

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Wednesday, October 2, 2013
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Tom Nelson, Vice-Chairperson; Phil Cranford, Sabrina Hecht, Julie Lemmon, David Phalen and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Hicks and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Phalen moved, seconded by Tom Nelson, to approve the minutes of September 5, 2013; motion carried 7-0.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

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

- Great Mills Swimming Pool Tenth Anniversary Celebration – Ms. Hale provided a memo of invitation to the Board for the Ten Year Anniversary Celebration planned for the Great Mills Pool. The event will be held on Sunday, October 20th, from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the pool. The day will include water aerobics and scuba diving demonstrations, games, door prizes, family musical entertainment, food and open swim time – all free to the public.
- Leonard Hall Recreation Center Flooring – The bid opening for the Leonard Hall flooring replacement project is scheduled for October 22nd. The aging flooring at this heavily used facility will be replaced with new Sport Court® flooring.
- Marketing efforts – New rack cards have been designed for facilities, sports, pool, special events, childcare and gymnastics.
- The winter program guide will be available on November 10th. Citizens can look for information at R&P sites, the main office and on the county website.

UPDATE ON TOWN OF LEONARDTOWN PROJECTS

Laschelle McKay, Town Administrator, provided an update on activities and projects moving forward in the Town of Leonardtown.

- Leonard's Grant – This project will ultimately include 350 new homes off Leonard's Grant Parkway, off MD 245, in Leonardtown.
- Clark's Rest – This project will ultimately include 370 new homes off MD Route 5 in Leonardtown at the site of the former Leonardtown Dairy.
- MD Route 5 Project – Planning continues for future improvements along MD Route 5 in Leonardtown. The concept plan calls for a four lane design with a raised median. Also includes sidewalks from Leonard's Grant to the downtown area.

- Port of Leonardtown Park – Community Parks and Playgrounds funding was received to continue enhancements at the Port of Leonardtown Park. Additional walkways, parking and a picnic pavilion are planned.
- Arts and Entertainment District Designation – Leonardtown was recently named one of Maryland’s new Arts and Entertainment Districts. This designation makes the town eligible for grants and state-wide promotion.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

Construction continues on this project to add additional practice fields adjacent to Fifth District Park and Lettie Dent Elementary School. Installation of topsoil and compost is currently taking place at the site, with the goal of fertilizer and grass seeding to be completed by October 25th (depending upon the weather).

Lancaster Park

Design and engineering continues to move forward on this project to construct two additional multi-purpose fields, parking and an entrance road at this park off Willows Road. It is anticipated this construction project will be out to bid in early 2014.

Leonardtown Park Design and Engineering Project

The Soltesz engineering firm continues to work with county staff on the concept planning for this new county park. The park is envisioned to include multi-purpose fields, baseball/softball fields, a playground, restroom building, and parking. When the draft is finalized, it will be presented to the Board, Board of Education, Town of Leonardtown, Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners.

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

A. Morton Thomas and Associates and county staff are in the process of finalizing the report with answers to comments received from questions generated from the final review meeting with MD State Highway Administration last spring. All local approvals have been received for the project. Staff anticipates sending the draft solicitation document and full PS&E packet to the State Highway Administration for approval to advertise the project in the near future.

Civil War Interpretive Center

The Interpretive Center is intended to include displays and information about the Civil War Memorial as well as African American history and contributions in St. Mary’s County. It is also envisioned that the center will provide space for meetings and community activities, as well as public restrooms for the memorial park and the adjacent pavilion. The information on the bidder was sent to DGS for contract approval related to the Bond Bill funding; that approval is expected in the near future.

Wicomico Shores Landing Restroom Replacement

The design / build project has been awarded to the firm of W.M. Davis and is currently in the permitting phase. The old restrooms located at the landing will be replaced with a new restroom building in the area near the pavilion.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Loewe announced that the annual Blessing of the Fleet will be held this weekend, October 5th & 6th. This is an annual event sponsored by the Seventh District Optimist Club and proceeds fund activities and programs for youth in the community.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013 at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on _____.