

**RECREATION AND PARKS BOARD
OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Thursday, May 4, 2017
5:30 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Bellis, Chairperson; Caroline King, Vice-Chairperson; Dick Buckler, Jake Heibel, Tom Nelson, Fred Parker and Ashley Varner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Murphy and Floyd Warren.

RECREATION AND PARKS STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: Arthur Shepherd, Interim R&P Director; David Guyther, Parks Manager; and Kathy Bailey, Recorder. Steve Torgerson, A. Morton Thomas & Associates, attended to present the draft Elms Beach Park master plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Nelson, moved, seconded by Fred Parker, to approve the minutes of March 2, 2017; motion carried with all in favor.

ELMS BEACH PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Interim Director Arthur Shepherd introduced Steve Torgerson, A. Morton Thomas & Associates, who provided an overview of the draft master plan Elms Beach Park. Highlights included:

- Existing conditions report – park attendant building, pavilion, playground, informal picnic areas, gravel parking, portable restrooms, changing station, beach and floating pier.
- Park vision – need to provide enhanced recreational opportunities and beach access that is ecologically integrated and aesthetically pleasing; enhance and formalize parking; and be inclusive for visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Proposed amenities – Comfort station and storage, pavilion, new playground, relocated attendant station, enhanced paved parking; storm water management; plantings; accessible picnic areas and pathways; and other site furnishings
- Master plan drawing

Caroline King suggested examining the feasibility of adding more primitive walking trails on the property. The consultant will also research the cost of maintaining a flush, pump and dump comfort station and the cost of maintaining a composting toilet station.

This item will be on the Board's agenda for the June 1 meeting for further consideration.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Three Notch Trail Phase Seven – Mr. Torgerson provide a brief update on the status of the Three Notch Trail Phase Seven project. The project kick-off meeting was held on March 10, 2017. Surveying work is underway, as is examination of wetlands and development of horizontal and vertical alignment.
- Three Notch Trail Phase Six – Mr. Shepherd reported that the process to close out the project is underway.
- Snow Hill Farm Property – The County purchased the Snow Hill Farm property on March 30, 2017. A site visit for Board members will be scheduled in the near future.
- Lancaster Park Improvements – The project to add multi-purpose fields and parking is

expected to be completed by the end of May (weather permitting).

- Myrtle Point Park Invasive Species Removal Project – The scope of work is being developed to remove the invasive vines from the trails and parking area in the park.
- Nicolet Park Entrance Project – Design is underway and is approximately 70% complete.
- Clarke's Landing – The plans for upgrades to the boat ramp have been approved and bids have been requested from contractors.
- Wiecks Playground at Miedzinski Park – The Maryland Department of Natural Resources recently announced the award of Community Park and Playground funds in the amount of \$200,000 for the playground.
- Pool "Bubble" Structure – The bids to replace the bubble structure and blower system at the Great Mills Swimming Pool with a permanent steel framed tension fabric structure were received on February 9th; however, a change in project scope is likely needed as the bids received were considerably higher than the available project funding. This information will be presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in the near future for decision recommending replacement with new bubble structure.
- Gymnastics – There are currently 601 recreational and 35 team gymnasts enrolled in the program. Facility and program news includes: new LED lights were installed at the Center; a new chalk eater was purchased; and customer service training for staff is upcoming. A parent meeting for competitive team gymnasts is scheduled for Monday, May 15th. An update on the Gymnastics program will be presented to the R&P Board during the June meeting.

PARKS DIVISION REPORT

David Guyther, Parks Division Manager, provided updates to the following Parks Division projects:

- The tennis courts at Chancellor's Run Regional Park (CRRP) have been marked for playing pickleball.
- Two portable pickleball nets have been added to the courts at CRRP and Baggett Park.
- New field lighting has been installed at the 90' baseball field at Baggett Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Shepherd presented a request for an Alcohol Consumption Permit from the Optimist Club of the Seventh District for the annual Blessing of the Fleet weekend to be held on October 7th and 8th 2017 on the St. Clement's Island Museum grounds.

Tom Nelson moved, seconded by Jake Heibel, to approve the Alcohol Consumption Permit from the Optimist Club of the Seventh District; motion carried with all in favor.

NEXT MEETING OF R&P BOARD

The next meeting of the Recreation and Parks Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2017, possibly at Elms Beach Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Kathy Bailey, Recorder

Minutes approved by the Recreation and Parks Board on June 29, 2017.