

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, June 19, 2014
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Phil Cranford, Tom Nelson, David Phalen, James Swift, Ashley Varner and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sabrina Hecht and Patrick Murphy.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Division Manager; Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Alan Turrill, Brian Abell and others attended on behalf of the St. Mary's County Tennis Association.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board meeting was called to order by Richard Buckler, Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Phil Cranford moved, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of May 1, 2014; motion carried 7-0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Richard Buckler introduced James Swift, new member to the Board. Mr. Swift is retired from the Navy and has been a bicycle enthusiast / commuter for nearly his entire life. He has served on various committees and groups with regard to cycling; he served on the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee from 2002 – 2013.

PARKS DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, who provided an update on activities and projects of the Parks Division. Mr. Guyther provided a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of some of the projects the Division is working on or has recently completed.

- The tennis courts at Fifth District Park, Jarboesville Park and Chancellor's Run Regional Park have all recently been resurfaced.
- The former "Flat Tops house," which will be home to the Civil War Interpretive Center, received new sidewalks this month.
- Several improvement projects were undertaken at the Wicomico Shores Public Landing. A new restroom building was constructed; the picnic pavilion was improved; and new sidewalks were installed. This was accomplished with funding from the State's Waterway Improvement Program.

Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator, provided some updates on happenings in County

parks.

- The wet spring has caused maintenance issues with athletic playing fields.
- There have been some issues with vandalism. Some included: stolen bleachers at Cardinal Gibbons Park; a broken window at Lancaster Park; signs and trash cans vandalized at Chaptico Park; a broken door, damaged signage and electric meter was ripped from the exterior wall at the Wicomico Shores restroom building.
- There were 22 special events that staff assisted with set up and break down support.
- The trail has been busy with various fun and fitness walks and fundraisers.
- Staff worked with various leagues and church groups to make opening day ceremonies this season a success.
- There were 2,526 games and practices held at the athletic fields at Chancellor's Run Regional Park in 2013.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Director Loewe introduced Alan Turrill, President, St. Mary's County Tennis Association, to the Board. Mr. Turrill provided an overview the SMCTA to the Board.

- The SMCTA was founded in 1997 for the purpose of promoting the growth of tennis in St. Mary's County.
- 100% volunteer organization, managed by Board of Directors; 501-C 4 non-profit.
- Group consists of over 500 adult and 150 junior players.
- More young people are playing tennis; roughly half are under the age of eleven.
- Investment in 10 and under courts can add positive experiences and foster interest into adulthood.
- This includes painting 36' and 60' lines; converting 78' courts into 36' courts; or constructing stand-alone 36' and 60' courts.
- The format is ideal for those with disabilities.
- Converting existing courts to smaller courts will create a demand for more adult sized courts.
- Thanks to the new youth-sized courts at Jarboesville Park, youth tennis can be expanded in St. Mary's.
- The SMCTA recommends planning for new courts now. Information on USTA's Facility Assistance Program was provided to R&P staff.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

Approval to advertise the project was received from SHA on May 8, 2014. The project was advertised on EMaryland Marketplace and advertised on the County's website on May 30th. The pre-bid meeting for the project was held on June 16th; the bid opening date is set for July 10th. If the bidding and award process proceeds as planned, it is

anticipated the project will be awarded in fall 2014

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

Final seeding was done in May; over seeding of the fields will take place in fall 2014; the fields are anticipated to be ready for use in spring 2015. Work on the asphalt walkway will be done this summer or fall, weather permitting.

Lancaster Park

Design and engineering is now complete for the project to construct two additional multi-purpose fields, parking and an entrance road at this park off Willows Road. The required permits for the project have been received. The solicitation documents are nearing completion. The project is anticipated to be out to bid this summer.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Lancaster Park

Work is now underway on the interior renovation of the former "Flat Tops" house at Lancaster Park. The project is anticipated to be complete in fall 2014.

Leonardtowntown Park Design and Engineering Project

The park's draft concept plan includes multi-purpose fields, baseball/softball fields, a playground, dog park, restroom building, and parking. Additional information on the Phase I archeological study and the evaluation of the barns and other buildings on the site has been approved by MHT. A Phase II study is now required on specific areas of the site. That work will be accomplished later this summer or fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

Annual Report - Director Loewe asked members to refer to the draft 2013 Annual Report Document that was emailed to members.

Lisa Wainger-Rush moved, seconded by Phil Cranford, to approve the Annual Report as drafted and have staff submit the report to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

R&P BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2014. The Board will not hold July or August meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 4, 2014.