

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 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; Anna Boyd, Student Member; Daryl Anthony; Dave Grabowski

Members Absent:

Joanne Kiebler; Cindy Vaillancourt

Staff Present:

John R. Byrd, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Mike Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services; Raul Delerme, Bureau Chief of Capital Projects and Planning; 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. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Anthony. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Received email showing numerous positive reviews of Belmont Manor wedding events.

Director's Report:

Update on Harriet Tubman School

- Old cafeteria held the Harriet Tubman Day Celebration in September 2018
- Voting on proposed plans will be taking place shortly
- Hoping to open in Fall 2019

Bureau of Parks:

Natural & Historical Resources Division

Natural Resource Conservation Section

- Sue Muller led the International Coastal Clean-up with 14 volunteers collecting 696lbs of recycling and 439lbs of trash on September 22.

Park Operations Division

- Patuxent Branch Trail: Weekly repair and clean-up after heavy rains
- Repaired major washouts from the storms.
- 175-year-old white oak tree that stood at the Landing Road entrance at Rockburn Branch Park fell during the night of September 16th. Exploring options for keepsakes from the tree.

Horticulture & Land Management Division

- Replacing various perennials and shrubs as well as 2,000 pansies at Belmont Manor and Historic Park.
- Staff will be finishing the peony garden at the Elkridge Library.
- Staff have treated 17 maple trees at the Elkridge Library this month for scale insects.
- Updating irrigation plans for Belmont Manor. We hope to install in November after the wedding season ends.

Miscellaneous

- September was Emergency Preparedness Month. At the request of the Office of Emergency Management, the Department created a series of short videos that demonstrated the role we play in emergency management.
- Water Fountains with Bottle Filler donation project:
 - Rockburn Branch Park - donated by the Patapsco Heritage Greenway
 - Centennial Park by Pavilion O – donated by Olivia Souweine
 - Centennial Park by south area playground – donated by Buoyant Technologies
 - Meadowbrook Park by large playground – donated by Buoyant Technologies
 - Cedar Lane Park near multipurpose fields – donated by Technologies

- Upcoming Events

- Haunted Experience at Rockburn Branch Park on October 19, 20, 26 and 27, 2018.
- B&O Train Exhibit starts on November 23, 2018.
- Bollman Truss Bridge lighting & holiday tree lighting in Savage on December 1, 2018 at 6:00pm
- Christmas in the Park at Centennial Park on December 8, 2018.

Bureau of Capital Projects and Planning:

- The East Columbia Library Park funds were donated over to Ellicott City funds and will be returned next fiscal year.
- Construction has slowed down due to excessive rain. No major damage to facilities.
- North Laurel Pool Project has been reviewed. Bidding expected in June 2019.
- Roger Carter Community Center pool changing over to salt water system instead of chlorine system.
- Rockburn Park and Cedar Lane Park are beginning to get turf fields renovated.
- FY20 Capital Budget review at the December Recreation & Parks Board Meeting.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Recreation Licensed Childcare (RLC) continued to work on staffing shortages in RLC.
- There have been 13 additional staff hired, RLC staff are working with Therapeutic Recreation (TR) staff to create a combined job ad. Many groups within the Department seek out Howard Community College students.
- There are other staffing shortages as well for specific program areas such as TR.
- Recreational Licensed Childcare and Community Services no longer receive the Bridges grant for the CATS and JAWS after school programs. Teen program staff are working on adapting budgets, new program models and plans for outreach and partnerships to replace this loss. Staff are still pursuing the other options in case grants are lost again.
- More focus needed on funding programs without funding source but focus on program equity.

- Mini Makers Faire preparation and implementation partnered with Chrysalis - Nina Basu.
- Celebration of Sports – we are expecting 500 attendees including 72 GoodSport Award recipients and their families.

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Renovations at Timber of Troy Golf Course is almost complete.
- FY 18 brought in \$12.1 million in revenue.
- 48 new hires in the department of which 40 were internal hires.
- Senior program and facilities staff will be moved over to Belmont Manor from the Bain Center.

Old Business:

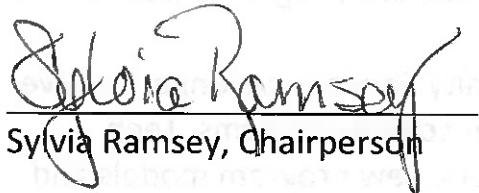
No Old Business

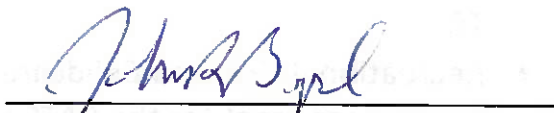
New Business:

Draft of Declaration of Park Property Preservation Covenants was endorsed unanimously by board.

- Ensures that Rockburn Branch Park land will not be used for any future major construction projects.
- Restricts to Recreation and Parks activities only.
- Howard County Conservancy Board with Recreation Parks drafted the language and guidelines for the declaration.

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A seconded motion was made by Mr. Grabowski. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.


Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson


John R. Byrd, Executive Secretary