

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, September 6, 2018
United States Colored Troops Civil War Interpretive Center
Lexington Park, Maryland
5:45 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Caroline King, Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Richard Buckler, Nick Colvin, Joe Longobardi, Fred Parker and Floyd Warren.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Murphy and Tom Nelson.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Shepherd, Recreation and Parks Department Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator, and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Nat Scroggins, Unified Committee on Afro-American Contributions, and Vicki Volk, Executive Director, Community Development Corporation, also attended the meeting.

TOUR OF UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS (USCT) MEMORIAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Director Arthur Shepherd introduced Nat Scroggins who provided an overview of the exhibits in the Interpretive Center and history of the USCT in St. Mary's County.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Caroline King called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Board members Nick Colvin and Joe Longobardi were introduced to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Parker moved, seconded by Doug Bellis, to approve the minutes of August 2, 2018; motion carried with all in favor.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED CONCEPT PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE LEXINGTON MANOR PROPERTY

Director Shepherd introduced Vicki Volk, Executive Director, Community Development Corporation, who provided an overview of the mission and work of the CDC.

Mr. Shepherd provided information and draft timeline on concept planning efforts to date for the Lexington Manor North Parcel. Through the local Metropolitan Planning Organization/Land Use & Growth Management (MPO) staff, the scope of work was developed and the project is out to bid with a closing date of September 21, 2018 (since extended to October 1st). The MPO requested proposals from consultants to provide a concept plan for the 80+/- acre Lexington Manor property to include multiuse bike/pedestrian trail inter-connecting with the Lexington Park community.

Preliminary vision includes: provide clear lines of site throughout the property by removing understory vegetation; construct lighted bike/pedestrian trail from the Willows Road/Shangri-La Drive intersection to Coral Place along an extended Misima Court; improve condition of roads and walking paths; improve the condition of open space grass areas; minimize vehicular traffic south of Lei Drive; utilize Lancaster Park as the entrance to the Interpretive Center; establish parking areas; and engage regional artists in

the design process for lighting, curbing, fencing, murals, benches etc. There will be opportunity for public input at public informational meetings.

FY2020 CIP BUDGET DISCUSSION

Arthur Shepherd, Director, and David Guyther, Parks Manager, provided an overview of several FY2019 Recreation Facilities & Parks Improvements Projects which are in various stages of planning and/or construction.

Mr. Shepherd also provided an overview of the proposed Multi-use Game Field Improvement Plan. Affiliated youth sports league representatives, coaches and parents have inquired about the condition of multi-purpose game fields (football, lacrosse, soccer, field hockey) in our County parks. The Director has held meetings over the summer with league representatives to discuss issues. Concerns centered around the following: condition of natural field turf; irrigation; number of fields; grass cutting; and lighting. Additional meetings are anticipated to be held over the coming months in advance of the FY2020 CIP budget process and the Board will be updated on the status.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Shepherd provided the Board with some brief project updates which included:

- Wiecks Playground – installation of playground equipment is nearly complete; ribbon cutting scheduled for September 11, 2018.
- Nicolet Park Entrance – project now complete; ribbon cutting was held on August 21, 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fred Parker requested an agenda item for the next Board meeting to discuss a memorial along Three Notch Trail for former Board member Jim Swift.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on October 4, 2018.