

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD  
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
Meeting of Thursday, December 3, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson; Richard Buckler, Al Harrison, Sabrina Hecht, Robert Hicks, Tom Nelson, David Phalen and Lisa Wainger-Rush.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Patrick Dugan.

**RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT:** Phil Rollins, Director; Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board meeting was called to order by Robert Richardson, Vice-Chairperson, at 5:30 p.m., in the Chesapeake Building.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Robert Hicks moved, seconded by Richard Buckler, to approve the minutes of November 5, 2009; motion carried 7-0.**

**RECREATION DIVISION REPORT**

Arthur Shepherd, Recreation Division Manager, provided an update on Recreation Division registration and other options which are now available on-line via the County's website.

- On-line Registration – This new option became available on December 2, 2009. Reservations for leisure classes and lessons, sports programs and trips and tours can now be done on-line. First time patrons will need to sign-up for a password before registration.
- List Service – Citizens can now sign-up for e-mail notifications for cancellations, registrations and other updates. Text messaging is also available. He thanked the IT Department for helping to make this possible.
- Community Standards in Youth Sports – Mr. Shepherd also showed the Board how citizens can check the program compliance status of their coaches on line.
- Youth Basketball – Currently there are 87 teams signed up for youth basketball; last year at this time it was 84. Ninth and tenth grade teams sign-up tonight.
- Great Mills Swimming Pool – This year saw the largest attendance in November since the pool opened in fall 2003.
- Public Safety – Staff is working with Public Safety to offer Spanish instruction.

## **YOUTH FOOTBALL UPDATE**

Mr. Rollins provided a re-cap of the last Board meeting where he outlined the Department's recommendation for youth football. Staff reported that the Department had reached agreement with the Southern Maryland Youth Football League (SMYFL) on the "club model" where the R&P Sports Coordinator serves as the League Commissioner. In this scenario, youth football clubs would be established in various communities to handle player registration, fundraising, recruitment of coaches and the formation of teams. Each club would enter their teams into age/weight divisions within the League. Each individual club would be responsible for providing their own equipment. League operations would be managed by R&P with the assistance of a Board of Directors which would consist of the presidents of each club. R&P would handle functions such as scheduling of games, contracting with officials, game supervision, conducting player weigh-ins, addressing inappropriate behavior and determining disciplinary action.

Mr. Rollins referred to the e-mail message he copied to the Board in which SMYFL expressed some concerns over the agreement for R&P to administer youth football. There were some misunderstandings and staff met with SMYFL's Board and it was felt the concerns were addressed. The County sent out a media release this week announcing R&P administration of the league and the partnership with SMYFL. The Department is very happy about this arrangement and looks forward to working with SMYFL. The Department also commends all the hard work done by Chris Pixton and the Pax River Raiders; the door remains open to that organization for future partnerships. Further discussions on the number of teams in the league are anticipated.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Mr. Rollins provided an update on several capital projects.

**Three Notch Trail** – Mr. Rollins provide a map with sections completed, under construction, under design and planned for the future. Phases include:

- Phase I –MD. Route 236 to the Northern County Senior Center; completed.
- Phase II – Northern County Senior Center to just past the County line to Deborah Drive; completed.
- Phase III – Wildewood to Wal-Mart; some sections completed by private developers.
- Phase IV-A – Wal-Mart to Chancellor's Run Road; essentially complete.
- Phase IV-B – Chancellor's Run Road to Pegg Road; to be coordinated with future FDR Boulevard.
- Phase V – John V. Baggett Park at Laurel Grove to MD Route 5; expected to be under construction next spring.
- Phase VI – MD Route 5 to MD 236 in Mechanicsville; design expected in FY11; construction in FY14.
- Phase VII – Wildewood to Hollywood Road; future section.
- Phase VIII – Hollywood Road to Friendship School Road; future section.
- Phase IX – Friendship School Road to Baggett Park; future section.

The Department understands there are some issues that will need to be addressed as the trail moves forward, particularly in Phase VI in Mechanicsville. The Department is committed to working with adjacent landowners to help solve problems to make this a true community project. There are also issues with right-of-way ownership from Wildewood up to Laurel Grove. When MD Route 235 was widened, some of the right-of-way was lost. SMECO purchased some land and obtained easements from other property owners for the relocated corridor. The County may need to obtain some easements to construct the trail in this area in the future.

Ms. Wainger-Rush asked if the County is coordinating the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge and MD Route 4 widening project with the trail. Mr. Rollins stated that yes, this is being coordinated and he recently attended a meeting on this subject.

Al Harrison asked about convenience stations planned along the trail. Mr. Rollins stated that Baggett Park would be the major hub, with ample parking, restrooms and other amenities. Other stops along the trail include: the Charlotte Hall Library, SMC Visitor's Center; and Northern Senior Center; parking and restroom facilities are available at these sites.

Sabrina Hecht referred to budget reductions and asked if staff is pursuing various grant funds to get these projects completed. Mr. Rollins stated that staff has been and plans to continue to use Program Open Space funds (significantly reduced); National Recreational Trails funds; and Transportation Enhancement Funds for the trail.

**Carver Heights Community Park** - The new playground is under construction and will soon be open for community use (rain delayed the installation somewhat).

**Charlotte Hall Athletic Fields** - This project will construct athletic fields on undeveloped land adjacent to Fifth District Park and Lettie M. Dent Elementary School. The preliminary design drawings for this project were submitted for the January 2010 TEC review cycle. Staff anticipates the project will be under construction by fall/winter 2010.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Rollins provided an update and handout on the status of the R&P Capital Project budget submission. Due to the current fiscal climate, most capital projects have been impacted and pushed out one or more years. The changes from last month's report include the following.

- Chaptico Park Phased Development – Moved from FY11 (\$125,000), FY12 (\$735,000), and FY13 (\$380,000) to FY14, Fy15 and FY16.
- Park Roads, Parking and Access – Moved from FY12 (\$231,000) and FY13 (\$125,000) to FY15 and FY16.
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum – Moved from FY2011 (\$70,000), FY12 (\$230,000), FY13 (\$130,000) and FY14 (\$90,000) to FY14 (\$160,000), FY15 (\$230,000), and FY16 (\$130,000).
- Recreation Facilities and Parks Improvements – Moved from FY13 (\$25,000)

- to FY15.
- Tennis Court Improvements – Moved from FY11 (\$75,000), FY12 (\$75,000) and FY13 (\$75,000) to FY14 (\$225,000).
  - Three Notch Trail Phases Six through Nine – Moved from FY13 (\$1,972,000) to FY14.
  - Basketball Court Renovation – Moved \$25,000 from Recreation Facilities and Parks Improvements project, for a total project of \$60,000 in FY15.
  - Elms Beach Park Improvements – Removed from CIP.
  - Drayden African American Schoolhouse – Removed from CIP.
  - Indian Bridge Road Park – Removed from CIP.
  - Lancaster Park Parking Addition – Moved from FY13 (\$35,000) and FY14 (\$350,000) to FY15 and FY16.
  - LPPRP Planning Grant – FY2011 (requirement to update the 2005 plan).
  - St. Clement's Island Museum – Moved from FY12 (\$100,000), FY13 (\$30,000), FY14 (120,000) and FY15 (\$50,000) to FY14 (\$100,000) and future years (\$200,000).

The next budget work session is scheduled for December 22, 2009. Mr. Rollins will keep the Board informed as the recommended budget continues to be developed. Mr. Harrison asked how the Department prioritized recommendations for budget reductions. Mr. Rollins stated that this year, the major directive was no new projects and the need to defer other projects based upon current need and the approved Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Richard Buckler motioned, seconded by Lisa Wainger-Rush, to meet in Executive Session to discuss matters of board appointments as provided for in Article 24, Section 4-210(a) 1. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Authority:** Article 24, Sections 4-210(a) 1.

**Time held:** 6:30 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

**Lisa Wainger-Rush motioned, seconded by Richard Buckler, to recommend to the BOCC that Patrick Dugan serve as the R&P Boards' representative on the Wicomico Shores Golf Course Advisory Board. Motion carried 7-0.**

The Board directed staff to communicate this recommendation, and their recommendation to fill the Board slot which will be vacated by Bob Richardson, to the BOCC.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Nominating Committee (Sabrina Hecht and David Phalen) presented the recommended slate of officers for the coming year. The slate consisted of: Lisa Wainger-Rush, Chairperson, and Richard Buckler, Vice-Chairperson. No other nominations from the floor were received; therefore, the recommendations were approved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Punt, Pass and Kick - Mr. Richardson informed the Board that six local sectional winners will compete at FedEx Field on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Robert Richardson – On behalf of the R&P Board, Mr. Buckler expressed appreciation to Bob Richardson for his dedicated service to the R&P Board for the past eight years.

On behalf of the R&P Department, Mr. Rollins expressed best wishes to the Board for a Happy Holiday season.

## **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in Room 14 of the Potomac Building in Leonardtown.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on January 5, 2010.