



Queen Anne's County

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Queen Anne's County Government
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October 20, 2017

Queen Anne's County Commissioners
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

Dear County Commissioners:

The Queen Anne's Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) has been very active this year to ensure that the purposes of the Board are met according to Queen Annes' County Code- Chapter 22 Parks and Recreation Article I: Advisory Boards of Parks and Recreation. The PRAB is composed of a diverse group of people that are dedicated to the needs and concerns of all the citizens in Queen Anne's County. Due to the changing demographics and the aging population in the county, combined with the increased use of the parks, the PRAB is even more aware that our focus needs to continue to be assured that the recreational needs of our county's citizens are met in an effective manner.

The working relationship between the Parks & Landings Department and the Recreation Unit with the PRAB has been very productive. The PRAB recognizes how dedicated the employees of these two units are to the recreational needs of the citizens. The PRAB also appreciates the active involvement of Commissioner Jim Moran. The PRAB has endeavored to foster a dialog with management and staff to help identify key issues and to formulate those for presentation to the QACC when they cannot be resolved internally. In turn, the PRAB would welcome input and direction from the Commissioners identifying issues which they deem of special import and attention either on an annual or occasional basis.

Following are the accomplishments of the PRAB 2016-2017:

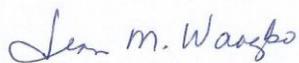
- In March 2017, the PRAB established a working group to explore the recombination of Parks and Recreation into one department. In July, the PRAB approved the recommendation of the working group to propose the re-establishment of a single Parks & Recreation Department. In August, the PRAB issued a letter to the Commissioners with the recommendation to recombine the units, conduct a national search for its new Director, and to develop a comprehensive Recreation strategic plan.
- The PRAB worked closely with the Kent Narrows Development Foundation this year and proposed new fishing restrictions in the narrows to the Parks & Landings Department. The PRAB also participated in a water tour of the Narrows together with the new Economic Development Director, and Tourism Coordinator.

- The PRAB received a status update on the Park Ranger program and supported the creation of a Full-Time Park Ranger position to lead and enhance the successful part-time ranger program.
- The PRAB supported the creation of a new League Coordinator position to address the controversial needs surrounding the use of athletic fields by county programs, club teams, and tournaments.
- The PRAB reviewed in detail the Article I statutes and initiated actions to comply with areas in which the PRAB had fallen out of compliance. For example, a PRAB member voluntarily resigned in August and no new board member was recruited to bring the number of board members into compliance. In addition, steps were taken to ensure that the PRAB would be in a knowledgeable position to review the Parks Department and Recreation Unit's annual budget submission to the Commissioners. Lastly, the PRAB began an initial review related to the review needs of general policy and procedures related to parks and recreation in the county.
- The PRAB became active in mitigating controversial issues related to the replacement of the Children's Memorial Park at Love Point Park with the parents affected and the Parks department.
- The PRAB actively supported the Beacon Survey to assess the park needs in the community.
- The PRAB provided feedback in the development process related to the 2017 draft of the Lands Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan submitted to the state of Maryland.
- The PRAB participated in the annual Parks & Landings Department picnic to socialize with county employees.
- The PRAB approved a motion to slightly increase fees for public landing permits.
- The PRAB decided to meet monthly instead of every other month. The purpose of this change was due to an increase in agenda items to allow the PRAB to be more effective in its advisory role.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair conducted an orientation meeting for new PRAB members.
- The PRAB reviewed and made recommendations for the new pedestrian walking map as presented by Planning and Zoning.

Goals for 2017-2018:

- Support the restructuring of Parks & Recreation into one Department.
- Work with the Commissioners to recommend strategic goals for the incoming Director.
- Participate in the generation and review of the Parks and Recreation Budget and provide PRAB endorsement of the proposed FY19 budget to the Commissioners.
- Review and make recommendations where appropriate to update policies and procedures.
- Attend the Maryland Recreation & Parks Association annual picnic.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean M. Waagbo
Chairperson for the PRAB