

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
May 26th, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Members Present: Kristin Darby, Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Michael Rodgers, Derek Ludlow, Brad Rockwood, Caitlin Christ, Michael Duffy, Anita Taylor, Dave Ferguson

Members Excused: Tom Long

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Will Brozy, Laura Tawes, Carolyn Williams, Jamie Noel, Trish Cross, Brad Rogers, Dawn Harry

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on May 26th, 2021 at Hashawha Environmental Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Kristin Darby, Board Chair.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brad Rockwood moved to approve the March 24th, 2021 meeting minutes with a date correction for the May meeting; Donald Gerkin seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **COVID-19 Update** – Recreation and Parks office in Robert Moton Center reopening to public June 1 (no appointment necessary); in person meetings resuming
2. **Capital Project Update**
 - Westminster Veterans Memorial Park –playground ordered with late June anticipated completion date for park and ribbon cutting in July
 - Hap Baker Firearms Facility - range officer building construction completed
 - Krimgold Park - paving of parking spaces anticipated to be completed by end of June, pavilion to follow later this summer
 - Trail resurfacing at Freedom Park completed on rear 2/3 of trail
 - Piney Run Nature Center- center has reopened to the public, additional improvements coming
3. **Carroll County Arts Council** – Executive Director Judy Morley will be leaving her position in September and search is underway for her replacement

4. **Budget Process Update** – FY 22 budget adopted by Commissioners – little impact on operating budget and capital budget outcome was very positive with full Program Open Space funding as well as additional \$1.5 million for park projects
5. **Charles Carroll Community Center** – Project expected to go out to bid for construction soon
6. **50th Anniversary Event** – Hashawha will host 50th anniversary dinner event on October 2 from 4 pm – 8 pm. Save the date reminders have been sent out and tickets will be on sale soon.
7. **Community Parks & Playground Grant Awards for FY 2022** - Several municipalities received grants including Hampstead (\$245,050 War Memorial Park Revitalization), Manchester (\$52,000 for Christmas Tree Park renovations) and Mount Airy (\$172,949 for Watkins Park Playground Phase II)
8. **Patapsco Regional Greenway** – Concept design underway for 41-mile long trail that would connect Sykesville with Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, running through Patapsco Valley State Park. Design effort is funded by Baltimore Metropolitan Council and comment period open through June 11. We have shared project info and link on Department’s Facebook page with nearly 15,000 people reached

Marketing Update:

Trish Cross, Marketing Specialist, gave a presentation outlining the department’s new marketing initiatives including social media, photography, updating design and promotional materials, building relationships with the press, website updates and advertising.

Capital Budget Discussion:

Jeff Degitz shared results from the recent Needs Assessment Survey such as more trails and restrooms and most requested items from the Additional Comments section such as artificial turf fields and long distance multi use trails such as a rail trail. He also discussed the possibility of adding a waterless restroom at Hashawha. Dave Ferguson suggested adding waterless restrooms at Hodges or Freedom Park, as well as Basketball courts at Hodges, Freedom, Krimgold or Springfield Hospital Site that is leased by the County from the State.

Tony Rosas and Derek Ludlow suggested a “scoring system” be implemented to improve trails by providing more upfront information to users regarding length, difficulty, etc. They discussed the possibility of applying for a grant for our trails to be evaluated for possible changes and improvements. The information will be sent to Jeff Degitz and discussed by the Trail Committee. The committee itself cannot apply for the grant because it cannot match the funds. The county would have to facilitate any grant application and would need to get approval from Commissioners to apply and fund any required match.

Nomination/Election of Vice Chairman:

Kristin Darby nominated Donald Gerkin for Vice Chairman/Chair Elect, Tony Rosas seconded the motion, and all were in favor, except Mike Duffy who left early.

Other Business:

Lisa Carroll discussed the 50th Anniversary stickers that will be placed in the parks during the month of July. Laura Tawes passed out sponsorship fliers for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. On a motion by Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 2:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary