



STUART PITTMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JESSICA LEYS, DIRECTOR
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**MEETING MINUTES
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
BACHMANN SPORTS COMPLEX
MAY 15, 2024**

ATTENDEES:

- **Appointed Present:** Rudy Brown, Jawann Wills, Ralph Smith, Kristina Loignon, Mike Pozdol
- **Staff:** Jessica Leys, Director, Erica Jackson, Chris Carroll, John Spinnenweber, Kristina Piergrossi

1. **WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Rudy Brown, the Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. **OPEN FLOOR:** Rudy Brown welcomed a community member who was present to observe the Rec Advisory Board process. He introduced himself as David Burky, a skateboarder from Odenton, Maryland. When addressing the Board members, he said that skateboarders in Anne Arundel County would love to see Rec and Parks build a new skate amenity. Crofton Park was suggested. He informed the Board that several skateboarders had already met with Councilwoman Julie Hummer and were looking forward to a follow-up meeting with Rec and Parks in June.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes from the May 15, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Ralph Smith made a motion to approve. Mike Pozdol provided a second. Motion approved.
4. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 - a. Director Leys provided some budget updates to the group targeted to the operational budget. She informed the group of several items she would present to the County Council the following week. The General Fund initiatives for FY25 include Department rightsizing and restructuring with the addition of a Park Assistant Superintendent position. Staffing for the new Jug Bay Environmental Cabins is a priority, as is Recreational programming for the Summer Possibilities Camp, Steam Programs, and Child Enrichment Centers.
 - b. For FY25, other General Fund increases include a 3% COLA for all full- and part-time staff and a merit increase. Director Leys also highlighted the General Fund increases related to several amenities coming online, including Deep Run Rec Center,

- Brooklyn Park Track and Field Complex, and the Fort Smallwood Comfort Station.
- c. With regard to the Child Care Fund, Director Leys informed the Board that we are currently operating in 50 of our 51 total program locations. The Department has adapted to the change in school hours and are continually working to add staff and train them for higher level positions and open up more PM spaces for families. New Child Care initiatives for FY25 include a new SACC at Two Rivers, a Pre-K program at Deep Run Rec Center and Summer Fun Center Field Trips. In partnership with AACPS there is also a Pre-K Pilot Program being introduced. There will be a fee increase of 3.5%, approximately, \$15.00 per month for enrollees. Currently, the program is serving over 2900 children.
 - d. Lastly, Director Leys informed the Board that our opening for a Recreation Administrator was advertised and there is a pool of candidates for that position, and that the Parks Administrator position would be advertised shortly.
 - e. Deputy Director Erica Matthews provided the Board with several stakeholder group updates. She explained the process for public meetings and that many projects are revised to accommodate the data-driven feedback from the meetings. She thanked Board members for their continued involvement with these groups and presence at public events. Additionally, she gave a few general updates on the RP calendar as we are approaching the busiest time of year for our parks. She noted that all the information is communicated through the Department E-newsletter and encouraged the Board to read it weekly.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS- Department reports were reviewed with limited discussion.

- a. Chris Carroll reported that 80,000 people had already visited our parks at the end of April. In the busy season, we see 95,000-100,000 people weekly. He indicated that our biggest challenge would be capacity throughout the summer months. He informed the Board that we were in our 10th year of Canoe and Kayak offerings. Despite the construction at Fort Smallwood Park, the Boat ramp is open and operational. Ralph Smith asked if there was any consideration of an annual pass for weekday boat ramp use at Fort Smallwood. Chris informed him that there is an annual pass for weekday boat ramp use at Ft. Smallwood; however, Discovery Village and Solley were free and did not require a pass.
- b. Regarding Ft. Smallwood, Rudy Brown inquired whether Weinberg Park was part of the master plan for Smallwood. Erica Matthews responded that Weinberg is included in the Fort Smallwood Master Plan. The project development has not yet reached that phase of effort. Public engagement will occur once that phase of the master plan is implemented.
- c. Ralph Smith asked about the next steps for the Plan Your Park Campaign feedback. Erica Matthews explained that to ensure the campaign's success, the Department is reviewing over 5,000 responses to see what will work in accordance with the master plan. The guiding questions provide good data, and the responses allow the department to make data-driven decisions.
- d. Jawaan Wills inquired if the Spring Health and Wellness Resource Fair recently held in Annapolis was an Anne Arundel County Rec and Parks event. Jessica Leys informed the group that the event was sponsored by the City of Annapolis; however,

the Department exhibited at the event to promote our programs and resources to improve health and wellness.

6. NEW BUSINESS-

- a. Dedication of Barn at Rockhold Creek. Motion to approve the dedication of the Barn by Mike Pozdol; Kristina Loignon provided a second. Motion approved.

7. OLD BUSINESS –None

8. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

- a. Jawaan Wills asked that the Board revisit the minutes approved earlier. He asked that the minutes from the March meeting, previously approved, be changed to include specific comments regarding field allocation. Rudy Brown stated that the minutes would be amended and that the Board could approve the amended minutes at the July board meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING: September 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., location to be determined.

10. ADJOURNMENT: 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Piergrossi, July 17, 2024