

MINUTES

Cecil County Board of Parks and Recreation
County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Chesapeake City Room
Elkton, MD 21921

May 16, 2016



OPENING: 5:30 P.M.

- Call to Order: Don Harmer, Chairman
- In attendance: Don Harmer Chairman, George Raley Vice Chairman, Steve Minor, Traci Bauguess, Cynthia Cantor Superintendent, Ella Briones Administrative Assistant
- Approval of Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2016
Motion to Approve: Traci Bauguess
Second: Steve Minor

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Rail to Trail Dr. Jack Road – Robert Busseau
 - Cecil County citizen and avid runner Robert Busseau met with the Parks Board. He lives in Port Deposit and has noticed there are very few trails in the area and local roads have no sidewalks for runners. He is interested in the railroad cut at Dr. Jack Road (the Octoraro Trail/old Penn Central line) and has always wanted to see the line turned into a trail. He comes before the Parks Board to ask permission to move forward on research of the trail. He would like to gather support (funding and volunteers) to develop the 8.8 mile stretch from Tome Highway to the border of PA and has access to a lot of volunteers and heavy equipment due to his Army and National Guard background. Mr. Busseau has talked briefly with a few individuals about committing funds and time and mentioned a lot of clearing would need to take place (trees, thickets, rail ties), but he believes this could be accomplished at a minimal cost with possible donations of material, equipment and time. The Parks Board discussed the trail location, the challenges previous research has encountered regarding a portion of the trail located within an easement and the trail proximity to a residential area. Mr. Busseau would like to talk with residents in the area of the proposed trail. George Raley suggested some research be completed on the B and A Trail in Anne Arundel County. George said the B and A Trail faced some of the same obstacles when it was being considered for development. The B and A Trail runs through residential and commercial areas. George also mentioned the B and A trail is a huge asset for Anne Arundel County with homes in the area of the trail now being very desirable and actively sought out. The Octoraro Trail would connect Port Deposit to Rising Sun. Parking options at commercial plazas in Rising Sun and on the roadside were discussed as well. Steve Minor mentioned the possibility of Greenways funding for the trail. Mr. Busseau is meeting with the BSA after the Parks Board meeting. Chairman Harmer mentioned the trail could be the first county-wide project for the BSA and the project would need someone on the Parks Board to have an active interest. George Raley has an active interest in the trail and will work with Mr. Busseau. Chairman Harmer mentioned contacting the Mayor of Rising Sun to discuss the project as well.
 - Motion: Pursue further research to re-ignite the Octoraro Trail project with George Raley as the Parks Board contact and Mr. Busseau at the citizen contact.
Motion to Approve: George Raley
Second: Steve Minor
- Elkton Eclipse – Chesland Park: The Elkton Eclipse is looking for a site in Elkton to play vintage baseball games. They would like to play in an undeveloped area at Chesland Park. A discussion was held about various undeveloped locations around the County. Chairman Harmer will contact the group. He will ask them to review an area at the front of Chesland Park and put together a proposal (stormwater, permitting, associated costs, etc). He

will also ask the group to check with the owners of the old Bittersweet Golf Course as that location may also suit their needs for an undeveloped field near a major road.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Motion: Approval of the FY17 Annual Program**
Motion to Approve: Steve Minor
Second: George Raley
- **Motion: Change the Concession Permit Fee to 20% of Gross Sales for Tournaments**
Motion to Approve: Steve Minor
Second: Traci Bauguess

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

No public in attendance.

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Steve Minor asked about the Calvert Regional Park and the basketball courts. Superintendent Cantor said the department is still working with the vendor to repair low spots on the court. She also talked about the lacrosse tournaments being held at the park and the end of season Blue and Grey Day lacrosse event.

Chairman Harmer asked about the upcoming FY17 Operating Budget meeting. Superintendent Cantor said the budget was fairly straight forward and in line with last year's request. Chairman Harmer mentioned discussions to be held before the FY18 budget cycle regarding staffing for the department.

Motion to Adjourn: Steve Minor
Second: Traci Bauguess

Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 pm

Next Meeting: Monday, June 20th at 5:30 pm, at the Cecil Arena.