

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, September 4, 2014
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Sabrina Hecht, Tom Nelson, Patrick Murphy, David Phalen, James Swift, Ashley Varner and Lisa Wainger-Rush

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Cranford.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Division Manager; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Richard Buckler, Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Nelson moved, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of June 19, 2014; motion carried 7-0.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager, who provided an update on Recreation Division programs and activities. Updates included:

- Summer camps were very successful this year; over 300 different youth participated in various camps. Camps were held at Carver and Hollywood Recreation Centers and Elms Beach Park and served ages from 3-15.
- Participation in the July sports camps was up this year.
- Therapeutic camps - Camp Inspire and New Horizons Camps - saw over 80 children participate.
- This year's summerstock musical was "Grease" and saw over 3,000 in attendance for eight nights; this was up over 600 from last year's show. Next year's show will be "the Sound of Music."
- The dome structure will be placed over the pool on or about September 2nd.
- Registration for fall leisure programs begins on August 25th.
- Childcare is being offered at eight sites this year. Full day care is also provided on most school holidays. The teen program is off to a good start with nine enrolled. The new Tiny Tots program at Hollywood Recreation Center is also becoming very popular. The Parents Night Out program is planned for the third Saturday of each month.
- New doors have been installed at the Leonard Hall Recreation Center.
- Adult dodge ball tournament is planned for Saturday, October 4th.
- The competitive cheer team has about 100 enrolled with four teams.
- Punt, Pass and Kick competition is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th.
- Sports Coordinator Kyle Kebaugh has been selected to attend the MRPA Leadership Training program.
- Over 500 have registered for the upcoming Gymnastics session.

Board member Sabrina Hecht thanked staff for a great camp experience; her children really enjoyed the summer camps.

Lisa Wainger-Rush asked about the need for a new facility to house the Gymnastics facility. Ms. Hale stated the current leased facility is aging and is at capacity. Ms. Rush stated that a new gymnastics facility project should be considered for the Capital Improvements Program.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Recreation and Parks Board and staff members presented certificates of appreciation to Josh Viar, Boy Scout Troop 303 members, and his family for recent improvements made to the nature trail at Chancellor's Run Regional Park. Josh's Eagle Scout project consisted of cleaning the trail of existing trash, limbs, logs and other debris; moving signs; and installing a trail kiosk.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Brian Loewe provided an update on the status of several park and facility improvement projects.

Piney Point Pier Replacement

The project to replace the aging pier at the Piney Point Landing is scheduled to begin on September 8th. The anticipated completion date is November 30th.

Tennis Court Replacement Project

The project to upgrade the tennis courts at Chancellor's Run, Fifth District and Jarboesville Parks is now complete.

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

Approval to advertise the project was received from SHA on May 8, 2014. The project was advertised on EMaryland Marketplace and advertised on the County's website on May 30th. The pre-bid meeting for the project was held on June 16th; the bid opening was held on July 10th. There were two bidders on the project. There was a project shortfall of \$769,006. On August 19th, the Commissioners approved an anticipated plan to accept additional SHA TEP funding in the amount of \$353,240 and address the remaining shortfall of \$415,766 by transferring funds from the Recreation Facilities and Parks Improvements project.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

The project is now 95% complete. It is hoped that conversion of the storm water management facilities and over seeding of the fields can take place this fall, weather permitting. The work on the asphalt pathway is now complete. The new fields are anticipated to be ready for use in spring 2015.

Lancaster Park

Design and engineering is now complete for the project to construct two additional multi-purpose fields, parking and an entrance road at this park off Willows Road. The solicitation was advertised on July 10th; the pre-bid meeting was held on July 30th; and the bid opening was August 14th. The bids are currently being evaluated by R&P and Procurement staff.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Lancaster Park

Work is now underway on the interior renovation of the former "Flat Tops" house at Lancaster Park. The project is anticipated to be complete in fall 2014; a ribbon cutting ceremony will likely

be held in October or November.

Leonardtown Park Design and Engineering Project

The park's draft concept plan includes multi-purpose fields, baseball/softball fields, a playground, dog park, restroom building, and parking. A Phase II archeology study is required on specific areas of the site. That work is anticipated to begin later this month. The concept planning is on hold until the results of the survey are received.

Ms. Wainger-Rush asked about the Newtowne Neck State Park master planning process. Mr. Loewe stated that a park open house is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th from 12 – 3:00 p.m. at the Newtowne Neck Farmstead located at 21310 Newtowne Neck Road in Leonardtown, MD 20650. A design charrette is scheduled on the same day, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the College of Southern Maryland. More information can be found on the DNR website at <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/newtowne.aspx>

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Chairman Buckler asked members to think of topics for upcoming presentations. He was interested in an update on the Recreation Enterprise Fund. Ms. Wainger-Rush expressed the desire for a future report on trends, what the current needs are in recreation, and the level of service that is being provided.

R&P BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on October 2, 2014.