

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, November 4, 2010
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Wainger Rush, Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Vice-Chairperson, Patrick Dugan, Al Harrison, Bob Hicks, Julie Lemmon; Tom Nelson and David Phalen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sabrina Hecht.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Phil Rollins, Director; Debra Pence, Museum Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Phalen moved, seconded by Dick Buckler, to approve the minutes of October 7, 2010; motion carried 8-0.

MUSEUM DIVISION REPORT

Debra Pence provided an update on Museum Division projects, programs and events.

St. Clement's Island Museum (SCIM)

- Visitation for this year is about 48,000; about the same as this time last year.
- The SCIM partners with DNR for management and tours of SC Island and the new Blackstone Island Lighthouse. The County provides a water taxi service to the island. Water taxi usage is up due to increased visitation to the Blackstone Lighthouse.
- The new Museum Collections Management Facility was recently completed by the Friends of the Museum Division and turned over to the County to manage. The Friends received \$150,000 "grant" from the County to build the facility and the group matched this with about \$50,000.
- The Museum has indoor "first landing" exhibits and dory boat and other outdoor exhibits on site.
- Two public piers exist on SCI; another is on the mainland in front of the Museum.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum (PPLM)

- The project consisting of new walkways, parking and landscaping was recently completed.
- The museum is housed in a renovated 1970's office building with exhibits, activity room for children, gift shop and restrooms.
- The Museum has indoor Potomac River life exhibits, maritime boat exhibit, outdoor interpretation and canoe/kayak launch on north campus site.
- Piney Point Lighthouse, Keeper's Quarters, pier and picnic area on south

campus site.

- The Division has forged many partnerships with state and federal sources for grant funding to accomplish the renovation of this site.
- Staff also monitors and manages the U1105 historic submarine underwater dive area, along with the State and Navy.

Drayden African American Schoolhouse – The historic African American Schoolhouse has been preserved through the donation of the building from Patricia Crawford and with the support of the Commissioners and Christmas and April.

The Division conducts many outreach visits each year; visits are made to schools, senior centers and other places as requested.

Ms. Pence noted that the County is very fortunate to have these sites which were originally brought forward from their local communities.

2005 LAND PRESERVATION, PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

The County will begin the process in the spring to update the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The plan outlines recommendations on recreational land and facility acquisition and rehabilitation, as well as recommendations for agricultural land preservation and natural resource conservation. This plan is updated every six years and is a prerequisite to utilizing Program Open Space funds. Public meetings and presentations to the Planning Commission and BOCC will be held as part of the information gathering process.

This update will focus on the recreation component of the plan; agriculture land preservation and natural resource conservation sections will be included, but are not required to be major components of the plan for this update. DECD and LU&GM staff will provide the information needed to update the natural resources and agriculture preservation sections of the plan. A Program Open Space Grant Application and Project Agreement will be presented to the BOCC later this month for the project planning grant.

The 2005 approval plan included the following recommendations pertaining to recreation; Mr. Rollins reviewed these and provided a status on the projects to date.

Acquisition

- Lower Patuxent Public Landing – no site has been identified. Currently, the County owns and operates Forest Landing and has informal access at Clarke's Landing; the County has a leased boat ramp and parking area at Cape St. Mary's Marina. That ramp is in poor condition.
- Leonardtown Landing/Waterfront Park – The Town of Leonardtown, with County and state grant funding, continues to develop this site.
- Upper Patuxent Public Landing – no site has been identified.
- Central County Park – The Beavan property was purchased to help meet the parkland needs in the central portion of the County. The Hayden property may also provide recreational uses in this area.
- Neighborhood Parks – This has not moved forward to date.
- Potomac River Waterfront Park – No site has been identified.

Facility Development

- Three Notch Trail – Phases I through IX – Phases I and II are complete, Phase III has been partially completed by developers; Phases IVA is nearly completed; Phase IVB will be constructed as part of FDR Blvd; Phase V is under construction; design and engineering for Phase VI should begin in FY11; Phases VII, VIII and IX will be designed and constructed in the future as funding permits.
- Charlotte Hall Park – A master plan was completed for the County property behind the Northern Senior Center to include recreational amenities, senior house and a multi-generational center. This has not moved forward.
- Charlotte Hall Recreation Center – This project has not moved forward.
- Chaptico Park Phase 2 &3 – This project is currently listed in the CIP.
- Gymnastics Center – This project was listed in the CIP; however, it was deferred due to funding constraints.
- Lancaster Park Improvements – This project to construct a pathway around the perimeter of the park is complete. A dog park was also added at the park.
- Lexington Manor South Parcel Master Plan – The master plan, done in concert with the Carver Recreation Center property, was approved in July 2009. The Lancaster Park South Parcel includes a disc golf course, preserved Flat Tops house, pavilion, walking paths and plans for a Civil War Memorial Park.
- St. Clement's Island Museum Expansion – The Collections Management Facility at this site was completed this year.
- Mobile Entertainment Stage – This was in the CIP, but did not move forward due to funding constraints. It is possible that the stage could be purchased with funds remaining from another capital project.
- Colton's Point Park – This project has not moved forward on the 20 acres behind the Museum site.
- Myrtle Point Park – This project was also in the CIP, but did not move forward due to funding constraints. The Myrtle Point Park master plan was approved by the BOCC in October 2005.

Facility Rehabilitation and Development Projects

- Seventh District Park – A project was completed in 2008 which included a new playground, expanded parking, resurfaced tennis courts, a restroom building and new basketball court.
- Chancellor's Run Park – The multi-purpose field has been lighted; improvements have been made at the 90' baseball field; a new playground was added; and a tennis court rehabilitation project is in the current CIP. The Activity Center, which was damaged by last winter's snowstorms, will be repaired by spring.
- Cecil Park – A new playground was installed; two older tennis courts were renovated and two new courts were installed; there is a project in the current CIP to pave the entrance road and parking area.
- Elms Beach Park – A project to renovate and expand this heavily used waterfront park was previously in the CIP, but was deferred due to funding constraints.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Renovation – The project consisting of new

- walkways, parking and landscaping was recently completed.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Shore Erosion – This project to protect the shoreline near the historic lighthouse was completed in 2010.
 - Recreation Center Renovations (Leonard Hall, Carver, Margaret Brent and Hollywood Recreation Center) – Some renovations have been completed (Leonard Hall HVAC); others will be done over the next few years (painting, new flooring, etc.).
 - Tennis Court Rehabilitation – Tennis courts at some parks have been renovated (Seventh District, Dorsey, Cecil Park) and some are planned for renovation in the future in the CIP (Jarboesville, Fifth District & CRRP).

Public Landings

- Paul Ellis Landing – A new pier was installed in 2009.
- Tall Timbers Landing – A new pier was installed in 2009.
- Great Mills Launch – The canoe/kayak launch was completed in 2006.
- Clarke’s Landing – Improvements at the boat ramp have not been made due to the lack of parking at the site.
- Camp Calvert Landing – No improvements have been made at this small County-owned canoe/kayak launch area.
- St. Jerome’s Creek – No improvements have been made to date at this site.
- St. George’s Creek – Design and engineering is underway to replace the aging pier at St. George’s Creek.
- Forest Landing – Improvements were completed in 2006 and included a new boat ramp, a new pier with a cat walk and deck and a floating dock.
- Wicomico Shores Landing – Improvements were completed in 2005 and included revetment and the construction of a break water structure; dredging a channel to improve boating access; replacement of the boat ramp and step down pier; and the replacement of most of the large fishing, crabbing and boating pier that was damaged during Hurricane Isabel.

Chairperson Lisa Rush asked if the County had plans to make improvements at the Lancaster Park South Parcel. Mr. Rollins stated that, in the future, the department would like to replace the deteriorated streets with new asphalt walking paths and make other aesthetic improvements. New amenities are subject to the County’s agreement with MHT and ACIUZ regulations regarding high-impact/attendance activities.

Ms. Rush asked how the County is doing in providing recreational land and amenities per person. Mr. Rollins stated that land has been added to the inventory; however, the population has also grown. That will be looked at as part of the update process; he suspects we’ll probably still fall short of the recreation acreage goal of 30 acres of per 1,000 people.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mr. Rollins provided a review of the current - FY11 CIP as it pertains to Recreation and Parks and noted the LPPRP serves as the foundation for the R&P CIP. The projects included:

- Three Notch Trail Phases VI (MD Route 5 to MD Route 236) and VII (Wildewood to Hollywood).

- Design for Phase VI in FY11 and construction in FY14
- Design for Phase VII in FY16 and construction in future years.
- FY 11 LPPRP Planning Grant
- Recreation Facilities and Park Improvements
 - FY11 painting of LHRC; parking lot security lighting for Fifth District Park
 - FY12 painting for MBRC, HRC and CRRP maintenance building
 - FY13 painting for Great Mills Pool and CRC; Fifth District Park and Dorsey Park field lighting replacement
 - FY14 replace gym floor at LHRC
 - FY15 replace deteriorated softball field fencing at various parks
- Parkland and Facility Acquisition
 - This project enables acquisition of land for parks and facilities
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
 - FY14 project to complete construction of second floor improvements to Museum building, sidewalks, replacement well and other enhancements
 - FY15 installation of new lighting and HVAC improvements at Potomac River Maritime exhibit building
 - FY16 preservation and restoration of PPL tower and Keeper's Quarters
- Tennis Court Improvements
 - FY14 replace tennis courts at Jarboesville Park, Fifth District Park, and Chancellor's Run Regional Park
- Chaptico Park – Phased Development
 - FY14 design and engineering for park expansion per the master plan
 - FY15 & FY16 construction of basketball courts, picnic areas and shelters, tot lot, nature trails, multi-purpose fields and baseball/softball fields
- St. Clement's Island Museum Renovations
 - FY14 replace decking and guttering around the museum building and modernize restrooms
 - FY17/18 funding will be requested to renovate exhibits that are more than twenty years old
- Park Roads, Parking and Access
 - FY15 pave park entrance road and parking areas at Cecil, Dorsey, and Seventh District Parks
 - FY16 address pedestrian access to Nicolet Park via existing neighborhoods
- Basketball Court Renovations
 - FY15 renovate existing basketball courts at Fifth District, Dorsey, Cardinal Gibbons and Jarboesville Parks.
- Lancaster Park Parking Addition
 - FY16 construct additional parking at Lancaster Park

Ms. Rush asked if the Department is considering using pervious pavement in any of these projects. Mr. Rollins stated that R&P is looking into the feasibility of using this technology in park and museum projects as part of addressing stormwater management.

Mr. Hicks asked if a signage plan is being developed for the Three Notch Trail. Mr. Rollins stated that R&P is working on a solicitation to hire a consultant to design the trail head (at John V. Baggett Park) and signage (informational, historical and natural

resource signage) for the trail; that should be out to bid in the next few months. After that, a separate contract will be issued for the fabrication of the trail head and the signage.

Mr. Hicks asked about the status of Program Open Space funding. Mr. Rollins stated that County's POS funding allocation has decreased over the last few years; it's unknown if the funds will be in jeopardy during the upcoming budget process.

Some additional projects that could be considered for the upcoming FY12 fiscal year CIP include:

- Elms Beach Park enhancements (parking, restrooms) and/or Myrtle Point Park enhancements (per the approved master plan) to improve usability at these waterfront parks
- Lancaster Park Improvements – consider moving ahead in the plan
- Planning and design for athletic facilities at the Hayden Property
- A future project for design of facilities at the Beavan Property
- A future indoor recreation center project
- Patuxent River public landing
- Future expansion of Chancellor's Run Regional Park
- A synthetic turf athletic field

OTHER BUSINESS

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently announced new public hunting opportunities at Newtowne Neck State Park. The 776-acre park, managed by the Maryland Park Service and situated on St. Clements Bay and Breton Bay in the Compton area of the county, was acquired by the State of Maryland and designated as a State Park in April 2009. Those interested in public hunting opportunities at this site should visit the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/huntersguide/index.asp>.

The St. Mary's County Youth Football League season is winding down in the County. This weekend is the last weekend of regular season play; play-offs will be held next weekend; and the championship games will be held on November 20th at St. Mary's Ryken High School.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on December 2, 2010.