

Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board meeting Minutes

Thursday October 5, 2023

Board Members Present: Frank Marsden, Wesley Branch, Richard Hicks, Owen Landis Sr., Lucy Godfrey, Vicki Jones-via phone

Staff Members Present: Paul Magness, Terence Hanley, and Bobbi Heinz

Call To Order: Paul Magness called the meeting to order @ 6:30p.m. At this time, Paul informed the board that we would have to find a replacement due to the resignation of Sarah Coleman. The ethics commission concluded that there was a conflict of interest.

Harford County Parks and Recreation hosted a family event at The Flying Point Park on July 21st. The event hosted over 500 Attendees and had facepainting, fishing, water slides, an obstacle course bounce house, and a very poplar foam pit. This was the first time this event was held, and the plans are to host another next year due to all the positive feedback and success.

There were 2 employees that recently retired with The Parks and Recreation both with County for numerous years. One was the former Director of Parks and Recreation.

The Southern County Task Force is asking for participants to reach out to groups to gather information about the challenges being faced with the recreation registration.

The FY25 Budget request is due by October 20,2023, which was discussed at the previous Advisory Board meeting in detail.

Paul gave an update on the revision of the Ma & Pa trail. The project is currently out for bid. The connection of the trail should begin in the spring and should take approximately 18 months, weather permitting by the end of 2025.

The applications for the cameras have been submitted to BG&E for the MA & Pa trail from Williams Street to Tollgate and should have an update within the next couple of months.

The 2023 Parks & Recreation Work Day is going to be held at the Fallston Recreation Complex on October 12. Employees are going to be participating in Ball Diamond maintenance, Playground Inspections, Turf Field Maintenance, and a Workshop on how to start a Pollinator Garden.

Terry gave an update on the Harford County Farm Fair and The Italian Festival which both were a huge success, and we look forward to next year.

Paul asked if anyone had any questions or topics they would like to discuss. The following were discussed.

- Harford County is one of the largest birding communities. Some of the following locations would be a great source to educate. Abingdon Woods, Eden Mill, Mariner Point Park and Swan Harbor.**
- We discussed community gardens. Community gardens are a perfect source to educate high school students. This gives the students ownership and a sense of pride in the community. To provide produce and vegetables to food banks and kitchens.**
- How to implement more youth programs. A good resource would be the 4H Club. Making the programs a challenge or competitive may be a draw.**
- Signage along the trails to educate the community on the history. The vision of possibly having QR tags along the trails was suggested.**

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00p.m., at 702 N. Tollgate Road. The topic of the meeting will be Cedar Lane Park. Joe Pfaff, President of the Cedar Lane Sports Foundation (CLSF) will be attending.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Heinz

Administrative Secretary