

Recreation & Parks Advisory Board (Thursday, February 4, 2021)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

2. Roll Call

Members present Greg Weaver, Chanda Norton, Joshua Shaffer, Christine Kaila, Joe Longobardi, Fred Parker, Patrick Murphy

Members absent Kathryn Weatherly

I move to approve the minutes of December 3, 2020

Motion by Joshua Schaffer, second by Christine Kaila

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker, Christine M Kaila, Joshua Shaffer, Joe Longobardi, Chanda Norton, Greg Weaver

3. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Motion 1: I move to accept the nomination of Chairperson for Recreation & Parks Board, Patrick Murphy

Motion by Fred Parker, second by Greg Weaver

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker, Christine M Kaila, Joshua Shaffer, Joe Longobardi, Chanda Norton, Greg Weaver

Motion 2: I move to accept the nomination of Vice-Chairperson for Recreation & Parks Board, Fred Parker

Motion by Joshua Shaffer, second by Christine Kaila

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker, Christine M Kaila, Joshua Shaffer, Joe Longobardi, Chanda Norton, Greg Weaver

b. College of Southern Maryland Wellness Center – Leonardtown Campus – Feasibility of Recreation and Parks Managing the Facility Via Lease/MOU

4. Old Business

A. Project Updates

a. Director Arthur Shepherd gave an update on the following:

i. Lexington Manor Passive Park

- 1. Phase 1**
 - a.** Strong improvements at Disc Golf Course
 - b.** Removed dead trees
 - c.** Created new pathways for new holes at the Disc Golf Course
 - d.** Triple Creek contractors will start full demolition on February 9 from Three Notch Theater and move south down Coral Drive. No timeline when it will be completed. There will be a new entrance off Rt. 235.
 - e.** St. Mary's College is interested on how they can partner with Recreation & Parks for the new Passive Park.
 - f.** With the addition of the second turf field at Lancaster will bring citizens to the Passive Park
- ii. Shannon Farm Property**
 - 1.** Commissioners approved the Concept Plan for the walking path (non-motorized vehicles)
 - 2.** Once Commissioners Budget Work Session is held on February 23, place the concept plan online at the Recreation & Parks website as a draft (has not been approved by the commissioners)
- iii. Snow Hill Park**
 - 1.** A. Morton Thomas awarded the contract, getting boat ramp started soon
 - 2.** DNR matching grant – Waterway Improvement Fund
- iv. Three Notch Trail – Phase VII**
 - 1.** Waiting on stormwater
 - 2.** Tower in Hollywood to around Harris Tettlers
 - 3.** Geotech, borings
 - 4.** Getting ready to take to Techno Evaluation Community & State Highway Administration
- v. Sports Complex**
 - 1. Bond Bill – Find out what to do next**
 - a.** Feasibility Good & Economic Market Analysis is good to have a Sports Complex in St. Mary's County
 - b.** Moved to FY2027 – Major Cost
 - c.** Funding Source – Concept Plan, Find Property, etc.
 - d.** Chand Norton asked if Rec & Parks Advisory Board will have input? Yes, they will.
- vi. Synthetic Turf Fields – CRRP, Chaptico, Lancaster**

1. Six synthetic turf fields under construction at Chancellors Run Regional Park & Lancaster Park
 - a. In design for marking fields at Chaptico Park for different markings for the different volunteer leagues
 - b. Lights installed at Chaptico Park
 - c. Half the lights have been installed at Lancaster Park
 - d. Lights installed at Chancellors Run Regional Park
 - e. Timeline moving forward to have the next 3 in for April 15
 - f. League leaders commented how much a game changer these fields have been especially when there has been inclement weather and the fields aren't affected. Remember these are tabletop fields, when you put four teams on that field to practice at the top corner it's just as good as playing in the middle of the field. You're not jockeying for position them saying why do they always get the good side, every piece is the same.
 - g. Lancaster Park turf field being used on a January night around dusk with the lights on when it was 37°-40°. In the past wouldn't have been able to do this.
 - h. Indoor soccer has moved outdoors because of these new fields.
 - i. Joe Longobardi asked if bleachers would be installed at these fields? Yes, raised bleachers will be installed at all six fields (one set initially). Waiting to see if additional bleachers are needed, parents like to be able to sit along the sidelines in lawn chairs or walk the sidelines. Will make a decision a year from now to see if additional bleachers are needed to be installed.

vii. Athletic Field Improvements

1. Bermuda grass field – irrigation at Chaptico Park a little behind because of COVID, weather and something wrong with the well. They are built just haven't taken yet.
2. Lights at Baggett Park & Fifth District Park – two set of 60-70 foot diamonds having lights in the northern part of the county.
3. Lighted Batting Cage at Dorsey Park – leagues can sign up for the use of the lighted batting cage.

4. Field fencing at Baggett Park & Dorsey Park – replacing field fencing, batting cage, etc.
 5. Safety netting replaced at Baggett Park last year
- viii. Sprayground at Nicolet Park**
1. The sprayground was repaired but couldn't open last year due to COVID. Will see, hopefully will open this year.
- ix. New playground installed at Dorsey Park**
- x. Park Restrooms**
1. Running water in all parks, open year-round except at Cardinal Gibbons Park. That park will be next time. There are up to 12 running water restrooms in St. Mary's County parks eliminating portable toilets. Running water, hand washing and changing stations year-round. Major stroke for the county. Joe Longobardi commented that they are kept immaculate. We were pretty good but when COVID came we knew that cleanliness was there, we have accepted that standard. They are clean all the time. I am very pleased with staff. I appreciate you recognizing that. They will be glad to hear that.
- xi. Proposed**
1. New playground at Lancaster Park
 2. New public restroom at Dorsey Park
 - a. Company out getting bids for them now, just a step away from getting permits for both parks.
 3. Greg Weaver had a question: Is the new entrance at Rt. 235 for the Passive Park safe for crossing? Director Shepherd commented that yes, it is safe and when there are events there will be bollards in place.
- xii. Memo: College of Southern Maryland Wellness Center – Leonardtown Campus Feasibility of Recreation & Parks Managing the Facility Via Lease/MOU**
1. Memo given in advance to the Commissioners who gave full direction this past Tuesday to move forward. Director Shepherd was approached by the College of Southern Maryland when COVID came along the college closed the center, now when things are starting to open and classes becoming more virtual students aren't going to come to the fitness center. Moving forward on March 9 the Commissioners are signing the lease agreement memorandum with the college of Southern Maryland to utilize the center.
 2. The Wellness Center has a pool, heated therapy pool, two studio exercise rooms, exercise equipment room.

3. Summary:
 - a. Short term lease (2 years)
 - b. No additional R&P Full Time Employees
 - c. Utilities (\$190k annually) funded by CSM
 - d. Net position of Recreation Enterprise Fund (\$547,256)
 - e. Community growth in Leonardtown
4. Based on these five (5) points, it is feasible for the County to undertake the management of the CSM Wellness Center to serve the community through a wellness program that includes an indoor pool.
5. Chanda Norton: Just to be clear this center would not just be for the citizens and township of Leonardtown? Director Shepherd: No, this would expand health and wellness to the North county, 7th District. Excited about it and glad that you brought that up. This will also benefit the county wellness program and the county workforce. After two years we ask ourselves why didn't we do this before.
6. The center has been closed for a year during COVID and CSM staff has been 100% teleworking.
7. Joshua Shaffer: They were talking about a walking trail behind there, did that ever come to fruition? Yes, it did.
8. Greg Weaver: Will wellness classes, swim lessons, etc. be run by Recreation & Parks? Yes, through hourly, contractors, personal services etc.
9. Director Shepherd stated that we want to be in the front seat for healthy living!

xiii. Sports Complex

1. Chanda Norton: What exactly is the next step? The report came back that it was feasible that tourism and recreation is viable in St. Mary's County. The next step would be to hire a firm to see what should be in the facility and where it will be located. In FY24/25 hire a design architectural and engineering firm.

B. CIP Budget

- a. Director Arthur Shepherd gave an update.
 - i. FY 2022 - \$5,556,431
 1. Snow Hill park boat ramp
 2. St. Clement's Island Museum Renovations.
 3. Recreation Facility and Park Improvements
 4. Recreation/Community Center (YMCA)
 - a. Chanda Norton: What is the status on this? Firm fundraising for YMCA, looking where to locate it.

- i. Nicolet Park
 - ii. Property adjacent to Great Mills Swimming Pool
 - iii. Property adjacent to Lexington Park Elementary
 - iv. Director Shepherd does not know where location will be
- b. Greg Weaver: Will YMCA be part of Recreation & Parks? Director Shepherd thinks it will be YMCA.
- 5. Joshua Shaffer: Three Notch Trail – Phase Eight – as explained earlier, Phase VII is being delayed and Phase Eight will be moved to FY 2024
- 6. Patrick Murphy: With David Guyther retired is Mr. Roy Copey still managing the Capital Projects? Currently Director Shepherd is.

C. Operating Budget

- a. Director Arthur Shepherd gave an update.
 - i. Will meet with County Administrator and Chief Financial Officer to go over the FY2022 budget.
 - 1. Tax exempt financing for box van, dump trucks and pick-up truck - \$83,950
 - 2. Tractor and two new gators - \$100,000
 - 3. Toro Sand Pro for grooming athletic fields - \$29,000
 - 4. Cost for hourly staff – 9-year-round restrooms - \$33,324
 - 5. Hourly staff – minimum wage rate increases - \$11,876
 - 6. Grounds maintenance, tree removal and landscaping - \$20,000
 - 7. Increase for Museum Division Education Program Coordinator - \$20,000
 - 8. Musco (lighting)field repairs and rash removal re-bid - \$10,000

D. COVID Updates

- a. Director Arthur Shepherd gave an update that the St. Mary’s County Recreation & Parks Gymnastics competitive team is requesting consideration for athletes to participant in USA Gymnastics sanctioned competitive meets held in Maryland only. Meets are an opportunity for athletes to demonstrate their skills and achieve ranking for future meet attendance.
- b. Plan of Action was given to County Administrator and signed and approved on January 29, 2021.
- c. If a volunteer team wanted to host a tournament, they would need to give recommendations to Director Shepherd who would then put them into a Plan of Action and present to the County Administrator for approval.

- d. Chanda Norton: What is the possibility of playing basketball? Director Shepherd: Full basketball season – nothing has been lifted yet from the Governor, school facilities are not available to use. You can use the Recreation & Parks facilities for clinics only.
- e. Greg Weaver: Are the afterschool programs in the schools operating yet? At this time can not use the schools. Don't know yet when they do go back to school. Right now, outdoor space at schools are being utilized. Grateful to be outdoors. Thank you to Mr. Longobardi and school system.
- f. Hollywood Recreation Center
 - i. December no positive COVID tests, no impact on service delivery
 - ii. January – two (2) positive tests and 1 pending – not from site
- g. No time lost from closing the Great Mills Swimming Pool, Gymnastics Center. Coaches had to sit out at the Gymnastics Center because they were around Asymptomatic and had to quarantine
- h. Chanda Norton: What is the status on the Great Mills Master Plan? Director Shepherd: Will find out soon if that site will be used for YMCA.

5. Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021.

6. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm

Motion by Greg Weaver, second by Chanda Norton

Final resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Patrick Murphy, Fred Parker, Christine M Kaila, Kathryn Weatherly, Joshua Shaffer