

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, August 2, 2012
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Buckler, Chairperson; J. Bradley Clements, Phil Cranford, Sabrina Hecht, Robert Hicks, Julie Lemmon, Tom Nelson, David Phalen and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Loewe, Director; Tyrone Harris, Special Facilities Coordinator; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

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

Robert Hicks moved, seconded by Phil Cranford, to approve the minutes of June 7, 2012; motion carried 9-0.

INTRODUCTION OF ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER

Chairperson Dick Buckler introduced Bradley Clements, Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Operations, St. Mary's County Public Schools, to the Board. Mr. Clements will be attending R&P Board meetings in place of Al Harrison who is ill. Mr. Clements has been working in the field of facility maintenance and administration for over 38 years. The Division of Supporting Services provides oversight of the school system's Transportation, Capital Planning, Food Service, Design and Construction, Maintenance, Operations and Safety and Security sections.

UPDATE ON SMC PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROJECTS

Mr. Clements provided a brief overview of the SMCPs enrollment projection trends and several projects in various stages of development. Those included:

- Mechanicsville Elementary School – vehicle circulation, parking and new playground anticipated to be under construction this fall; one existing softball field will be going away as the area is needed for the project.
- Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School – coordination ongoing with R&P on the Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields project; state ready to deed adjacent one acre property (Moeller property) to BOE for parking and other school use.
- Oakville Elementary School – project for new HVAC, bus lot, playground and other enhancements is nearly complete.
- Leonardtown High School – tennis court enhancements are underway.
- Leonardtown Middle School – project completed for new HVAC, lighting, security, sprinklers, ADA enhancements and interior building renovations.
- Great Mills High School – track resurfacing was recently completed.

PARKS DIVISION REPORT

Director Brian Loewe introduced Tyrone Harris, Park Operations Coordinator, who provided a report on operations at Elms Beach Park and Myrtle Point Park. Mr. Harris stated that

implementation of the weekend fee policy at Elms Beach and Myrtle Point parks seems to have helped alleviate some of the problems with overcrowding and trash at these two parks. Last spring, the Board of Commissioners approved charging an admission fee for Elms Beach and Myrtle Point parks on summer weekends and holidays. The fee was implemented to pay for park supervision; offset some operating costs; control overcrowding by limiting the number of vehicles allowed in the parks (Elms Beach particularly); and manage parking more effectively.

- To date for 2012, there have been 4,040 vehicles registered at both parks
- 12,540 visitors
- 110 season pass holders
- 2,617 in-county daily passes
- 1,340 out-of-county daily passes
- Visits to the parks are up considerably over last year; a full comparison of 2011 vs. 2012 will be provided after the season ends.

Staff has made some spot checks to certain public landings this summer in order to remind patrons of the landing rules, especially as they pertain to boat launching, fishing and crabbing. Mr. Harris also provided a handout on athletic field availability in the Leonardtown area.

PROJECT UPDATES

Three Notch Trail Phase VI

- The 90% design drawings are nearing completion.
- Staff hopes to have the final review meeting with SHA and other agencies this summer.
- Still anticipate the project will be out to bid next spring.
- The Governor's Office announced last week that the county will receive Transportation Enhancement Funds (\$1.4 million) and Maryland Bikeways funds (\$470,000) for construction of Phase VI.

Three Notch Trail Signage Project

- The TNT signage and interpretive panel project is essentially complete.
- Trailhead structures at Baggett Park and in Charlotte Hall have been installed.
- The panel signs have been installed.
- Good feedback has been received from the public on the project.

Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields

- Additional information was provided to the Procurement Office a few weeks ago in order to re-bid the project; that should happen in the near future.
- The previous solicitation was terminated last December.

Lancaster Park – Civil War Memorial

- Memorial ribbon cutting was held on June 16th
- The ceremony was well attended by the public, UCAC, elected officials and staff
- The BOCC signed the Bond Bill grant agreement for the Civil War Interpretive Center on July 24th. This funding will be used to renovate the former Flat Tops building at the site; the building will provide opportunities for interpretation of the U.S. Colored Troops and

other African American contributions to St. Mary's County. Space will also be provided for activities, community meetings and rest rooms for the memorial park and adjacent pavilion.

Lancaster Park Improvements Design and Engineering for Athletic Fields and Parking

- Staff met with Procurement Office staff this week on finalizing the solicitation document for the design and engineering for the Lancaster Park Improvement project.
- The project calls for constructing two multi-purpose athletic fields, parking and a new entrance road.

Design and Engineering for the New Leonardtown Park

- Staff met with Procurement Office staff this week on finalizing the solicitation document for the design and engineering for the new Leonardtown Park to be located on the former Hayden Farm property in Leonardtown.
- This project will be bid in conjunction with the Lancaster Park Improvement Project.
- Coordination is ongoing with SMC Public Schools for the project to include shared parking, multi-purpose athletic fields, a playground, and restroom facilities.

Public Landings

- The bid for the replacement piers at Fox Harbor Landing, St. Georges Island, and River Springs Landing closed on 6/21/12; it is anticipated that Procurement will award the contract for the work in the near future.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chesapeake Building in Leonardtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Kathy Bailey

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on _____.