

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, February 1, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**Board members present:** Andrew Roper, Chairperson, Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, Richard Buckler, Patrick Dugan, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Patrick Murphy, David Phalen, and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**Recreation, Parks and Community Services staff and others present:** Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); Robin Finnacom, President & CEO, Community Development Corporation; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Andrew Roper, Chairperson, at 5:35 p.m. in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairperson Andrew Roper welcomed new Recreation and Parks Board members Richard Buckler, Robert Hicks, Patrick Murphy and David Phalen.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Patrick Dugan motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to approve the minutes of December 7, 2006. Motion carried 9-0.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Lisa Waigner-Rush and Coleman Hillman served as the nominating committee for the 2007 Election of Officers. Ms. Waiger-Rush reported that the committee would like to nominate Patrick Dugan as Chairperson and Robert Richardson as Vice-Chairperson. **Richard Buckler motioned to approve the Slate of Officers as presented; motioned carried with all in favor.** New Chairperson Patrick Dugan thanked Andrew Roper and Robert Richardson for their service in 2006 as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

**RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

The Recreation Division Report was deferred until the next meeting.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Charlotte Hall Property Master Plan** – On October 25, 2005 the BOCC provided direction to RP&CS staff to take the lead on developing the Charlotte Hall property master plan (Northern Senior Center property). After examining the site conditions and limitations for each County-owned property in the Charlotte Hall area, it was determined that this property would be the most suitable for developing senior housing, an indoor recreation/multi-generational center and a swimming pool.

Staff from RP&CS, Department of Aging and the Housing Authority and representatives from Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani served on the Committee that worked on the draft master plan. A joint public presentation was made by the consultants to the R&P Board and the Commission on Aging on November 2, 2006. The senior housing portion of the plan and related sewer requirements have been a significant challenge and the Committee determined that it

wasn't feasible to move forward with the project without access to public sewer. Traffic concerns and the possible need for additional access from Charlotte Hall Road and from the rear of the property also need to be considered. The zoning of the property and the existing forest conservation easement would also need to be addressed.

The plan was endorsed by both the Commission on Aging and the R&P Board in December. The plan was presented to the Planning Commission on January 8<sup>th</sup> for comment and was presented to the BOCC on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is anticipated that the plan will be considered for adoption by the BOCC later this month.

Mr. Murphy asked whether a swimming pool or a recreation center is the higher priority for the site. Mr. Rollins stated that there is a need for a northern county pool; Great Mills Swimming Pool currently serves the southern area of the county and the new aquatic facilities planned for the College of Southern Maryland Leonardtown Campus will serve the central county. The County will need to determine at a later date whether a pool or recreation center in the northern county is a higher priority. Both amenities are identified as needs in the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan; but the pool has been recommended longer.

Mr. Hicks asked if there have been attempts to bring a YMCA to St. Mary's. Mr. Rollins stated that there has been discussion in the past with the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Department has partnered with them at Carver Recreation Center. The Department has also had discussions with YMCA. The organization would need a major financial commitment from the community and would look to run the center themselves. Mr. Murphy mentioned that about five years ago the YMCA explored the possibility of a southern Maryland project but determined the project was not feasible at the time.

**Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse** – Mr. Rollins informed the Board that the Wicomico Shores Golf Course renovation and expansion project is moving forward. The project will expand the square footage under roof on the ground level of the existing building and it will relocate the golf shop and food and beverage operation upstairs near the existing banquet room. The lower level of the building will be renovated to accommodate golf carts and storage. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by late spring or early summer of 2008. Coleman Hillman asked if the old apartments at the Clubhouse would be renovated; Mr. Rollins stated those wouldn't be renovated and the space will be used for other purposes.

**Lancaster Park Off-leash Dog Park** – Mr. Rollins provided a draft brochure on the new off-leash dog park at Lancaster Park to Board members. Members were asked to review the rules and regulations for the facility and provide input. Construction of the dog park facility is now complete; the facility will officially open for use on March 1, 2007. Benches will be provided inside and outside the off-leash area.

Chairman Dugan asked if certain breeds of dogs will be prohibited from the facility. Mr. Rollins stated that staff consulted with local veterinarians, Animal Control and the Animal Welfare League and it was decided not to prohibit certain breeds of dogs. Staff will research whether dog food and treats will be allowed in the facility. Mr. Murphy asked if information on licensing pets could be available at the park; Mr. Rollins stated that could be provided.

Ms. Waigner-Rush recommended changing the sentence: Children must be with an adult and remain seated; to Young children must be with an adult and remain seated. The Board recommended changing the sentence: Owners must immediately clean up after their dogs, to Owners must immediately clean up after their dogs and fill in any holes.

**Robert Hicks motioned, seconded by David Phalen, to approve the dog park rules with the changes recommended. The motion carried 9-0.**

**Leonard Hall Recreation Center Improvements** – The project to provide shower facilities, air conditioning and improved air circulation in the gymnasium at Leonard Hall Recreation Center is underway and should be completed by summer 2007.

**Seventh District Park Improvements** – This project includes a new playground, restroom building, basketball court and expanded parking. The playground portion of the project was completed last spring. All permits have been received and construction of the basketball court, additional parking and drain fields is anticipated to be underway later this winter; construction of the restroom building will begin this spring. An FY08 capital project has been requested to pave the parking areas and in FY09 to resurface the tennis courts.

**Three Notch Trail** – The SHA approval to advertise Phase II of the Three Notch Trail was received on January 29<sup>th</sup>; all other permits have been received. It is anticipated that the solicitation will be out to bid this winter; construction is expected to begin on Phase II in spring 2007 and be completed by fall 2007. Phase II of the trail will run from the Northern Senior Center to Deborah Drive in Charles County, just north of the County line in Charlotte Hall.

Also, staff has received the 60% design drawings for Phase IVA, from WalMart to Chancellor's Run Road. These plans will be submitted for the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) March review cycle. Section IVB, south of Chancellor's Run Road, will be constructed with FDR Boulevard. Other sections, from California to Wildewood are being constructed by several private developers.

Mr. Hillman asked about the vacant lot at the Veteran's Home beside the Church and if athletic practices could be held there. Mr. Rollins stated he didn't think that was feasible as the Church uses that lot for parking for functions.

**Tennis Court Replacement Project** – Based upon input from the St. Mary's County Tennis Association (SMCTA) regarding needs and priorities, the Department has proposed to use \$25,000 appropriated in FY07 for replacing a court at Jarboesville Park be reprogrammed to enable architect and engineering work to be done in 2007 for two new courts at Cecil Park in FY08. The FY08 budget requests funds for the two new courts at Cecil Park and funds to renovate two existing courts to provide a total of four courts at this park. This will provide opportunities for more organized play and tournaments. The project also requests funding in FY09 to renovate two courts at Seventh District Park and light two courts at Dorsey Park; FY10 to renovate two courts at Jarboesville Park; FY11 renovate two courts at Fifth District Park, and in FY12 to renovate two courts at Chancellor's Run Park.

**Abell's Wharf Public Landing** – Parking lot improvements are nearly complete at the heavily used Abell's Wharf public landing. The existing gravel parking was leveled, graded and asphalted. The project is complete with the exception of the installation of parking wheel stops.

**Forest Landing** – The FY2007 CIP includes a project to replace approximately 140' ft of existing bulkhead that is badly deteriorated. The contract for the project was awarded to J.W. Graner on October 20, 2006. The joint permit has been received for the project and local permits should be received shortly.

**Tall Timbers and Paul Ellis Public Landings** – These public landings will receive new piers and ADA enhancements (some shoreline stabilization will also be done at Paul Ellis landing) to be accomplished with FY06 State Waterway Improvement funds in the amount of \$99,000 each. Design and engineering for the Tall Timbers landing is complete and the joint permit has been received. The design for the Paul Ellis Landing project required some redesign and that should be completed in the near future; permit applications will be submitted after the design is complete.

Mr. Rollins provided the Board with copies of the draft RP&CS Policies and Procedures for parks and facilities. He asked the Board to review the information for the next Board meeting.

### **DRAFT FY08 RP&CS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

Mr. Rollins provided a handout and a brief description of the proposed RP&CS Capital Improvements Program. The projects will be discussed in further detail during the next meeting.

- ❖ **Piney Point Lighthouse Museum** – Project to expand and enhance the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum to better interpret the historic site and tourist attraction.
- ❖ **Three Notch Trail** – Project continues development of the Three Notch Trail, a 10 ft. wide multi-use trail on the former railroad right-of-way.
- ❖ **Tennis Court Improvements** – See description above under Project Updates. This project is being recommended based on input from SMCTA. Construction of two new courts and renovation of the two existing courts will provide four courts at this facility will promote organized play and provide a place to host tournaments.
- ❖ **Piney Point Lighthouse Shore Erosion** – This project will utilize interest free State loans to address a serious erosion problem along the northwestern shoreline of the property.
- ❖ **Myrtle Point Park** – Funding is being requested to begin implementation of the park master plan.
- ❖ **Parkland and Facility Acquisition** – Project will enable acquisition of property for County parks, public landings and indoor recreation facilities.
- ❖ **Lancaster Park Improvements** - The project will utilize a State Community Parks and Playgrounds grant to construct a picnic shelter and complete the hard surface pathway for walking and jogging.
- ❖ **New - Park Maintenance Building**- This project proposes to expand the existing Park Maintenance building by approximately 450 s.f.
- ❖ **New - Park Roads and Parking Lot Improvements** – Project would pave park entrance roads and parking areas at Seventh District Park, Elms Beach Park and Cecil Park.
- ❖ **New- Chancellor’s Run Park Improvements** Project proposed to add lighting for two existing multi-purpose fields to enable additional playing time for soccer and lacrosse; replace the aging playground; construct a new picnic pavilion; replace deteriorating baseball/softball field fencing; and resurface and color coat the basketball court.
- ❖ **New- Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields** – Project proposes to construct five multi-purpose playing fields on approximately ten acres of County property at the Charlotte Hall Convenience Center adjacent to Lettie Dent Elementary School and Fifth District Park.
- ❖ **New - Chaptico Park Parking Expansion and Phased Development** – Project proposes to construct additional parking for the existing soccer/lacrosse complex and to develop other recreation facilities included in the Chaptico Park master plan.
- ❖ **St. Mary’s Gymnastics Center** – Project would construct or acquire an existing building for a 15,000 s.f. gymnastics center.
- ❖ **New - Northern County Pool** – Project would design and construct a public aquatics center at the Northern Senior Center property in Charlotte Hall.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Andrew Roper motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of property acquisition as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a) 11. Motion carried 9-0.

Present: Patrick Dugan, Chairman; Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairman; Richard Buckler, Patrick Dugan, Robert Hicks, Coleman Hillman, Patrick Murphy, David Phalen, Lisa Wainger-Rush, Phillip Rollins, Robin Finnacom and Kathy Bailey.

Authority: Article 24, Sections 4-210(a) 11.  
Time held: 6:55 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 14 of the Governmental Center in Leonardtown.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on March 1, 2007