request from EOC and assigns assets to manage the request
 - ii. Tracks all costs associated with asset management
 - iii. Coordinates staff for multiple shifts if necessary

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- Rain continue to be a problem for projects throughout the month
- 90% of base asphalt installed at MPEA in parking lot area.
- North Laurel Community Center pool
 - Meeting in February to review the construction costs
 - Expected to have all funding by FY20
- Patuxent Branch Trail is complete
- Finalizing pricing for the construction of the stadium at Troy Park

Bureau of Recreation:

- Recreational Licensed Child Care (RLC) and Therapeutic Recreation (TR) met with Nicola Morgal to discuss some adjustments/suggestions/possible protocols for school elopers.
 - Children who try to run away from recreation activities.
 - New information will be added to staff and parent manuals for next school year
- RLC staff and Ducketts Lane Elementary School participated in an International Christmas Card Exchange with Australia, Portugal, and Ireland.
- North Laurel Community Center has an HVAC fan broken on December 14th, causing minor fire.
 - Center was evacuated.
 - Part has been replaced. Waiting for drywall to be replaced.
- Great Howard Club Lacrosse
 - 205 total teams

- Increase from 2018
- Chesapeake Regional Volleyball Association approved 13 Columbia Volleyball Club hosted tournaments in 2019
 - First tournament is January 6th, hosted by Howard County Recreation & Parks.
- A new brochure explaining the inclusion process has been printed.
- Community Center stats for December 2018.
 - North Laurel Community Center: 18,156 users, \$19,054 income
 - Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood: 22,302 users, \$29,796 income
 - Roger Carter Community Center: 36,179 users, \$77,583.72
- 734 gymnasts participated in the Top Flight Invitational on December 1st and 2nd.
 - Increase from 2017.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- From July 2018 to December 2018: Almost \$600,000 in field rental income.
 - Up from \$406,000 in 2017
- Winter registration revenue up \$50,000 from 2017
- 113,770 followers on Facebook for month of December
- 235 full-time positions, 82 part-time benefited positions, and 0 frozen positions.
- 43 total vacancies for 2019, 19 filled by promotions, 12 filled by contingent workers.
- 17,481 hours for part time workers every pay period.
- In the process of developing new payroll system.

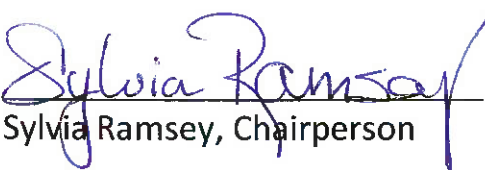
Old Business:

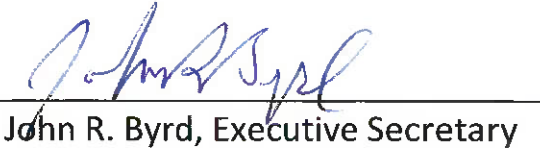
No Old Business

New Business:

Spending of Affordability Committee will be coming out with a report to decide on the budget for upcoming Capital Projects.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Ms. Taj. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.


Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary

