

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, February 7, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Richardson, Vice Chairperson, Richard Buckler, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Thomas Nelson, David Phalen and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patrick Dugan and Andrew Roper.

**RECREATION, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, RP&CS; Kenny Sothoron, Sports Coordinator, RP&CS; and Kathy Bailey, RP&CS, Recorder. Guests present included Richard Abell and Veronica Peters who were recognized for receiving Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance Good Sports Awards.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Richard Buckler motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2008. Motion carried with all in favor.**

**ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION PERMITS**

Director Phil Rollins presented calendar year 2008 Alcohol Consumption Permit applications from the Friends of the Museum Division and the Seventh District Optimist Club for events to be held at Museum Division facilities to the Board for consideration.

1. **Lisa Wainger-Rush motioned, seconded by Robert Hicks, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Friends of the Museum Division Annual Meeting. Motion carried with all in favor.**
2. **Coleman Hillman motioned, seconded by David Phalen, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival sponsored by the Friends of the Museum Division. Motion carried with all in favor.**
3. **David Phalen motioned, seconded by Robert Hicks, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event sponsored by the Friends of the Museum Division. Motion carried with all in favor.**
4. **Richard Buckler motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Murder Mystery Fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the Museum Division. Motion carried with all in favor.**
5. **Thomas Nelson motioned, seconded by David Phalen, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit for the Seventh District Optimist Club Blessing of the Fleet event. Motion carried with all in favor.**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THREE NOTCH TRAIL FUNDING APPLICATION**

Mr. Rollins presented a draft letter of support for the Transportation Enhancement Program funding application for Phase V of the Three Notch Trail. The County is requesting \$771,000 from the TEP to fund 50% of the total cost of this phase of the trail. Mr. Rollins plans to present the funding application to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on February 19, 2008 for approval.

**Lisa Wainger-Rush motioned, seconded by Robert Hicks, to approve and authorize Board Chairperson Patrick Dugan to sign the letter of support for TEP funding for Phase V of the Three Notch Trail.**

## FY09 CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Rollins referred to the Capital Budget handout previously provided to the Board. This handout detailed the proposed FY09 – FY14 Capital Improvement Budget changes which were made after a budget work session with the BOCC in January.

### Projects removed from plan

- Chancellor's Run Baseball Field (\$2,117,500) (to be incorporated in Central County Parkland project when that moves forward)
- Myrtle Point Park (\$3,175,000)

### Projects being moved forward

- Chaptico Park – Phased Development (\$1,240,000)  
Equestrian facilities replaced with athletic fields  
Moved \$576,000 forward from FY'013 to FY'11 to complete construction
- Mobile Entertainment Stage (\$130,000)  
Moved from FY13 to FY09  
Increased project by \$5,000 to cover delivery cost and other incidental costs

### Projects being deferred

- Wicomico Shores Public Landing – Parking (\$474,000)  
Moved from FY09 and FY10 to FY10 and FY11 since land has not been acquired

### Projects with changes in plan and/or funding

- Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields – Construction of multi-purpose playing fields  
Original project - \$1,100,000  
Revised project - \$575,000  
Decrease in funding is due to location change: from Charlotte Hall Convenience Center to Fifth District Park.
- Museum Collections Storage Facility  
Original project - \$350,000  
Revised project - \$150,000  
Project represents a grant from the County to the Friends of the Museum
- Park Land and Facility Acquisition  
Original project - \$3,068,762  
Revised project - \$2,508,662  
Decrease in Program Open Space (POS) funding from \$216,450 to \$123,100 due to State's fiscal situation (FY09 – FY14). Mr. Rollins stated that all Maryland counties are experiencing reductions in POS funding; funding amounts could be adjusted next fiscal year.
- Park Roads and Parking Lot Improvements  
Original project - \$576,000  
Revised project - \$376,000  
Decrease in funding due to removal of Elms Beach Park project in FY10.
- Three Notch Trail – Phases V – IX (\$10,504,875)  
Phase V – Laurel Grove to Mechanicsville (John Baggett Park to MD 5, 3 mile section) - \$1,542,000.  
Program Open Space (POS) funding decreased from \$215,000 to \$123,000 due to State's fiscal situation. The State's shortfall will be picked up by \$60,000 in National Rec Trails grants and an additional \$31,900 in County funding for FY09.  
Phase VI – Mechancisville to New Market (MD 5 to MD 236, 5 mile section) - \$2,730,625 – moved

to out years. The R&P Board recommended keeping this section as listed in the previously approved CIP to provide a continuous, eleven mile section of trail. However, based on feedback received during the January BOCC budget meeting, this section was moved to the out years.

Phase VII – Wildewood to Hollywood (FDR Blvd. to Hollywood, 4 mile section) - \$2,184,500 – moved A&E (\$212,500) to FY'11 and construction to FY13 (\$1,972,000). Program Open Space (POS) funding decreased from \$215,000 to \$123,100 due to State's fiscal situation. The difference will be picked up by National Rec Trails grants (\$90,000) and \$1,900 in additional County funding for FY13. This section of the trail will be located on the re-located utility corridor as part of the right-of-way in this area was lost when MD 235 was widened. The County has received SMECO's endorsement of this plan, but will still need to negotiate with a number of landowners where property for the corridor was not purchased in fee simple.

Phase VIII – Hollywood to Oakville (Hollywood Road to Friendship School Road, 4.5 mile section) - \$2,602,125 – moved to out years.

Phase IX – Oakville to Baggett Park in Laurel Grove - \$1,445,625 – moved to out years.

Ms. Rush stated that she has read articles about the possibility of light rail coming to the County and asked how that would affect the trail. Mr. Rollins stated that according to several studies done, the right-of-way has long been recommended for trail use and should be preserved for a utility corridor and possible future rail use. Due to the costs associated with a rail system, he doesn't think that project will move forward any time soon, but is a possibility for the future.

## **MID-ATLANTIC RECREATION & PARKS SPORTS ALLIANCE GOOD SPORTS AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, and Kenny Sothoron, Sports Coordinator, introduced Mr. Richard Abell and Ms. Veronica Peters who received Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks Sports Alliance Good Sports Awards on February 4, 2008 during the Alliance's annual ceremony at the State House in Annapolis. Mr. Abell was selected from St. Mary's County for his service in coaching football, soccer, softball and basketball over the past seventeen years; he has always stressed good sportsmanship and teamwork in his coaching endeavors. Ms. Peters was selected from the County for her participation in softball, basketball and volleyball; she is currently a sophomore at Leonardtown High School and her leadership is evident through her sportsmanship and positive attitude. Vice-Chairperson Robert Richardson presented them both with certificates of appreciation from the Recreation and Parks Board and RP&CS Department.

## **OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mr. Rollins provided a summary of the FY09 draft requested Operating Budget. The handout detailed the FY08 approved budget (\$8,306,633), the FY09 baseline budget (\$8,487,196) and the FY09 requested budget (\$9,044,853). This includes County funding for the Administration, Parks, Museum and Community Services Divisions as well as the Recreation and Wicomico Enterprise Funds. The FY09 baseline represents a 3% increase over FY08; the FY09 requested budget represents a 12% increase. Budget highlights include:

- Administration – Increase of \$310,280 over FY08 to include COLAS, merit increases, pension and health insurance increases, and \$259,000 from the Recreation Enterprise Fund to the General Fund for utility costs and use of public schools. If the General Fund would pay for utility costs and use of public schools then funds would be available to provide full-time Enterprise Fund employees with health and pension benefits which they do not receive at this time.
- Parks Division – Increase of \$137,379 over FY08 to include COLAS, merit increases, pension and health insurance increases, increases for uniforms, supplies and utilities, funding for an Office Specialist position, a Groundskeeper and additional hours for Park Attendants, funding to repair walkways and for a replacement bush hog.
- Museum Division – Increase of \$2,234 over FY08 to include COLAS, merit increases, pension and health insurance increases and a decrease in telephone based on current trends.
- Community Services Division – Increase of \$70,311 over FY08 to include COLA, merit increase, pension and health insurance increases, increase in grants and a decrease in various operating accounts based on current trends.

- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Division – Increase of \$194,777 over FY08 to include increases in salaries and fringe benefits, additional hours for seasonal employees in the Food, Beverage and Banquet section, additional funds for capital equipment, additional funds for paint, maintenance and repairs to drain lines under greens and additional increases associated with the expanded Clubhouse facility.
- Recreation Division Activity Fund – Increase of \$25,622 over FY08 is due to salary adjustments for hourly employees and cost changes to operate programs.

The budget review process will continue over the next few months. A public hearing on the FY09 recommended budget will be held on April 22, 2008 at Chopticon High School and the BOCC will adopt the budget by the end of May.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 14, of the Governmental Center, in Leonardtown.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on March 6, 2008.