

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, August 4, 2016**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Nelson, Chairperson; Doug Bellis, Vice-Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Caroline King, Patrick Murphy and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jake Heibel and Fred Parker. Valerie Broskey resigned from the Recreation and Parks Board effective July 27, 2016.

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 Heilmeyer, MD Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Doug Bellis moved, seconded by Ashley Varner, to approve the minutes of July 7, 2016; motion with all in favor.

LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Director Brian Loewe provided a Power Point presentation.

- Plan updated every five years
- Prerequisite for participation in Program Open Space local side program
- Draft due 12/31/16; final plan due 7/1/2017
- Three focus areas: recreation and parks; agricultural land preservation, and natural resource conservation
- Most significant change from 2012 – higher focus on recreation and parks; proximity/access to parks GIS analysis
- What the plan does – identifies recreation and open space needs in the county
- Provides basis for land acquisition and recreation facility development projects
- Provides recommendations to address needs for the upcoming 5 – to 15 year period
- Assists the state with preparation of the 2019 statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan
- Web based survey to be activated about 9/1/16
- Stakeholders meetings 8/21 – 9/2; public input meeting with R&P Board on 9/1/16
- Draft recommendations presented to R&P Board on 10/6/16
- Draft plan presented to Planning Commission on 11/14/16
- Draft plan presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on 12/13/16
- Final plan due to the state by 7/1/17

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 was held on Tuesday, July 26.
- Leonardtown Park - Demolition of the structures on the site should be moving forward shortly. As part of the project, citizens will have the opportunity to obtain barn wood at the landfill.

- Myrtle Point Park Hunting Proposal – the CSMC approved the bow hunting for deer Cooperative Wildlife Management Agreement with DNR on August 2, 2016. The agreement has been sent to DNR for processing for the 2016/2017 hunting season.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum – Second floor renovations at the PPLM are moving forward (electrical and other interior improvements; a new well). Funding in FY2017 is programmed to complete interior renovations of the second floor of the museum, exhibit design, fabrication and installation of exhibits.

OTHER BUSINESS

New Hires – A new R&P front office staff person will begin work on Monday, August 8th. Recruitment for a new Golf Course Manager is underway and process to hire a new Museum Manager should begin shortly.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on September 1, 2016.