

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, July 7, 2016**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Nelson, Chairperson; Valerie Brosky, Jake Heibel, Fred Parker and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Bellis, Richard Buckler, Caroline King, and Patrick Murphy.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, R&P Director; Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager; Tyrone Harris, Facilities Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Also in attendance was David Heilmeier, MD Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jake Heibel moved, seconded by Fred Parker, to approve the minutes of June 2, 2016; motion with all in favor.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced Jessica Hale, Recreation Division Manager, who provided a report on the current activities of the Recreation Division. Highlights included:

- Under the Sea Jam scheduled for Saturday, July 9th to promote the Summerstock musical *The Little Mermaid*
- Summerstock musical shows: July 22-24th and July 29-31st. Friday and Saturday evening shows are at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday evening shows are at 3:00 p.m.; Saturday matinee show on July 23rd and 30th are at 1:00 p.m. at Great Mills High School
- See Division's Facebook page for summer fun trivia
- Mother and son dance scheduled for November 5, 2016
- Summer camps: over 450 kids enrolled in summer fun camps
- Staff is busy planning for before and after school care for the upcoming school year
- The Recreation Division received the MRPA Best Activity Program Guide award
- FY16 Scholarship Fund provided \$18,000 to participants in need
- Commissioners proclaimed July as National Recreation and Parks month and recognized the achievements of Gymnastics Center participants.

MYRTLE POINT PARK BOW HUNTING PROPOSAL

Director Brian Loewe introduced David Heilmeier, Southern Region Manager, MD Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service, who provided an overview of the proposal for bow hunting for deer at Myrtle Point Park. The DNR hunting prescription calls for:

- Hunting on 141 acres of the 192-acre parcel
- DNR to manage permit process through Myrtle Grove WMA office
- Maximum of 6 hunters per day; no pre-determined stand sites.
- Archery hunting of white-tailed deer only
- Hunting dates shall be within the season dates set forth by Maryland's seasons and bag limits. Hunting will begin October 15 and will conclude January 31.

- Hunting in October will take place Monday through Friday only and hunting will take place Monday through Saturday during the remainder of the season.

Fred Parker moved, seconded by Jake Heibel, to endorse the proposal as outlined for presentation to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to allow bow hunting for deer at Myrtle Point Park. Motion carried 4-1.

Board member Ashley Varner expressed concern that the park is used by families year-round and that hunting could keep some patrons from using the park. Valerie Broskey suggested a one-year review of the activity to look at statistics and possibly revisit the proposal. Mr. Heilmeier stated that bow hunting presents a recreation opportunity and an opportunity to manage the local deer population.

If approved, the Cooperative Wildlife Management Agreement is anticipated to be finalized by DNR and to be in place for the fall 2016 hunting season.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

- Three Notch Trail Phase VI – Ribbon cutting ceremony set for Tuesday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m.
- Nicolet Park Entrance – Design and engineering is currently underway.
- Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan – Contract recently awarded to GreenPlay, LLC for update of the 2012 Plan.
- Elms Beach Park Master Plan – Work on the master plan is currently underway.
- Leonardtown Park - Demolition of the structures on the site should be moving forward shortly.
- Myrtle Point Park Invasive Plan Removal – The final draft plan is due within the next few weeks.
- Three Notch Trail Phase VII Concept Planning – Anticipated that the concept plan will be presented to the Commissioners later this summer.
- Wieck Playground Replacement – Will need a Board member to serve on the design committee as the project moves forward; Caroline King and Tom Nelson have expressed interest in the past.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Loewe provided information on the status of several Departmental vacancies.

- Golf Course Manager – Recruitment underway
- Museum Division Manager – Recruitment in the near future
- Main Office Administrative Coordinator – Recruitment underway
- Golf Course Groundskeeper – Recruitment underway

Fred Parker noted that he attended a nice memorial event at Mission BBQ and a memorial bike ride for former R&P Board member and cycling advocate Jim Swift who recently passed away.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on August 4, 2016.