

Harford County Department of Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board meeting Minutes

Thursday December 4,2023

Board Members Present: Lucy Godfrey, Wesley Branch, Richard Hicks and Vicki Jones

Staff Members Present: Paul Magness and Bobbi Heinz

Guest: Joe Pfaff

Call To Order: Paul Magness called the meeting to order @6:30p.m. At this time Paul informed the board that we had had 2 employees that recently retired with Parks and Recreation.

The Cassilly Administration is focusing on The Southern County Task Force. The challenges of the lack of participation in youth programs. The task force has been gathering information and has found that in Edgewood there are 500 registrations for youth sports, while Havre De Grace there were well over 2,500. The following questions were asked, how can we do a better job informing the community? Have we looked into where Belcamp residents are registering due to the community growing?

It was brought to our attention that Fallston has volunteered to help support and advise Edgewood with their soccer programs.

Joe Pfaff, President of the Cedar Lane Sports Foundation (CLFS) and former Director of Parks and Recreation was our guest. Joe formed the group that the park is a 110-acre multi-sport recreational complex for both local and regional use. There are over 14 total fields, 3 jumbo fields that are used for full sided games or multiple small, sided games and a 90-foot baseball diamond. There is a 1.6-mile jogging/walking/biking trail. Cedar Lane Sports Foundation is a non-profit organization. The foundation contributes an average of \$600,000 annually toward facilities and equipment.

Joe asked if anyone had any questions or suggestions at this time and the following were discussed.

- Due to the amount of water bottles why doesn't the park have recycling?
- Have you considered a hydration system, for example Water Buffalo?
- It was suggested that the planting of mature trees would be beneficial for numerous reasons. It would provide shade. Trees reduce the amount of storm water runoff, which reduces erosion and pollution.
- The idea of "shifting fields" to literally move or shift fields to reduce wear on the field and to save on field maintenance.

- It was suggested to have a low mow or no mow zone at the complex. This is a benefit for wildlife and pollinators. This could also reduce the cost of mowing. We would have to look into the MDE regulations.
- Have you considered a dedicated court for pickleball?

Joe said that he would consider all the suggestions.

The topic for the next meeting will be Office on Aging.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbi Heinz

Administrative Secretary