



Montgomery County, MD
Commission on People with Disabilities
April 8th, 2015

Welcome and Approval of March, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes:

Seth Morgan, Chair, convened the meeting. Carl Prather, Commissioner, made a motion to approve the March, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes. Tim Markwood, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the March, 2015 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cpwd.

Montgomery County Parks ADA Update – Bob Green, ADA Compliance Project Manager, and Wen Huang, Project Manager, Park Development Division, Montgomery County Department of Parks

See Attachment A Montgomery Parks Proposed ADA Rank Criteria and Attachment B Montgomery Parks Projects List

The Montgomery Parks (MP) system now includes 460 parks on over 34,000 acres of parkland. In 2011 Montgomery County signed a settlement agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ). In the agreement MP was asked to perform an audit on all parks, sites and facilities. MP is a year ahead of schedule and has completed the audit report. Based on the audits there are approximately 15,000 barriers MP must address that will cost between \$30,000,000 and \$40,000,000. MP will be conducting a study to analyze each park and strategize the best way too bring all parks into compliance. Bob reported that he has hired five additional staff that will work on the compliance project.

MP has developed an operating manual for operating divisions and design and construction staff to use when making improvements to the parks. Montgomery County is one of the few jurisdictions in the state to have such a manual.

Bob reported that MP will be updating their website. They are currently going through the consultant selection process. The project will take approximately 12 to 18 months.

If the Commission is interested in any specific park or active project, Bob would be willing to make a presentation to the group in the project or arrange for a site visit.

The floor was opened to questions.

Tony Cancelosi, Commissioner, reported that he recently attended a meeting of the National Parks Service in D.C. They are devising evacuation plans for their parks and including persons with disabilities in the planning. Tony asked if the County had similar evacuation plans. Bob noted that he is not aware of evacuation plans for parks, but it was a topic that was recently discussed and they will be looking into further.

Seth Morgan, Chair, asked about access to parks via public transportation and if Ride On has stops that allow for easy access to parks. Bob said that for special events Montgomery Parks will coordinate with bus companies to provide transportation. He also stated that one of the focuses is to allow individuals to access parks independently. Bob added that Montgomery Parks is reviewing and identifying barriers to accessible at park entrances. One such project includes improvements to the Brookside Gardens visitor's entrance, parking area and garden access, located at 1800 Glenallan Avenue, in Wheaton Regional Park. These improvements will provide a safe, sustainable and aesthetic entrance to welcome visitors accommodating pedestrian/ vehicular access, additional parking and needed reception space for the Visitors Center and garden areas.

It was asked if residents are able to access information as to which parks are most accessible. Bob noted that while this information is currently not available, it will be a part of the revised website. During the summer Bob and his team will be documenting repairs and improvements made. This information will be used to create an interactive map for residents to see the accessibility at parks.

Betsy Luecking, Staff, commented that the accessibility guide book created by Montgomery Parks looks excellent and asked if it could be shared with Commissioners so they may review and edit. Also, it would help to educate them on the ADA requirements for Parks. Bob will send Betsy an electronic version of the guide book. The guide book will not be made public until after a trial period for corrections and updates to be made.

Hilary Kaplan, Commissioner, inquired about accessibility of sinks. In her experience the faucets are usually too far away or too high up for a person in a wheelchair to access.

Seth advised Bob to identify specific issues that he would like the Commission to review and comment on.

Chair and Vice-Chair Report:

Seth Morgan, Chair, reported that in recognition of National Healthcare Decisions Day on Thursday, April 16th the Montgomery County Coalition for Care at the End of Life will be providing to the public a free screening of the documentary “Consider the Conversation”. Following the film a panel of experts will respond to questions from the audience about end-of-life concerns. The event will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building.

Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary for Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Developmental Disabilities Administration, will be presenting at the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee (DDAC) meeting on Monday, April 13th. The meeting will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville. DDAC meetings are open to the public.

The Office of Human Rights will be hosting a “One Stop Fair Housing Shop” on April 21st at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Housing professionals and providers will have an opportunity to meet fair housing regulators in Montgomery County at the free forum. Betsy added that a Commission representative has been requested to provide opening remarks alongside County Executive Isiah Leggett and County Council President George Leventhal. Tim Markwood, Commissioner, volunteered to give remarks.

Marcie Povitsky, Vice Chair, reported that she attended the first meeting of the Library Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee was convened to assist libraries in meeting the needs of people with disabilities. At the first meeting MCPL provided an overview of services. Future meetings will include a walk through of the Silver Spring library. Marcie announced that Montgomery Community Media (MCM) is preparing for the third annual, “Day in the Life of Montgomery County,” which is set for Wednesday, April 22. MCM invites local shutterbugs, professional and amateur photographers alike to help capture what your day is like in Montgomery County.

Ex-Officio Updates:

Nancy Greene, ADA Compliance, reported that the drop office circle area at the Executive Office Building will be undergoing renovations. The project is expected to begin in May and it will take at least 15 months to complete. Nancy will provide updates to the Commission on the progress of construction. During construction it is advised that MetroAccess should make its pick-up and drop-offs near the Ride On bus stop in front of the EOB. Commissioners should enter via the cafeteria side entrance as the slope to the front door is steep. Nancy noted several improvements that will be made such as curb cuts.

Charlie Butler, Department of Recreation, reported that the [Spring 2015 Recreation and Parks Programs](#) guide is now available. Therapeutic Recreation will once again convene an informal meeting with agencies in the County that provide therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities to discuss issues, programs offered and to identify gaps. The meeting will be held on April 21st and will include 22 agencies.

Faisal Khan, Department of Transportation, reported that the Call-n-Ride program is comprised of 30% people with disabilities and 70% seniors, although some senior participants may also have a disability. Enhanced Call-n-Ride eligibility requirements to increase subsidies and reduce monthly co-payments for 528 current participants. This has also increased the number of County residents eligible for the program (approximately 50). A new Call-n-Ride community outreach program has been initiated to inform residents about the program and encourage more participation. Outreach efforts include dissemination of a [new brochure](#) and presentations at senior centers.

Seth Morgan, Chair, reported that there is no news for the Respect the Space campaign. Seth discussed an issue that has been raised of requiring wheelchairs and scooters to have reflective tape or flags to increase their visibility in parking lots. Seth will be discussing this issue with Mike Subin, Special Assistant to County Executive Leggett.

Susan Smith, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC), reported that 176 vouchers were made available at the end of March. HOC is having difficulty locating the individuals to receive these vouchers as the waiting list records are from 2008. Stacy Spann, Executive Director of HOC, will be presenting to the Commission in May. Susan also reported that HOC may be opening the waiting list later in the year.

Simone Geness, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), announced several events that will be taking place over the next two months:

- April 22nd - X-Minds Parent Meeting at Earle B. Wood Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Meeting is a Forum Co-sponsored with Montgomery County Public Schools to Learn About Educational Services and Resources for Students Across the Autism Spectrum.
- May 6th – [Transitioning Youth Resource Fair](#) at Richard Montgomery High School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for ages 14 and up.
- May 16th – [MCPS Parent Summit](#) to be held at Gaithersburg High School from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Topics will include special needs trusts and guardianship.

Francie Gilman, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL), reported on the recent [press release](#) about MCPL's hiring of persons with disabilities through the County's non-competitive hiring preference. The MCPL website will be redesigned and Francie will keep the Commission updated on its progress. MCPL is also piloting a new book club for individuals ages 21 to 30 with developmental disabilities. The pilot program may be expanded to other libraries. For more information contact Francie.Gilman@montgomerycountymd.gov The Library Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) will be supporting the push for more materials to be available Braille as well as learning how to use new Braille technology.

Discussion Regarding FY16 Operating Budget Testimony:

Seth will be presenting testimony before the County Council on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. It was suggested to thank the Council for their support of the developmental disability supplement. County Council will be introducing a [resolution on Resource Coordination](#) next week that calls on the Governor and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to fix this broken program and ensure that when Montgomery County residents choose a provider, the provider is adequately staffed, staff is well trained, knows local programs, meets plan deadlines, and is easily accessible to clients and their families when problems arise. Testimony regarding Resource Coordination will be drafted after the meeting with Bernard Simons on April 13th.

Simone noted that there will be a peak in transitioning youth in 2018 and 2019. There are a limited number of resources available for adults with developmental disabilities. She suggested that the County plan ahead to be able to provide services for the rising numbers. Betsy also reminded Commissioners that they may write their State officials as private individuals.

The Commission will recommend that the County recognize people with physical, developmental, cognitive, psychiatric and sensory disabilities as a targeted group for Health Disparities Outreach. The Commission on Health is coordinating with this Commission on these issues. Sign language interpretation should also be

included when discussing accessibility to health care. Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that the Baltimore / DC corridor is home to the largest population of deaf and hard of hearing in the country. There are approximately 450,000 deaf or hard of hearing individuals that live in this corridor. Betsy also noted that the County has contract and grant with Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, which serves blind and deafblind individuals.

Roundtable:

Cindy announced that the World of Possibilities Expo will be held this Saturday, April 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rockville Hilton.

Next Full Commission Meeting: May 13th, 2015 – Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Lobby Auditorium, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, May 20th, 2015 - 401 Hungerford Drive, 1st Floor Tan Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland, 20850 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I
Betsy Luecking, Manager

MONTGOMERY PARKS
PROPOSED ADA RANKING CRITERIA
FOR RECURRING/UNIQUE AMENITIES

CRITERIA

1. PROS AREAS

- a. Silver Spring/Takoma
- b. Bethesda/Chevy Chase
- c. I-270 Corridor
- d. Georgia Avenue
- e. Eastern County
- f. Potomac
- g. Rural

2. PARK TYPE

- a. Countywide (Regional, Recreational, Special, Stream Valley, Historic/Cultural, Misc.)
- b. Community (Urban, Neighborhood, Local)

3. PROXIMITY TO PUBLIC TRANSIT (from Park Entrance)

- a. Less than 200 feet
- b. Less than 0.75 miles

4. UNIQUE AMENITY

5. ASSET RANKING

- a. Parking
- b. Accessible Routes
- c. Restrooms
- d. Publicly Available Rooms
- e. Recreational Amenities (based upon PROS Plan rankings)
- f. Path of Travel Requirements (drinking fountains, signage, doors, etc.)
- g. Recreational Amenities (not included in the PROS Plan rankings)
- h. Trails and Other Recreational Amenities Identified in ABA Outdoor Guidelines
- i. Park Houses
- j. Employee Work Spaces

6. Barrier Priority Ranking (Based upon DOJ)

7. Citizen Complaints/Inquiries/Services (group homes, day programs, etc.)

8. Permitted Amenity

9. Lighted Amenity

Date: April 3, 2015

**MONTGOMERY PARKS
PROJECTS LIST
April 6, 2015**

| <u>TYPE</u> | <u>PARK</u> | <u>PROJECT</u> | <u>SCHEDULE</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Design | Wheaton Claridge L.P. | Park Renovation | Construction 2016 |
| Facility Plan | Norwood L.P. | Park Renovation | Scoping phase; tbd |
| Facility Plan 2015 | Hillandale L.P. | Park Renovation | Planning Board May, |
| Facility Plan | Caroline Freeland U.P. | Park Renovation | Planning Board 6/2015 |
| Facility Plan | Ovid Hazen Wells Rec. Park | Master Plan | Planning Board 9/2015 |
| Facility Plan | Battery Lane Urban Park | Park Renovation | Start design 2017 |
| Design | Kemp Mill Urban Park | Park Renovation | Construction Fall 2015 |
| Design | Woodside Urban Park | Renovation | Construction Fall 2016 |
| ADA | Potomac Community N.P. | Parking, walkways | Construction April 2015 |
| ADA | Pleasant View L.P. | Walkway | Construction May 2015 |
| ADA | Ayrlawn L.P. | Parking, walkways | Construction May 2015 |
| ADA | Aberdeen L.P. | Parking, walkways | Construction 2015 |
| ADA | Wheaton Regional | Parking | Construction April 2015 |
| ADA | Cabin John Regional | Softball Field #2 | Construction June 2015 |
| ADA | Damascus Rec. Park | Restrooms/Shelter | Awaiting bids |
| ADA | Meadowside Nature Center | Nature Play Area | In design, build 2015 |
| ADA | Meadowside Nature Center | Raptor Viewing | In design summer 2015 |
| ADA | Rock Creek Regional | Archery Range | In design summer 2015 |
| ADA | Olney Manor Rec. Park | Tennis, walks, others | In design fall 2015 |
| ADA | Ridge Road Rec. Park | Parking at Restroom | Construction Fall 2015 |

Attachment B

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|-----|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ADA | Stratton L.P. | Parking, walks, etc. | Construction 2016 |
| ADA | Clear Spring L.P. | Access to fields | Design 2015, Build 2016 |

PARKS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

| Park | Anticipated Opening Date |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| North Four Corners L.P. | Summer 2015 |
| Germantown Urban Park | Summer 2015 |
| Evans Parkway N.P. | Spring 2015 |
| Laytonia Rec. Park | Spring 2017 |
| Greenbriar Local Park | Spring 2016 |
| Woodlawn Special Park | Spring 2016 |
| Falls Road Local Park | Spring 2016 |