

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, December 7, 2006**

MINUTES

Board members present: Andrew Roper, Chairperson, Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, Sam Brown, Patrick Dugan, Coleman Hillman, Jody Payne and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

Board members absent: Robert Harper.

Recreation, Parks and Community Services staff and others present: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; FJ Talley, President, College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Patrick Dugan motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of November 2, 2007. Motion carried with all in favor.

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND WELLNESS CENTER

Director Phil Rollins introduced FJ Talley, President, College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus, to the Recreation and Parks (R&P) Board. Mr. Talley provided several concept displays for the new Wellness Center planned for the Leonardtown Campus. He stated that the Town Council approved the concept plan in February 2006 and it was recently presented to the BOCC. The plan includes an indoor aquatics center which includes two pools – one for meets and instruction and a smaller therapy pool, and fitness and instructional areas. The College currently has some parking problems and the plans for the Wellness Center include some additional parking, if funding will allow that to be built. The building has some of the same exterior features as the present buildings on the campus. The building timeline call for the project to break ground in July 2007. The College also plans to offer a new degree program in Sports Management.

Chairman Roper asked if sidewalks or pathways are included in the plans linking the project to the Town's waterfront revitalization project. Mr. Talley stated that is not planned in this phase of the project.

Mr. Rollins stated that the Wellness Center Committee is very pleased with the project concept and is glad to see it moving forward. The Center's swimming facilities will help meet the need for the central county pool which was recommended in the County's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. It is envisioned the facility will be used for open lap swim, classes and instruction, memberships, etc.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Director Rollins introduced Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, who provided a report on the Recreation Division for the Department. Highlights of his report included the following items.

- ❖ Great Mills Swimming Pool - Kayak handling classes are planned at the pool for selected Sunday evenings in December, January and February. High school swim teams are practicing at the pool again this fall.
- ❖ Leisure class registration begins on December 13, 2006; leisure class program guides were distributed at schools, libraries and in the Enterprise newspaper; the guide is also on the County's website.
- ❖ The Before and After School Care program has approximately 230 students enrolled at this time. Child Care Licensing Administration inspections were recently conducted at program sites and all areas were found to be in

compliance. Last month, staff participated in disaster awareness training.

- ❖ Registration for the Youth Basketball programs and Indoor Soccer went smoothly last month and 211 teams have been registered for this season.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER

Mr. Shepherd introduced Todd French to the Board. Mr. French is a new Youth Sports Coordinator for the Department and will be assisting Kenny Sothoron with the implementation of the Raising Community Standards in Youth Sports Initiative.

RAISING COMMUNITY STANDARDS IN YOUTH SPORTS INITIATIVE

Mr. Shepherd reported that the Recreation Division submitted an application for the 2006 Excellence in Youth Sports Award. Each year, the National Alliance for Youth Sports recognizes organizations that have shown excellence in youth sports programming. The Division was notified on November 28th that it received an honorable mention designation for the Department's submission for the Raising Community Standards in Youth Sports Initiative. Winners included Beale California Air Force Base Youth Center, City of Henderson Nevada Parks and Recreation, Hickam Hawaii Air Force Base Youth Sports Program, Indy Indianapolis Parks and Recreation and Tinker Oklahoma Air Force Base Youth Center. Seventeen other organizations received honorable mention status for their submission.

Mr. Shepherd gave a brief status report on the implementation of the Raising Community Standards Initiative.

- ❖ Northern Soccer League – submitted background checks on approximately 60% of coaches; zero disqualified; and 40% of coaches have completed coaches' training.
- ❖ St. Mary's Youth Soccer League - submitted background checks on approximately 75% of coaches; one disqualified; and 75% of coaches have completed coaches' training.
- ❖ Pigskin Football - submitted background checks on approximately 58% of coaches; two disqualified; and 72% of coaches have completed coaches' training.
- ❖ Southern County Youth Football - submitted background checks 100% of the required number of coaches (16 required; 53 submitted); with one disqualified; and 100% of coaches have completed coaches' training (16 required; 33 trained).

This information is based on certifying *two coaches per team*; leagues that conduct background checks and training for additional coaches should be commended for that. Staff will meet next week with spring sports leagues on the process for next season. Chairman Roper asked if the background check information includes the name of the team the coaches are working with. Mr. Shepherd stated that was not specified for the first season of the program, but will be for the spring. That way parents can be assured that the people who had the checks are the people on the field working with children.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CHARLOTTE HALL PROPERTY CONCEPT PLAN

Mr. Rollins stated that a joint public presentation on the Charlotte Hall Property concept plan was made by the consultants Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani and Crozier Associates to the Recreation and Parks Board and the Commission on Aging on November 2, 2006. Mr. Rollins reminded the Board that in late 2005 the BOCC gave direction to staff to move forward with the Charlotte Hall property master plan.

The draft plan includes a mixture of senior housing including 100 cottage units and 150 apartment building units intended for independent living; and 60 units that would be available for assisted living. The proposed residential development is located in the interior of the property while the pool and multi-generational center are located near the front of the property, across from the existing senior center. This enables the general public to access the recreational facilities without having to travel through the senior housing community. To address traffic flow, another possible access from Charlotte Hall Road is proposed south of the existing senior center entrance. In addition, a public road is shown from the rear of the property to Whalen Road as a potential connector if traffic study determines such access is necessary.

The plan is based upon the assumption that public sewer will be available at the site in the future.

The committee that worked on the plan does not believe that a viable senior housing project is possible on the site without public sewer. Sam Brown asked if the multi-generational center could move ahead without public sewer; Mr. Rollins stated that he's not certain about that and that the plan as presented is based on the availability of public sewer. There are no plans developed at this time on how the senior housing portion of the project might move forward.

The plan was endorsed by the Commission on Aging on November 2, 2006. Staff and consultants anticipate presenting the plan to the Planning Commission and BOCC in January. The plan was also sent to various County and State agencies for comment on the plan.

Coleman Hillman motioned, seconded by Patrick Dugan, to endorse the November 2006 concept plan as presented with the understanding that both the recreational and the senior housing components of the plan are equally important; motion carried 6-0; Andrew Roper abstained for voting. Mr. Dugan recommended that the Board send a letter to the BOCC supporting the need for additional recreational amenities and athletic fields in the Charlotte Hall area as expressed by citizens at the June 2005 kick-off meeting for the concept plan. Lisa Wainger-Rush expressed concern that the recreational component could be removed from the concept plan in the future.

CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Mr. Rollins provided a preliminary list of possible new Capital Improvement Projects; the Land Acquisition, Facility Development and Rehabilitation Recommendations table for the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan; and a listing of FY2007 approved Capital Projects. The preliminary CIP list was presented as follows:

- ❖ Chancellor's Run Regional Park – Multipurpose field lighting, lighting for two soccer/lacrosse fields to provide additional playing time on fields for youth soccer and provide fields for the Girls Lacrosse League.
- ❖ Chaptico Park – Parking expansion project to primarily address parking problems on Saturday mornings. Mr. Hillman noted some of the practice areas at Chaptico Park have holes and unlevelled areas; Mr. Rollins stated that, due to funding constraints, the practice areas didn't receive the same level of attention during the construction process. Mr. Hillman asked if dirt could be provided for patrons to fill in holes in practice areas; Mr. Rollins will check into the feasibility of that.
- ❖ Park Maintenance Shop – The Parks Manager has requested this project to add about 450 s.f. of space to the building for a training area and office expansion.
- ❖ Park Improvements – Road and parking lot asphalt overlay improvements at various parks and public landings.
- ❖ Chancellor's Run Park Improvements – Playground, picnic pavilion, ball field fencing and basketball court resurfacing for this twenty year-old park.
- ❖ Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields – The Board strongly supported constructing additional athletic fields on County-owned property at the Convenience Center adjacent to the Fifth District Park to meet the needs of soccer, lacrosse, football and baseball/softball.
- ❖ Elms Beach Park Improvements/Expansion – This project would provide a new pavilion and restroom facilities; a new children's playground was added at this park in FY07.
- ❖ Chaptico Park Phase II and/or III Development Phase II includes additional recreational facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts and baseball fields; Phase III includes the equestrian riding rings and trails.
- ❖ Cecil Park Improvements/Expansion – This project would include the development of a park master plan to determine if there is available land to renovate and expand the park; a new playground was added to this park in FY07.
- ❖ Central County Multi-generational Center – This project would develop a Central County Multi-generational Center at the Governmental Center campus in Leonardtown.
- ❖ Northern County Swimming Pool – This project would construct a pool similar the Great Mills Pool most likely at the Charlotte Hall property.
- ❖ St. Clement's Island Museum Water Taxi – This project would replace the aging water taxi for the Museum Division.
- ❖ Tennis Court Replacement Project – FY2008 Construct two new courts and replace two existing courts/fencing at Cecil Park; FY2009 Replace two courts/fencing at Seventh District Park and install lighting for two courts at Dorsey Park; FY2010 - Replace two courts/fencing at Jarboesville Park; FY2011 - Replace two courts/fencing at Fifth District Park; FY2012 - Replace two courts/fencing at Chancellor's Run Park.

Sam Brown expressed support for the Charlotte Hall athletic fields, Parks Maintenance Shop and St. Clement's Island Museum Water Taxi. Chairman Roper and Bob Richardson also expressed support for the athletic fields in the northern County. Ms. Wainger-Rush expressed support for the Northern County Swimming Pool project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selection of Nominating Committee – Ms. Waigner-Rush and Patrick Dugan volunteered to serve as the Board's nominating committee. They will recommend a slate of officers for the Board during the next meeting.

Mr. Hillman asked about the status of the former George Washington Carver Elementary School building. The Boys and Girls Club is no longer utilizing space in the building, now known as the Carver Recreation Center. RP&CS, Board of Elections and the County Archives are currently using the building.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board was scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2007. Since Mr. Rollins will be out of town at a conference, the January meeting was canceled. The next meeting of the R&P Board will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2007, in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on February 1, 2007.