

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Thursday, November 7, 2013  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Buckler, Chairperson; Phil Cranford, Robert Hicks, David Phalen, Julie Lemmon and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sabrina Hecht, Thomas Nelson and Ashley Varner.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Brian Loewe, Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Boy scouts, parents, students and volunteers were also in attendance for the presentation of certificates of appreciation. Christy Bright, Park Manager, MD DNR, was in attendance to provide an overview of State Parks in St. Mary's.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Julie Lemmon moved, seconded by Phil Cranford, to approve the minutes of October 2, 2013; motion carried 6-0.**

**PARKS DIVISION REPORT**

Director Brian Loewe introduced David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, who provided an update on projects and activities in parks and at facilities. Items included:

- Wicomico Shores Public Landing New Restroom Facility – The design / build project has been awarded to the firm of W.M. Davis. Construction began in October; the anticipated completion date is December 1, 2013.
- Nicolet Park Clean Up – Mr. Guyther noted that staff cleaned the wooded area in Nicolet Park of brush and debris in an effort to deter vandalism and undesirable activity.
- Fenwick Property Practice Fields – The new practice area will be ready for use in the spring of 2014. This is also the site for the Homegrown Farmers' Market.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION**

The Recreation and Parks Board and Department staff presented certificates of appreciation to local boy scouts, parents, coaches and volunteers for their work on the Chaptico Park cross country trail. These dedicated individuals were commended for clearing underbrush, vines and fallen trees to develop a nature trail in the park which is also used for high school cross country events. This was also a part of Ryan Morgan's Eagle Scout project, Troop 1846.

**UPDATE ON STATE PARKS IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

Christie Bright, Park Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, provided an overview of the State parks in St. Mary's County.

- St. Mary's River State Park – 250 acre park; 7.5 mile hiking trail; comfort station; playground, boat ramp. Site 2 Wildlands: 2,220 acres; primarily undeveloped; parking from Norris, Old Rolling and Indian Bridge roads; and managed hunting.

- Greenwell State Park – 596 acres; 10 miles of trails; comfort station; playground; kayak launch; rentals; aeromodelers; agricultural leases; and partnership with Greenwell Foundation.
- St. Clement's Island State Park – approximately 60 acres; waterfowl and rabbit hunting only; reconstructed Blackistone Lighthouse; picnicking; piers; comfort station; and site of first Catholic Mass.
- Point Lookout State Park – 1,046 acre peninsula surrounded by Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay; 9 miles of shoreline; lighthouse; Civil War history; fishing pier; camp sites; playground; trails; and beach area.
- Newtowne Neck State Park – 776 acres surrounded by Breton Bay, St. Clement's Bay and Potomac River; 7 miles of shoreline; and access to Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. The park is currently closed due to the discovery of World War II era ordnance on the shoreline of the State Park in January 2012. The master planning process for the park has been temporarily delayed as a result of this.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

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

### Three Notch Trail Phase VI

A. Morton Thomas and Associates and county staff recently completed the final report for the project. All local approvals have been received for the project. Staff mailed the plans, specifications and engineer's estimate (PS&E) packet to SHA for approval to advertise the project on October 21<sup>st</sup>. SHA review usually takes 4-6 weeks to complete.

### Search for Location for Waterfront Public Landing on the Patuxent

Mr. Loewe reported that a media release was recently sent out regarding the county's search for land on the Patuxent for a waterfront public landing. The county has been looking to identify a site for several years to provide boating access to the Patuxent River.

### Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

Mr. Loewe provided several Power Point slides showing the progress on the Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields project; the project will add additional practice fields adjacent to Fifth District Park and Lettie Dent Elementary School. Spreading of topsoil on playing fields is approximately 80% complete and construction on the stormwater management structures is nearly complete. Work on the asphalt walkway has begun and will be completed in spring 2014. Final seeding will be done in the spring; wet weather has delayed the permanent seeding until the next growing season. Over seeding of the fields will take place in fall 2014; the fields are anticipated to be ready for use in spring 2015.

### Lancaster Park

Design and engineering continues to move forward on this project to construct two additional multi-purpose fields, parking and an entrance road at this park off Willows Road. It is anticipated this construction project will be out to bid in spring 2014.

### Civil War Interpretive Center at Lancaster Park

The renovated former Flat Tops building/Interpretive Center is intended to include displays and information about the Civil War Memorial as well as African American history and contributions in St. Mary's County. It is also envisioned that the center will provide space for meetings and

community activities, as well as public restrooms for the memorial park and the adjacent pavilion. The Procurement Office issued the construction contract to W. M. Davis, Inc. on October 15<sup>th</sup>; the pre-construction meeting for the project was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### Leonardtown Park Design and Engineering Project

The engineering firm continues to work with county staff on the concept planning for this new county park. The park's concept plan includes multi-purpose fields, baseball/softball fields, a playground, dog park, restroom building, and parking. When the draft is finalized, it will be presented to the Board, Board of Education, Town of Leonardtown, Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. The phase I archeological study is now complete; the evaluation of the barns and farm buildings is underway and should be complete in the near future. When that is complete, both reports will be sent to the Maryland Historical Trust for review and comment.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on December 5, 2013.