

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
July 24, 2024
Robert Moton Center

Unapproved Minutes

Members Present: Kristen Darby, Donald Gerkin, Michael Duffy, Nadine Rosendale, Lynn Karr-Kratz, Austin Johnstone, John Woodley.

Members Excused: David Ferguson, Meghan Vaughn, Gary Davis.

Ex-Officio Member Present: Bob Hicks, Director.

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Stacey Widener.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on July 24, 2024, in the Friends of Robert Moton Meeting Room at the Robert Moton Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Ms. Darby.

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome and introductions were exchanged around the room. Guests included Dawn Prosser from Winfield Softball and Carolyn Garber from the Carroll County Equestrian Council.

Approval of Minutes:

The May minutes were corrected to include Lynn Karr-Kratz, who was missing from the copy that Mr. Hicks emailed out. The June minutes were corrected regarding the acreage amount of the property settled on by Cape Horn Park, revised from 49 acres to just under 44 acres. Ms. Darby made the motion to approve both sets of minutes, and Mr. Gerkin seconded the motion.

Director's Report - Mr. Hicks

- **Staffing Updates:**
 - Stacey Widener, Office Assistant, is again taking minutes. Our new Administrative Assistant, who started on June 6th, resigned on July 9th due to

family issues. We have posted the job opening, which is open until August 8th. We hope to have a new Administrative Assistant by the September meeting.

- Lisa Carroll, Recreation Bureau Chief, will provide some updates.
- We have a new Piney Run Program Associate. Ross Mason started on July 18th, and Dylan Collins moved to the Superintendent's position. Ross is new to the county; he is not a promotion from within.

Upcoming Projects:

Ms. Carroll discussed upcoming events and programs:

- The Park Pursuit program will run through the end of July. This has been a fun program for families. Participants need to turn in their completed booklets by July 31st, and we will have a drawing on August 1st for four Hershey Park tickets.
- One more outdoor movie will be shown on July 26th at the Sports Complex to celebrate National Recreation & Parks Month. The movie "Arthur the King" (rated PG-13) will be shown.
- Hashawha will hold an adult camp, similar to the 6th-grade Outdoor School Program, from September 23-25. It will be three days and two nights of guided hikes, survival games, stream searches, campfires, and more. Food is provided, and guests will stay in cabins. It should be a fun time.
- Monarch Madness will be held on September 7th at Bear Branch Nature Center.
- There will be an overnight bus trip to Niagara Falls (US side) on September 12-13. We are finally resuming overnight trips after COVID-19 paused them for a few years.
- The Fall guide is due to come out in mid-August.
- Ms. Carroll spoke about the Hall of Fame Volunteer of the Year ceremony on November 7th. The ceremony will again be held at the Charles Carroll Community Center. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 PM, and the program will begin at 7:00 PM. We received positive feedback on the Charles Carroll location last year, and we will have extra seating this year.

Director Hicks spoke about the Self Help program. The meeting will take place at the County Office Building on September 25th, and applications are due by Saturday, September 7th. This

corrects the original date, which mistakenly listed Wednesday, September 7th. This year, \$124,000 is available, up from \$90,000 the previous year. Projects are capped at \$24,000 each, and anything above \$1,000 requires three quotes. Ms. Karr-Kratz asked if the recreation councils could donate time instead of dollars, and Director Hicks said he would look into it.

Other Business:

- Director Hicks discussed the pre-bid for the paving project at Piney Run. Bids are due on July 31st. They plan to start around December 1st, once the parks close for the season. There is a tight window for paving, dependent on weather conditions. The plan is to repave the entrance and the area around the gatehouse, redo and regrade the trailer parking area, replace the split rail fencing with guard rail in the turnaround circle, and turn parking spaces diagonally to make it easier and safer to pull in and out.
- Director Hicks mentioned that they settled on the Cape Horn-adjacent property today at 4:00 PM. The total amount of acreage is 43.96, with one parcel at 40 acres and the other at 3.96 acres. The property will likely have an agricultural lease for a few years as we plan its utilization.
- Park staff is working with GIS and Brightly to geolocate everything within the parks. This process will provide a comprehensive inventory of fixed assets, aiding in budgeting and maintenance planning.
- Director Hicks discussed updating the code of ordinances to address new issues, such as model rockets, drones, remote-controlled vehicles, domestic animals in parks, recreational marijuana, paragliders, ultralights, hot air balloons, and the operation of private businesses inside the parks.

Public Comments:

- Carolyn Garber asked if the millings from the repaving at Piney Run could be sent to the Equestrian Center. Director Hicks stated that most of the millings would be repurposed at Piney Run, but any extra could go to the Equestrian Center. Ms. Garber also asked about geolocating trails in the Hashawha and Union Mills areas, noting the value of including emergency access gate locations in the GIS mapping.

- Mr. Woodley mentioned that he is happy to be back and taking a more active role on the board, noting that he had recently been traveling back and forth to Louisiana often to care for his elderly mother.
- A question was raised about holding advisory board meetings virtually if members could not attend in person. Board members were open to the idea, especially if needed for a quorum. This is something that will need to be explored.

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be held on September 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the County Office Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hicks

Bob Hicks, Director

Stacey Smith Widener

Stacey Smith Widener, Secretary