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Jerry Pesterfield
Chair, Planning Advisory Board

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Steven R. Schuh, County Executive
Anne Arundel County
Arundel Center, P.O. Box 2700
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Planning Advisory Board Deliberation, Recreation and Parks- 2017 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*

Dear Mr. Schuh:

Section 532 of the Anne Arundel County Charter has established the Planning Advisory Board (PAB). Section 532 (b) establishes that the PAB shall make advisory recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Officer and the County Council relating to various matters including County Master Plans. The *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* is among those documents reviewed, and for which advisory recommendations are rendered by the PAB.

On November 13, 2017, the PAB met and was given an overview of the draft 2017 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan* (LPPRP) by the Department of Recreation and Parks and their consultant for the Plan. The 2017 LPPRP is an update that is required to be submitted by each County to the State every five years. It is intended to provide a benchmark to assist the State's evaluation of land preservation and recreation programs; to ensure good return on public investment; and implement the resource conservation, land preservation and recreation goals and recommendations within the County's 2009 General Development Plan. During the course of the November 13, 2017 session, the PAB offered time for public comment and extended the comment period until December 13, 2017. No public testimony or written comment was received by the PAB during that period.

On December 13, 2017, the PAB met, discussed and began deliberations on the LPPRP but was informed by the Department of Recreation and Parks that their Department's public comment period had been extended until December 31, 2017 due to a large volume of comments that had been received near the end of the first comment period. For that reason, the PAB held final deliberations until additional comments could be received and analyzed.

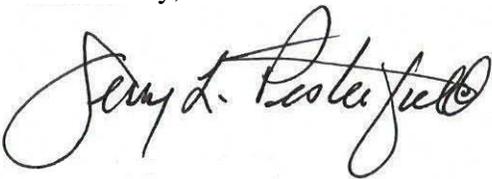
On February 23, 2018, the PAB met, discussed and concluded final deliberations on the 2017 LPPRP. The PAB voted 5-0 to recommend approval of the 2017 *Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan*.

The PAB appreciates the opportunity to provide you with an advisory recommendation of approval and offers the following comments on the LPPRP:

1. The PAB has concerns regarding the return on ice rinks in the County as a public investment considering the amount of people that an ice rink facility would serve versus other types of facilities such as swim centers or multi-use fields that would serve a broader portion of the population.
2. The PAB understands the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and the County's rivers as significant and valuable resources, unique compared to other jurisdictions in our region. Therefore, the PAB would like to stress the importance of increased recreational water access as a funding priority.
3. The PAB would also like to stress the importance of planning for park and recreation needs for the senior population, which has the greatest projected increase over the other age groups in the next 20 years. It appears that the data used in the analysis of the County park and recreation needs is outdated and there is uncertainty of whether or not it accurately reflects the County's future population profile.

If there are any questions regarding our comments, please contact Cindy Carrier in the Office of Planning and Zoning.

Sincerely,



Jerry L. Pesterfield
Chairman

cc: Mark Hartzell, Chief Administrative Officer
Philip Hager, Planning & Zoning Officer
Rick Anthony, Director, Department of Recreation and Parks
Ken Alban, Chief of Capital Projects, Department of Recreation and Parks
Lynn Miller, Assistant Planning and Zoning Officer
Members of the Planning Advisory Board
JoAnne Gray, Administrative Officer, Anne Arundel County Council
Cindy Carrier, Planning Administrator, OPZ