

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020- 7:00pm
Department of Recreation Headquarters
WebEx Video Meeting

Members Present:

Sylvia Ramsey, Chair; Ed Coleman, Co-Chair; Dave Grabowski; Tom Franklin;
Eduardo S. Marin, Student Member

Staff Present:

A. Raul Delerme, Director; John S. Marshall, Bureau Chief of Parks; Laura T. Wetherald, Bureau Chief of Recreation; Robert T. Linz, Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Michael T. Milani, Bureau Chief of Administration; Ryan Etter, Recording Secretary; Bryan Moody, Senior Administrative Analyst, Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction; Jason Thompson, Park Planner, Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction

Call to Order:

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

Capital Projects FY22 Draft Budget Virtual Public Hearing and Presentation:

Acting Bureau Chief of Capital Projects and Planning, Robert T. Linz gave presentation for the FY22 Capital Projects Budget.

- Approved unanimously by the Board

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Approval of Minutes:

Dave Grabowski made a motion to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Ed Coleman. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report:

- On November 27th, updated COVID Guidelines
 - 25 people maximum for the Dog Park

- Only 25 people per field allowed
- Limiting each room of indoor facilities to 10 people
- 10 people per court at facilities

Bureau of Parks:

- Cheryl Farfaras drafted an MPEA Metrics 2020 document and presented it to the MPE Foundation at their November 18th Board meeting. Metrics include measures of success for Natural Resources management goals (bird surveys and vegetation surveys), education and research goals (programming participants and research projects), and nature-related recreation numbers (trail use and trail quality).
- The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a youth leadership development program sponsored by the U.S. Navy. Its mission is to build leaders of character. Based out of Ft. McHenry, Maryland.
- Brian Campbell prepared Robinson Nature Center as a host site for Family Volunteer Day and supervised the operation. Ten highly motivated volunteers from the Sea Cadets did an outstanding job removing trash along the Open Space trail. The 30 hours contributed were spent removing 120 pounds of litter along the Middle Patuxent River floodplain.
- The lightning alerting system's electrical and internet connections will be completed in 4 of the 8 regional parks by the end of the month.
- In the spring, the water fountain with bottle filler donation program will evolve to accept the replacement of indoor fountains. Sites will need to be evaluated first.
- Gwynn Acres Park – ash tree clean-up
- Note: 60+ trees were planted in November
 - 43 deer harvested as of December 14, 2020

Bureau of Capital Projects, Park Planning and Construction:

- **Blandair Park Phase 3-** Construction continues on the comfort station and pavilion. All playground items have been addressed and the parking lots have been repaired with the base course of asphalt installed at the maintenance building complex and 80% of the West lot. Department of Natural Resources is waiting on the ribbon cutting to reimburse the \$2.5M Program Open Space development grant.

- **Blandair Park Phase 6-** We have received the revised project proposal from WRA and anticipate approving it this week. We will be meeting with Spohn Ranch after the holidays to begin the skate park design conversation and obtain a design proposal. We are reducing the \$1.9M application to \$1.1M for the Program Open Space(POS) development grant to match the accepted FY21 POS Annual Program.
- **Centennial Park-** The boat rental area pathway and ADA parking lot project design is 80% complete and we are anticipating beginning construction this spring pending park event schedules. Construction staff are finishing reframing the deck at pavilion F and should be installing composite decking next week.
- **McAlpine Path Stream Stabilization-** Ecotone Contractors have been approved to perform the work. A schedule will be set after the holidays.
- **Holiday Hills Playground Shade Structure-** The shade structure installation will begin in the next 2 weeks.
- **Cedar Lane Park Dugouts-** Paul Walsky will begin the permit process in January.
- **Meadowbrook Athletic Complex-** General Paving is currently working on concrete and asphalt repairs, along with the installation of two dumpster pads at the site.
- **Belmont Station Bridge-** We are awaiting MDE approval to remove the existing culvert crossing and install stream bank stabilization for the new bridge.
- **Savage Mill Remainder-** The seller has a contractor removing the construction debris piles on the 4.5-acre site. We have hired a consultant to monitor the debris removal.
- **COVID-19 Cares Act-** All staff time and purchases to date have been recorded and will be submitted to Finance and the Grants section this week for review and reimbursement. Our current deadline is December 30, 2020 for additional purchases.
- **Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park-** AECOM has been issued a Purchase Order and has started design work for the Chapel project.
- **David Force Park-** We have Purchase Orders for the two bridges and they have been ordered. We have also received MDE permits for the project.
- **Kiwanis Wallas Park-** A Purchase Order has been issued for the field #6 lighting project. We are awaiting the grant funding transfer before issuing a notice to proceed.

Mr. Franklin asked if Recreation & Parks could qualify for funding under the new national legislation "Great American Outdoors Act" that provides \$900 million annually for outdoor recreation. It was stated that staff is receiving briefings about this legislation and how it may apply to the County.

Mr. Delerme and Mr. Moody said that we were made aware of the funding, but we are prioritizing Program Open Space funded projects due to the smaller match requirement.

Bureau of Recreation:

- Family Volunteer Day

- Knitting and Crochet Group luncheon was held as a drive through event
- Virtual Programming has reached a greater audience
 - Participants from Maine and Virginia for cooking class
- COVID-19 Guidelines Updated
 - 5 people in fitness rooms for Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood and North Laurel Community Center
 - 10 people allowed in fitness room for Roger Carter Community Center
 - Weather policy adjusted
 - Each center makes their own decisions
 - All programs cancelled if Snow Emergency is in effect
 - Offering indoor archery for first time
 - Changing pool water to salt water
 - Safer than chlorine delivery and handling
 - Helps air quality
 - Reduces expenses
 - Pool will be more accessible to people who have sensitivity to chemicals
 - Won award for Truck or Treat event

Bureau of Administrative Services:

- Preparing for operating budget
 - Asking for money to help with Blandair Park playground and Millie Bailey Park
- Lost lease holder at Waverly Mansion
 - Taking over to make into wedding and historic program venue
- New payroll system is up and running

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

No new business

Ms. Ramsey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. A second motion was made by Mr. Grabowski and Mr. Coleman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Sylvia Ramsey

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Sylvia Ramsey, Chairperson

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Raul Delorme

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Raul Delorme, Executive Secretary