

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Meeting of Thursday, October 5, 2006**

MINUTES

Board members present: Andrew Roper, Chairperson, Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, Patrick Dugan, Coleman Hillman, Jody Payne and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

Board members absent: Sam Brown and Robert Harper.

Recreation, Parks and Community Services staff and others present: Phil Rollins, Director, Recreation, Parks & Community Services (RP&CS); David Guyther, Parks Manager; Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jody Payne motioned, seconded by Robert Richardson, to approve the minutes of September 7, 2006. Motion carried with all in favor.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT

Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, provided an update on the following items.

- Great Mills Swimming Pool - The pool was closed for 17 days in September 2006 due to Ernesto and "bubble" installation. Swim Lessons began on September 25th with 53 children registered for a four week period in 10 different classes. The Great Mills Aquatic Club (GMAC) swim team began their Monday through Saturday practice schedule on September 18th; approximately 65 swimmers are on the team. The pool will offer kayak handling lessons beginning in November. Additional water aerobics classes will also be offered this fall.
- Gymnastics Center - Recreational classes began on September 11th with a new eight-week session registering 354 gymnasts. The gym hired a new office assistant who began work on October 2nd. Nineteen gymnasts and four staff members attended a state clinic in Baltimore on September 16th & 17th. Three coaches attended the Gymnastics Model Congress in New Jersey held on September 28th through 30th.
- Leisure Programs - There are approximately 530 citizens participating in numerous youth and adult leisure programs including, karate, dance, arts & crafts and educational activities. Planning for winter programs is in full swing. Several meetings have been scheduled with potential instructors including Fun fit classes, which focus on healthy eating and exercise for toddlers through teens and cooking classes.
- School Age & Summer Camp Programs - Approximately 230 students are enrolled in the Before & After School Age Program. Parking lot renovations are reaching their final stages at Hollywood Recreation Center (HRC). The program Coordinator and Camp Specialist attended the First Responder Child Sexual Abuse Training on September 22nd sponsored by the Local Management Board.
- Sports - Registration for the 2006 fall season is complete with enrollment holding steady or increased in several areas.
- Summerstock - The Department has chosen "Crazy for You" as the 2007 show and "Suessical" as the 2008 show. "Crazy for You" is a romantic comedy set in the 1930's and "Suessical" is an adaptation of a medley of Dr. Suess's stories put to music.
- International Youth Sports Congress - Department Director, Division Manager and Sports Coordinator attended the International Youth Sports Congress held in Washington, DC on September 20th and 21st. The Department

Director gave a presentation on St. Mary's County's Raising Community Standards in Youth Sports initiative. The National Association of Youth Sports 25th Anniversary commemorative book highlighted what St. Mary's County has done with its initiative. Staff sent in an application for a possible presentation to the National Coaches Conference to be held in Indianapolis next summer. Also, staff is looking at the Parents Alliance for Youth Sports (PAYS) national training program for possible implementation with the Department sponsored Youth Basketball Program. This is a video tape training that has helped other areas of the country curb inappropriate behavior during sporting events.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON RAISING COMMUNITY STANDARDS IN YOUTH SPORTS

Mr. Shepherd provided an update to the Board (as of October 4, 2006) on the status of implementing the Raising Community Standards in Youth Sports Initiative.

- Background Checks
 - Northern Soccer – 81 background checks submitted; 0 returned as disqualified out of 66 returned to date.
 - St. Mary's Soccer – 150 background checks submitted; 1 returned as disqualified out of 128 returned to date.
 - Pigskin Football – 49 background checks submitted; 2 disqualified out of 49 returned to date.
 - Southern County Football – 53 submitted; 1 returned as disqualified out of 52 returned to date.
- Next spring, more emphasis will be placed on background checks for assistant coaches and identifying all assistant coaches.
- Mr. Todd French will begin work as the Sports Coordinator on November 6, 2006. Mr. French is from Delaware; he graduated from Eastern University and received his master's degree in sports management from St. Thomas University in Florida.
- No Smoking Policy - No smoking within 150' from athletic fields signs were posted at fields about two weeks ago; two complaints have been received to date.

Chairman Roper asked if parents can now assume that their coach has had the proper training and background checks. Mr. Shepherd stated that the program requires that all head coaches and one volunteer coach have the training and background checks at this time. With the addition of the new Sports Coordinator, the communication of those assurances should get better as the program progresses.

Patrick Dugan asked Mr. Shepherd what happens when the electricity goes out at the pool. Mr. Shepherd stated that the pool has a back-up generator to handle that type of situation.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Three Notch Trail – The final design plans for Phase II were received on October 3rd and County approvals are expected within the next few weeks. The plans will be sent to SHA for approval of the project solicitation package. The solicitation will be out to bid by late fall/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.

Staff has had communication with the developers of the Wildewood project to ensure that the trail is built from Wildewood Blvd to just above MD 4 as was intended when the easement was granted in April 2005 for Wildewood to cross the County's railroad right-of-way. Wildewood sold property where townhouses are to be built to another developer (Sturbridge); the plans submitted by Sturbridge only show the developer constructing the trail on property fronting the housing project.

A kick-off meeting is planned for October 11th for design and engineering for Phase IVA of the Three Notch Trail. Phase IV of the trail was intended to be approximately three miles in length and run from Wal-Mart shopping center in California to Pegg Road (Gate one of the Naval Air Station) in Lexington Park. Because

the construction of FDR Blvd. is now back on the table, the trail will be constructed in two phases. The section of the trail from Chancellor's Run Road to Pegg Road will need to be designed and constructed in coordination with the FDR Blvd. Design and engineering for that section of FDR Blvd. is in the current CIP for FY09.

- Great Mills Canoe & Kayak Launch – Mr. Rollins thanked Board members Andy Roper, Coleman Hillman and Patrick Dugan for attending the ribbon cutting for the Great Mills Canoe & Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting, on Tuesday, October 3, 2006. The event was very well attended by County Commissioners and staff, Sea Scout Ship #538, Senator Roy Dyson, Delegate Anthony O'Donnell, citizens and canoe and kayak enthusiasts. The Department plans to develop a St. Mary's County water trails brochure and update the County website with water trails information.
- Charlotte Hall Property Master Plan – Staff from RP&CS, Department of Aging and the Housing Authority continues to meet with representatives from Whitney, Bailey, Cox and Magnani on developing a draft master plan. The senior housing portion of the plan and related sewer requirements have been a significant challenge. A letter was sent to the Veteran's Home regarding the possibility of tying into the wastewater treatment plant at the Veterans Home. Recently, a letter was received from the Maryland Environmental Service, which manages the wastewater treatment facility at the Veterans Home. According to the Service, an engineering study is needed to determine if it's feasible to upgrade the facility to accommodate senior housing; Mr. Rollins stated that it was unlikely the facility would be upgraded. Subsequently, a meeting was held with the MetCom Director to get input on options for sewer facilities. MetCom has indicated public sewer may be a possibility in the foreseeable future. The draft plan will move forward with the assumption that public sewer will be available in the Charlotte Hall area within the next few years. The group plans to present concept plan options to the R&P Board and Commission on Aging at a joint meeting on November 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Center.

FY08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Timeline for Operating and Capital Budget Process

- Draft budget recommendation to R&P Board in November or December
- Recommendations to Finance in December
- BOCC work sessions from December through March
- BOCC votes on a draft to take to public hearing in April
- Budget is officially adopted in late May

Mr. Rollins provided a handout to Board members on the FY07 Capital Budget and 5-Year Capital Program. Full descriptions of the projects can be found in the approved budget. The projects include:

- The Piney Point Lighthouse Renovation (prior years; FY07-08)
- Three Notch Trail (prior years; FY07-12)
- Tennis Court Replacement (FY07-11)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Shore Erosion (prior years; FY07-08)
- Myrtle Point Park (prior years; FY10-12)
- Parkland Acquisition (prior years; FY07 & FY12)
- St. Mary's Gymnastics Center (FY11-12)
- St. Mary's College Amphitheater (FY07)
- Leonard Hall Recreation Center (FY07)
- Lancaster Park Improvements (FY07-08)
- Parks ADA/Playground Replacements (FY07)
- St. Clement's Hundred-Blackistone Lighthouse (FY07)
- Lacrosse Fields (FY07)
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course Clubhouse (prior years; FY07)

Public Landings (mostly State funding)

- Derelict Boat Removal (prior years; FY07-FY12)
- Patuxent River Public Landing (prior years; FY07-09)

- Clarke's Landing Board Ramp (FY08-FY09)
- Forest Landing (FY07)
- Wicomico Shores Public Landing (FY07)
- Wicomico Shores Public Landing – Parking (FY09)
- Leonardtown Wharf (prior years; FY07)
- Piney Point Landing - parking lot (FY08)
- Piney Point Landing - stone revetment (FY08)
- Bushwood Wharf Landing - parking (FY08)
- St. Inigoes Landing – parking/roadway (FY08)

Lisa Rush recommended that staff speak to representatives from the Tri-County Council on water access and the search for a site for the Patuxent River Public Landing.

2005 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) recommendations - Mr. Rollins provided the Board with a spreadsheet of land acquisition, facility development and rehabilitation recommendations. Several of these recommendations are already listed in the current Capital Program.

LPPRP Facility Development Projects

- Three Notch Trail – the 2005 LPPRP recommends the continued funding of the Three Notch Trail until completed.
- Charlotte Hall Park – Master planning is continuing on 40-acre Northern Senior Center site. Staff is continuing to get pressure from the northern area of the County for additional athletic fields. One recommendation would be to develop multipurpose fields on land at the Convenience Center in Charlotte Hall.
- Charlotte Hall Recreation Center – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY12; due to funding limitations, it has not moved forward.
- Chaptico Park – The LPPRP recommends that Phase 2 & 3 of the park be developed in FY13; this is a project to consider for the future.
- St. Mary's Gymnastics Center – This project is listed in the current CIP.
- Lancaster Park Improvements – This project is listed in the current CIP.
- Lexington Manor Master Plan – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY12; this is a project to consider for future years.
- St. Clement's Island Museum Expansion – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY16.
- Mobile Entertainment Stage – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY12; funds for this project have been requested in the past; this is something that will need to be considered in the future due to the increasing number of events the current "home made" stage is being used for.
- Colton's Point Park – The LPPRP recommends this long-term project for FY20.
- Myrtle Point Park – This project is listed in the current CIP.

LPPRP Facility Rehabilitation and Development Projects

- Seventh District Park – Project currently underway to construct restroom building, basketball courts, and improve parking; new playground added in spring 06.
- Chancellor's Run Park – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY14; by FY14 this park will be approximately 20-25 years old; it will need some improvements before then.
- Cecil Park – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY13; this project was included in the CIP several years ago, but was not accomplished due to funding constraints.
- Elms Beach Park – The LPPRP recommends this project in FY12.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum – This project is listed in the current CIP.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum Shore Erosion – This project is listed in the current CIP.
- Recreation Center Renovation – Leonard Hall, Margaret Brent, Hollywood & Carver Centers – The Leonard Hall Recreation Center project is listed in the current CIP.
- Tennis Court Rehabilitation – This project is listed in the current CIP.

Input/Needs Discussion

Mr. Rollins asked the Board to let him know if they have any other ideas for the upcoming CIP and if they concur with the

LPPRP recommendations and plans to request funding to address the need for additional athletic fields in the northern area of the county. Staff is also getting pressure for space for new programs; the new football league in the southern county is expanding their program offerings to include spring touch football and there is a new Boy's Lacrosse League in the County.

Ms. Rush asked if a future section of the Three Notch Trail could be funded with funds from the delay of Phase IVB. Mr. Rollins stated that he would check into the feasibility of reprogramming the funding to the Laurel Grove to MD5 section.

OTHER BUSINESS

Approval of Alcohol Consumption Permits

- October 6 – St. Clement's Hundred Osprey Gala
- October 7 & 8 – 7th District Optimist Blessing of the Fleet

Jody Payne motioned, second by Robert Richardson to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permits for both events; motion carried with all in favor.

R&P Board Vacancies – December 31, 2006

Mr. Rollins stated that the terms for several Board members will expire on December 31.

- Patrick Dugan – Can be reappointed
- Robert Harper – Cannot be reappointed
- Jody Payne – Cannot be reappointed
- Andy Roper – Can be reappointed
- Lisa Wainger-Rush – Can be reappointed
- Sam Brown – will step down from the Board

Patrick Dugan, Andy Roper and Lisa Wainger-Rush all expressed the desire to be considered for reappointment. Mr. Rollins encouraged citizens watching the broadcast to contact the Public Information Office if they are interested in serving on the Board.

Punt Pass and Kick

The Punt, Pass and Kick competition was held on September 9, 2006 at Fifth District Park. Mr. Richardson stated that 58 youth, ages 8-15, participated. The winners will compete at the Sectional Competition on October 29 at Fifth District Park. Scores will be evaluated and the top five in each age group for the region will be invited to a Redskins game at Fed Ex field on November 26, 2006.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Patrick Dugan motioned, seconded by Jody Payne, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of property acquisition as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a) 11. Motion carried 6-0.

Present: Andrew Roper, Chairman; Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairman; Patrick Dugan, Coleman Hillman, Jody Payne, Lisa Wainger Rush, Phillip Rollins and Kathy Bailey.

Authority: Article 24, Sections 4-210(a) 11.

Time held: 7:05 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

The joint meeting with the R&P Board and Commission on Aging to discuss the Charlotte Hall Property Master Plan will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the Northern Senior Center. Regular R&P Board business will be conducted following the public meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on November 2, 2006.