

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, August 1, 2013  
MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Tom Nelson, Vice-Chairperson; Robert Hicks and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Phil Cranford, Sabrina Hecht, Julie Lemmon, David Phalen and Ashley Varner.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Loewe, Director; Christina Bishop, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Jeff Jackman, Senior Planner, Department of Land Use and Growth Management, attended to provide a presentation on the Lexington Park Plan update process.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Richard Buckler at 5:35 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum of members present to approve the minutes.**

**RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

Brian Loewe, Director, introduced Christina Bishop, Therapeutic Recreation Coordinator, who provided an update on Recreation Division programs and activities. Items included:

- Marketing – The updated website is up and running. New features include: easier navigation, enhanced offerings, easier registration, and ability to sign up for e-Newsletters.
- Fall Program Guide – will be available on-line, at libraries, at the main office, and distributed at schools on/about August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Childcare Program – St. Mary's County Public Schools will provide transportation from six schools which do not have a School Age Care (SAC) program to five established SAC locations: Mechanicsville Elementary to Lettie Dent Elementary; White Marsh Elementary to Lettie Dent Elementary; Dynard Elementary to Banneker Elementary; Oakville Elementary to Hollywood Recreation Center; and Town Creek Elementary to Green Holly Elementary. Also, staff has introduced a new program, Teen After School (TAS); the teen program will run Monday through Friday at the Hollywood Recreation Center. Students from Spring Ridge Middle School, Esperanza Middle School and Leonardtown Middle School are eligible to attend.
- Aquatics – The Great Mills Pool will be closed from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> for installation of the air-supported "bubble" structure for the fall and winter season.
- Gymnastics – The recreation program had an increase of 55 registrants for the last session of the fiscal year compared to the same time period last year. Overall, staff registered 2,990 participants in FY13 and 2,389 in FY12. This is an increase of 601 registrants in gymnastics for FY13.
- Scott Verbic Memorial Golf Tournament – The 18th Annual Scott Verbic Golf Tournament was held on Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Wicomico Shores Golf Course. As in the past, proceeds will go to the department's Scholarship Fund to provide youth in St.

Mary's County with discounted recreational opportunities. This year the tournament raised \$9,200; overall scholarship proceeds reached \$106,000 this year.

- Summerstock Musical – The Summerstock production of Hairspray was a great success realizing a total attendance of 2,450. There were 56 cast members, 20 members in the orchestra, and 12 stage crew members, totaling to 88 participants. Approximately 120 people were involved in the production which includes parent volunteers.
- Therapeutic Recreation – Camp Inspire registered 30 campers this season; New Horizons Camp registered 40 participants. Paralympics programs currently have 118 enrolled. Staff is working on a partnership with Evolve Yoga to form an ADA support group. Staff is also working on a TR Drama and Developmental Motor Skills clinic.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### Lancaster Park

The Soltesz design/engineering firm is currently working to address agency comments from the TEC review process for construction of additional athletic fields, parking and an entrance road off Willow's Road

### Leonardtown Park Design and Engineering Project

Soltesz 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.

### Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

Construction continues on this project to add additional practice fields adjacent to Fifth District Park and Lettie Dent Elementary School. Work this month included: clearing of trees and processing timber, grubbing, grading, and installation of phase two sediment and erosion controls.

### Athletic Field Lighting Projects

Dalton Electric completed the removal of existing light structures and installation of new lighting systems at Fifth District 90' baseball field and Dorsey Park football field. Wooden poles and fixtures were replaced with more efficient lighting systems to provide improved illumination and a safer field of play for participants.

### 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. It is anticipated that final agency approvals will be received in the near future enabling the submission of the request to advertise package to SHA.

### 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.

## **LEXINGTON PARK PLAN UPDATE PRESENTATION**

Director Loewe introduced Jeff Jackman, Senior Planner, Department of Land Use and Growth Management, who provided a briefing and video on the draft Lexington Park Plan document. The draft plan can be viewed at the three St. Mary's County libraries; at the St. Mary's County Public Information Office, located inside the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown; and on the county website at <http://www.stmarysmd.com/docs/LPDDstaffdraft0713.pdf>.

For further information on the draft plan or information on upcoming open house presentations, citizens should call 301-475-4200, ext. 1541 or 1500. The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing at its September 9, 2013 meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend the hearing.

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 5, 2013.