

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2025

Those present during the meeting were:

PRAB MEMBERS: Marlene Stanton, Barbara Dawson, Paul Lombardo, Phil Starkey, Renee Daniel, Sid Pinder, and Commissioner James Moran.

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF: Steve Chandlee and Breanne Waters.

GUESTS: Commissioner Patrick McLaughlin (virtual)

Phil Starkey motions to approve January 2025 Minutes, Marlene Stanton seconds, all in favor.

Division Updates

- [Updates from each division](#)

BOE Update

- Spring sports started March 1.
- Parks plowed schools this winter, they did a great job.

Business at Hand

- Updates on:
 - Parks had the old Health Department generator installed at the Route 18 shop. We are going to put an ITB out for the second generator shortly.
 - PRAB completed the annual report to Commissioners.
- Parks had a budget meeting with Todd the County Administrator. The following items were cut or reduced from the budget:
 - Mowbray playground was cut.
 - Trail development was reduced to \$1 million this yet \$700k for next year.
 - Conquest Part time position conversion to a full-time position was cut.
 - Recreation Center-originally budgeted from \$12 million this year and next year. We were asked to look towards another avenue, not off the table yet, still discussing.
 - Steve has another budget meeting on March 20.
- Cross County Connector Trail
 - Kokosing completed a temporary repair so that we could reopen the trail. The contractor will be giving us a date for a permanent fix shortly.
 - We have ordered 6 more bundles of deck boards to start replacing boards.
- South Island Trail
 - Phase II – plan is to pave this section when school lets out.
 - Phase III – ran into a hiccup on permitting because of FIDS (Forest Interior Dwelling Species). Might have to realign the trail to avoid large trees.
 - Phase IV –Kimley-Horn provided us with a quote for engineering phase IV and price was too high (\$400-\$500k). Now we are having an in-house engineer from DPW engineer this section.
 - Ellendale to Target portion of trail – s a DPW trail project, unsure of its status.
- Art Installation
 - White Marsh Park footer for artwork installed.
 - Route 18 HQ - waiting on Miss Utility to mark the ground.
- Summer Camps – Kent Island camp location filled up in two weeks. Camp is 7 weeks long.
- Skate Park bleachers- PRS is donating bleachers. Parks will install the pad in the next couple weeks.
- Old Love Point tennis courts- vendor will color coat the refurbished courts next month based on weather.
- Rt 18 Ballfield lights and Round Top pickleball lights- vendor will be finishing up installation in next couple of weeks.
- New concessionaire at Rt 18 Park – Gene Dodd from Isiah’s Icy Delights.

- Skate Park restroom building will be delivered in June. Contractors are being lined up.
- Matapeake Clubhouse rental fee discussion.
 - In 2018 PRAB voted on new rates:
 - \$3,000 for 3-day weekend
 - \$1,500 for 1 day
 - \$200 per hour
 - Since the change we have had very few rentals. Recreation is currently trying to use it for programs.
 - The electric costs for last year were \$7,000.
 - Could PRAB look at the fee structure?
 - Currently the fee is for rental of the clubhouse and grounds.
 - The clubhouse holds 66 people standing and 40 seated.
 - Tents are allowed only by the parking lot area.
 - Alcohol is allowed.
 - No subletting.
 - Phil suggested that maybe looking at just a building rental fee as an option.
- Invasive weed removal
 - Had vendors clear around the Cross Island Trail.
 - Parks cleared 7 acres around Blue Heron. Now a contractor will go in and spray for invasive.
 - Going to have GIS map the planted trees.
- Placer.ai data on the agenda.
- Matapeake Landing is currently being dredged. The spoils are being placed on the beach so that area is closed until around April 5.
- Mowbray Park Memorial – still looking at memorial options. August 2025 will be the 50th anniversary.

Board Comments:

- Does PRAB review bids/contracts?
 - They haven't in the past but is something we can look into. Typically, Parks tries to ride contracts so not everything goes out to bid.
- Ferry Point status? Work is currently on pause until a study can be completed to show the weak point. We originally thought the right side was the weak point. We now believe the weak side is on the left and would like to complete a study to confirm.
- Jim: Budget talk is that # 1 priority is completing the South Island Trail. Still want to see the Recreation Center move forward.
- Barb:
 - Why are there Miss Utility markings at Mowbray? Could be Talkie installing wifi. We had a meeting with Talkie so that the wifi is only available from dawn to dusk. Will also install at OLP by batting cages.
 - Could we add speed bumps to Mowbray Park/
- Paul:
 - Can we add cameras to Parks if there is wifi? IT is gathering information on all security cameras within the County so we could move forward with using one vendor.
 - Copper electric wiring in Park lighting: There have been 3 more thefts in AA County as well.
 - Mowbray Park Memorial, are we going to wait on completing the memorial now that the playground is on hold? No, we are still proceeding with the memorial in August 2025.
 - Can the trail around Ewing Pond park go all the way around?
- Phil: Would like to see a bathroom at Round Top. The building is already there, would have to dig a well and updated the building.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2025.

Marlene motions to adjourn, Barb seconds, all in favor.

PRAB Members Follow Up Items:

Can PRAB members find one rentable venue for comparison to Matapeake Clubhouse?