

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Nelson, Vice-Chairperson; Patrick Murphy, David Phalen, Ashley Varner and Lisa Wainger-Rush

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Buckler, Phil Cranford and James Swift (Sabrina Hecht previously resigned from the Board).

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Division Manager; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; Meghan McLean, Child Care Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Members of the Southern Maryland BMX, Inc. group and Youth Football leagues were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Tom Nelson, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Phalen moved, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of October 2, 2014; motion carried 5-0.

BMX STRIDER BIKE PRESENTATION

Mr. Kyle Lightbown, members of the Southern Maryland BMX group, and the Scott Hoppe family, donated 12 youth strider bikes to R&P's Childcare section. The Recreation and Parks Department and Advisory Board thanked all those present for the very generous donation. The BMX facility is located at the County's Chaptico Park. Information on the sport, memberships, and races can be found on the Southern Maryland BMX website at <http://sombmx.com>

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager, who provided a report on programs, activities and events of the Recreation Division. Highlights included:

- The new program guide is now available and can be accessed online.
- Registration is underway for indoor sports.
- Several new leisure programs are planned.
- New birthday party packages have been well received at Hollywood Recreation Center.
- Summer camp registration begins on March 1st.
- Dad and Daughter Dance will be held on February 7th.
- The New York City bus trip was a huge success.
- The Gymnastics Center competitive team is doing well and has received several awards.
- About 1,000 young people have registered for basketball so far this season.
- Plans are being made for this year's Easter Egg Festival.

YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING PRESENTATIONS

Recreation and Parks invited representatives of the three youth football leagues to provide an overview of the organizations. Guests included: Kerm Nored, Mechanicsville Braves; Richard Abell, Leonardtown Wildcats; and Dave Burris, Pax River Raiders. A Powerpoint presentation was provided that detailed the accomplishments, concerns and future events and opportunities for each group. The leagues thanked the Department of Recreation and Parks staff for support throughout the football and cheer season. They expressed concern over current field conditions and operating expenses (field lights).

Board member Patrick Murphy suggested that the football leagues invite the R&P Board to opening day ceremonies. He also recommended they try having banquets at Wicomico Shores Golf Course.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

The project is nearly complete. The new fields are anticipated to be ready for use in spring 2015.

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

The construction contract was awarded for Three Notch Trail Phase VI on December 1st. The preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for January 12, 2015. This Phase will run from MD Route 5 in Mechanicsville to MD Route 236 in New Market for a distance of about five miles. This section will link already completed sections in Laurel Grove and Charlotte Hall and will provide 11 miles of trail in the north county area.

United States Colored Troops Memorial Interpretive Center Ribbon Cutting

The interior renovations on the former "Flat Tops" building area complete. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Leonardtown Park Design and Engineering Project

The Phase II Archeological Study work began in late August and is expected to be completed this month. The report will then be sent to MHT for review, comment and approval.

Shannon Farms Property

The Conservation Fund and the County went to settlement on the property on November 24th. The purchase of this 212± acre property is a partnership between the Navy, MD DNR and St. Mary's County. The purchase will provide space for additional passive recreational and waterfront activities for citizens and help to buffer Pax River NAS from encroachments in the future.

Mr. Murphy asked for a listing of allowable uses on the property.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ashley Varner volunteered to chair the nominating committee for the Election of Officers to be held during the February 2015 meeting; also, Dick Buckler previously volunteered.

THANK YOU TO BOARD MEMBERS

The Board thanked Lisa Wainger-Rush, David Phalen, Sabrina Hecht and Phil Cranford for their years of service on the Board.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on February 5, 2014.