

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
January 5, 2015
MEETING NOTES

Present: Joy Barrow, Renee Katz, Ron MacNab, Dave Magill, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], John Nissel [Parks], Mike Riley [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Myron Johnson, James Krzyminski, Vernard McBeth, Mark Pharaoh, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities],

By phone: Wesley Japp, Paul Lofgren, Ron Maxson [CUPF]

Guests: Chuck Kines [Parks]

Vice Chair David Magill called the meeting to order at 7:10pm, followed by introductions around the table.

The Agenda review was approved unanimously and the December 2014 meeting notes were approved unanimously, as amended.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Gabe thanked the Board for their service to Montgomery County.
- In the midst of basketball season. We have 9,000 kids in the program.
- Had a very successful basketball clinic at Potomac Community Recreation Center yesterday run by Gheorghe Muresan, the tallest NBA player in history, who lives in Potomac.
- Recreation has had to squeeze out other activities such as volleyball and badminton in order to accommodate basketball. We try to find our customers alternate sites.
- The Department has presented its budget cuts, as requested, which has been very painful. There were no cuts to staff, but one position will be left vacant. We had 3 percent cuts across the board.
- As we go through the budget process, we will need the Board's help supporting what we do at Budget Town Hall meetings. [A list of the meetings was made available for the Board].
- A hiring freeze has been imposed on all Montgomery County government.
- High level officials from ActiveNet are coming tomorrow from Canada.
- There is proposed legislation in Annapolis that would change child care regulations, having a significant negative impact on our programs

CIP – Jeff Bourne

- No major changes
- No Potomac is well under way. There will be some delays due to having encountered immense amounts of rock.
- Ross Boddy has begun construction.

Robin Riley

- We plan to make a full presentation to the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board on ActiveNet. We will be doing public outreach.
- Mark Pharaoh was a great Santa at some of our events.

Parks Update – Mike Riley

- Their budget will be going to the Planning Board and the County Council on January 15. They were prepared before the gloomy news was announced. He will provide more detail at our next meeting.
- The MCP Foundation received a \$1million grant for Brookside Gardens. The Executive Director has resigned and moved to a new position. The position is open.
- Parks maintains more than half of the MCPS fields. They are in discussion about taking over all of them.
- How can we add more students and meet school capacity with so many portables? There is a need for more money.

Briefing on Countywide Park Trails Plan Amendment by Charles Kines, Montgomery Parks. Q&A and discussion followed.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – absent
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – will meet tomorrow
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – ActiveNet continues with significant challenges. A meeting is scheduled next week to discuss what facilities will be available for community use.
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – Morty presented the Keeping Seniors Safe program.
 - Seniors may receive calls from persons saying they are with the IRS, their bank, or Montgomery County Sheriffs. Those organizations call no one.
 - This program will go to all houses of worship, card groups, etc., to make a presentation. They require a minimum of 15 to attend.
 - They work closely with FINRA on scams.
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, with the Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – MCPS follows the County approach on integrated pesticide management.
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul - absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- MC 52-14 Pesticides – Notice
 - Discussion on what position the Board wishes to take

- Language was agreed upon in a vote with 5 in support. It was decided that the Board would provide written testimony to the Montgomery County Council for the hearing scheduled on January 15.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.