

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, January 6, 2011
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Wainger Rush, Chairperson; Patrick Dugan, Al Harrison, Sabrina Hecht, Robert Hicks, Julie Lemmon, Tom Nelson and David Phalen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Buckler, Vice Chairman.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Rollins, Director; Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; Kenny Sothoron, Sports Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Punt, Pass and Kick local winners and their parents were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Phalen moved, seconded by Bob Hicks, to approve the minutes of December 2, 2010; motion carried 8-0.

PUNT, PASS & KICK

The R&P Board and staff awarded certificates of achievement to the local Punt, Pass and Kick contest winners. These young people and their families were invited to participate in the regional championship competition at Fed Ex Field on December 12, 2010. Winners were:

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| • Kaitlyn Beasley Polko | 4 th place, 10 – 11 year old girls |
| • Abby Norris | 1 st place, 6 – 7 year old girls |
| • Grant Deaton | 1 st place, 6 – 7 year old boys |
| • Cody Russell | 1 st place, 8 – 9 year old boys |
| • Zoe Carty | 3 rd place, 8 – 9 year old girls |
| • Ryan Bowles | 4 th place, 12 – 13 year old boys |
| • Sarah Carty | 4 th place, 12 – 13 year old girls |

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Arthur Shepherd provided an update on Recreation Division activities and programs.

- The youth football season ended with some great playoff games. Work is beginning on the plans for next season.
- The youth basketball program begins play next week in the Public Schools.
- Gymnastics registration – 402 have registered to date for this session.
- The Leonard Hall Recreation Center will be painted, inside and out, in the near future.
- Winter activities at the Carver Recreation are in full swing with before and after care, jazzercise, kick boxing, cheerleading, volleyball and basketball.

Patrick Dugan asked if the Chancellor's Run Activity Center repairs were completed. Mr. Rollins stated that work is underway to repair and upgrade the facility that was damaged last February during a heavy snowfall. The work should be completed this summer.

RECREATION ENTERPRISE FUND OVERVIEW

Mr. Shepherd provided an overview of the Recreation Enterprise Fund that included FY10 actual figures, FY11 budgeted figures, FY11 actual to date figures, and the FY12 budget request. More than 100 youth and adult programs are offered through the fund encompassing a broad range of educational, leisure and sports activities. This also includes management and programs at the Chancellor's Run, Carver, Leonard Hall and Margaret Brent Recreation Centers as well as the Great Mills Pool, Gymnastics Center, the Sprayground and Spray Park. Collectively, these programs are self-supporting and don't require general fund tax dollars, with the exception for the salaries of full-time staff members. A handout was provided showing specific activities/programs and their net loss/gain and the overall fund net gain.

GREAT MILLS SWIMMING POOL

Mr. Shepherd also provided an overview of operations at the Great Mills Pool which included the following information.

Attendance - Year round

- FY2009 – 35,979 FY2010 – 36,918 FY2011 – 32,472

Attendance - September through December 2010 (CSM opened Sept. 2010)

- FY2009 – 9,197 FY2010 – 9,019 FY2011 – 7,324

Decrease in attendance (1,695 – 19%)

- Lane rentals – (800) Daily admissions – (400)
- Lessons – (200) Aerobics – (100)
- Passes – (100) Other – (100)

Year end net (deficit)

- FY2009 – (\$176,715) FY2010 – (\$156,289) Projected 2011 – (\$150,000)

Revenue September through December 2010

- FY2009 - \$45,748 FY2010 - \$39,174 FY2011 - \$41,062

Mr. Shepherd noted that even with the loss of lane rentals to CSM, revenue at the Great Mills Pool is up over this time last year. R&P believes this is because the sport of swimming is gaining popularity. R&P's recommendation for the FY12 budget is to continue to operate the Great Mills Pool as a year round facility.

FY12 DRAFT BUDGET

Mr. Rollins provided a presentation on the draft R&P FY12 Operating and Capital Budgets. The Operating Budget submissions are due from all County Departments to

Finance by February 11th. The BOCC held a budget work session on Tuesday, January 4th and direction was given to prepare budgets at baseline and with 10% reductions. Staff anticipates this will be a difficult budget year.

Mr. Rollins reviewed the CIP summary sheet provided during last month's meeting. Some projects have been pushed out a few years because of current economic conditions. Projects are proposed to be funded by a variety of sources including County funds, impact fees, Program Open Space funds, Transportation Enhancement funds and Waterway Improvement Program funds.

Regarding the Hayden Property/Leonardtown Park project and cost saving opportunities, Mr. Dugan asked if the same firm would do the design and engineering for the athletic fields as would do the site planning for the new school. Mr. Rollins stated that is a possibility.

Patrick Dugan moved, seconded by Sabrina Hecht, to support the R&P draft Capital Improvements Budget as presented by staff. Motion carried 8-0.

ELMS PROPERTY

Mr. Rollins briefed the Board on a private individual's proposal to install a solar electrical generating facility on the Elms property. The developer is proposing to lease approximately 20 acres of the State-owned property to construct the 4MW solar photovoltaic electrical generating facility. This area would be located in the DNR managed wildlife and heritage area. The balance of the DNR controlled land will remain available for hunting. This project should not have an impact on Elms Beach Park or the County-managed hunting area.

The lease proposal is a separate area from the County-managed 85 acre hunting site. R&P issued 21 hunting permits for the 85-acre property this past fall and no issues or concerns were noted.

As part of the FY12 Operating Budget, staff is bringing forward a proposal to implement an entrance fee on weekends and holidays at Elms Beach Park and Myrtle Point Park to help offset the cost associated with supervision at these waterfront parks. Overcrowding, excessive trash and other issues have made it necessary to have increased staff presence at these parks. The proposed daily fee is \$5 per vehicle for St. Mary's County residents and \$8 for out-of-County residents. This was proposed two years ago; however, the Commissioners decided not to implement the fee at that time.

Mr. Hicks asked if an annual pass could be issued for frequent users of the parks. Mr. Rollins stated that staff will check into that. Mr. Hicks also asked if trash cans could be located in an area that is heavily used near the waterfront. Mr. Rollins will talk with David Guyther, Parks Manager, about that.

The Parks Division has plans to open an additional grass area up for parking at Myrtle Point Park; this will need to be coordinated with Washington Gas which has an easement over this area.

R&P BOARD REVISED BYLAWS

Mr. Rollins referred to the draft copy of the R&P Board revised by laws which were e-mailed to members. The bylaws are being revised as the County is in the process of standardizing all Board and Committee bylaws.

Tom Nelson moved, seconded by Julie Lemmon, to approve the revised by laws as written. Motion carried 8-0.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., in Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on March 3, 2011.