

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
February 2, 2015  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Joy Barrow, Renee Katz, Dave Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], John Nissel [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Myron Johnson, James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, Vernard McBeth, Ingrid Pufahl, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Ron Maxson [CUPF], Mike Riley [Parks]

By phone: Wesley Japp

Guests: Tammy Archie, Lisa Betts, Lanita Whitehurst

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Agenda and meeting notes review was postponed for lack of a quorum.

Rec Update – Robin Riley

- Summer camp registration has shown a slight decline. Summer Fun Centers are doing okay.
- Youth basketball is very successful, from tiny tots to high school. The only impact is inclement weather.
- The spring guides are out
- Rec and Parks are working with our partners on ActiveNet and the development team from Canada. ActiveNet is the largest recreation-based software in the world. A briefing will be presented to the Board at the March 2 meeting.
- Rec will be having a budget meeting with the County Executive and we are hoping to maintain what we have.
  - Reduction to facility maintenance would have a significant negative impact.
  - Preventive maintenance continues to decline.
    - HVAC needs it most. Discussion ensued.
- Jeff Bourne – Areas & Centers
  - Rec has undergone an organizational change and Seniors is now a separate section within the department
  - The new Seniors manager is Phil Smakula
  - All three area supervisors are new:
    - David Branick [former director of Wisconsin Place Community Recreation Center]
    - Karen Jordan [former Area 1]
    - Ingrid St. Villier [former director of Mid County Community Recreation Center]
  - Helen Abrahams, director of the Schweinhaut Senior Center, retired
  - We are waiting to fill two aquatics positions and replacing Ingrid at Mid County.

- We do not have approval to fill the director at Schweinhaut or Mid County.
- Much of the demolition is completed at Ross Boddy.
- North Potomac construction preparation continues. They have encountered 167,000 tons of rock.
- Western Pool – we hope to go to bid this spring to renovate the 23-year-old pool.
- Good Hope -- the second and final presentation of the renovation design was made to the community last Wednesday. This month it will go to Mandatory Referral before the Planning Board. The existing Splash Park area will be maintained with some minor upgrades to the fixtures.
- Wheaton – all parties are working hard to remain within budget and keep the design.
- Clarksburg & Schweinhaut – this spring, both are scheduled to begin facility planning. In addition, site selection will occur at Clarksburg.
- Susan Hoffmann – Marketing & Communications
  - Provided copies of the February/March 2015 issue of Montgomery Magazine with our full page camp ad on Page 1.

#### Parks Update – John Nissel

- Parks has hired Kristi Williams as its new Division Chief, Public Affairs and Community Partnerships. Kristi comes to us by way of Baton Rouge.
- They also have several vacancies they are in the process of filling.
- A new position has been created to be responsible for ballfield management.
- On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the volunteer service office reported 15 stream cleanups
- An Eco Counter now measures activity on the Capital Cresacent Trail. Every time there is a snow event, it measures usage up to the snow event, the day of the snow event, and usage thereafter. A report will be presented at the March meeting.
- Deer management concludes at the end of February.
- 189 camps are undergoing registration, which is up a bit.
- Winter One Skating has a large number of participants.
- Ground was broken for the Dog Park at Ellsworth Park.
- 18,000 new trees were donated to Parks as an ICC mitigation requirement .

#### Discussion on Testimony for the Board’s meeting with the County Executive

- We must maintain what we have
- Preventive maintenance for facilities
- HVAC – especially at pools
- Recreation accomplishments:
  - Expanded services for seniors
  - Youth development
  - TeenWorks
  - Extended hours of operation
  - Hope to find resources for Maryland Senior Olympics which is back with Montgomery County Recreation
- It was decided that the Board would exchange bullet points on priorities among themselves and speak collectively via email on February 9.

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no report
- Maydale Conservation Park – Renee Katz – presented a report which she will email to staff for distribution. The presentation was followed by discussion and a Q&A. Renee will pursue with John Nissel.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – absent
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

#### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – absent
- Commission on Aging [not represented]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, with the Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – no updates
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul - absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.