

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 7, 2014
MEETING NOTES

Present: Wesley Japp, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Sean Thomas Smith, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Steve Beach [CUPF], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Robin Riley [Rec]

Present by phone: Renee Katz

Absent: Joy Barrow, Erik Johnson, Myron Johnson, James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, David Magill, Vernard McBeth, Michael Waters, Jeff Bourne [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Ursula Hermann [MCPS]

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Lacking a quorum, the Agenda and March 11, 2014 meeting notes will be voted on at the May 5 meeting.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- County Executive Budget was sent to Montgomery County Council on March 15. The budget continues to follow a positive direction for Montgomery County Recreation.
 - Two additional Excel Beyond the Bell sites
 - Adding a Sports Academy at Watkins Mill High School
 - Restoring Senior hours to 2008 level
 - Two additional positions to support positive youth development
- County Council has the budget and will pass it in May
 - The Commission on Aging is supporting the addition of a position to Senior Management staff
- Thanks to Chris Richardson and Mark Pharaoh for meeting with the County Executive on April 3
 - County Executive liked pilot morning program in East County and has asked Gabe to create a pilot with suggestions as to how to fund it
- CIP – has all but been ratified
 - The Wheaton Community Recreation Center and Library have been combined. County Council is moving forward with the project and will not designate the existing structure as historic.
- April 7 was the end of the MD General Assembly session. Two bond bills passed:
 - One requires a match to benefit our Therapeutic Recreation program
 - Other is for capital expenditures for the Silver Spring Black Box
- State granted Montgomery County request to waive all but two snow days which will need to be made up. One will be on April 21 and the other tacked on to the end of the school year, June 13.
- Have had to address recent conflicts between parents and coaches. The appeal process goes to Gabe, then the County Executive. Montgomery County Recreation will consider creating a protocol that may include volunteers from the Countywide Recreation

Advisory Board to deal with mediating on both sides. It is worth exploring our prior model.

- Rec stopped youth baseball about 12 years ago. Interest was dropping and the sport was being served by private organizations. Montgomery County Recreation was proud to make a donation on April 6 of a great deal of old equipment to Leveling the Playing, a non-profit that distributes used sports equipment to economically disadvantaged and underserved youth.
- Robin Riley
 - Teen Works – the County Executive put in operating money to fund six nutrition sites. Youngsters can walk in for a free lunch. Teen Works kids to provide recreational activities to those who come for lunch. Maryvale and Fox Chapel have been identified as two of the sites. We are working with Marla Kaplan for additional locations.

Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- Just completed their semi-annual report to the Montgomery County Council. Will send to staff a link for the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board to watch.
- Was seeking bond bills for historic properties. Did not get enough, so will have to go back next year.
- CIP
 - Struggling because some projects were delayed. They have been brought back by the Council. Under construction now:
 - North Four Corners Athletic Park
 - Germantown Center
 - April 26 – Ribboncutting for Carroll Knolls Park on Georgia Avenue
 - Testimony on the Operating Budget will be heard by the Council on April 8, 9, and 10 at 7pm.
 - Parks inadvertently received a 2.5% cut. Mary will be advocating to get back to their base, and requested a letter from the Board.
- Receiving complaints regarding poor condition of fields
- Little League had opening day in South Germantown and at the Miracle League field last week
- Thousands of volunteers came out for stream cleaning
- On April 8 Fox News will feature Raptor Park.
- The MRPA conference is next week.
- Parks Fees - Christine Brett
 - Christine thanked the Board for its support on park fee increases
 - March 30 – Wheaton Sports Pavilion Open House was held. Soccer field and skate park opened.
 - Ice was successful and tennis has grown by 200 people
 - It is Parks turn to host the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board closing meeting/picnic. It will be held on June 2 at South Germantown Soccerplex at 6pm.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh –met on March 19, as reported in the March 11 meeting notes. The White Oak Community Recreation Center does not have someone certified to instruct persons on the rock climbing wall. Perhaps staff could be certified; or high schoolers could learn how and get community service hours.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – absent
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent
- Ex Officio Reports
- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – fields are in poor shape. Just got a revised list from MCPS which will result in changes to school use due to construction. Camps will be delayed by a day since the state required that MCPS add on two extra days missed due to snow. In response to a question, Steve explained the procedure to rent a gym.
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – absent
- MCPS, Ursula Hermann – absent
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – gave background on the Commission. Recurring Commission issues include recreation needs for people with mental health issues; timing of when programs are offered – later evenings are usually too late; want more daylight opportunities. Gabe reported that Rec convened a meeting with providers to see how we are doing and where there are gaps. We need more staff. We no longer have an Open Door Drop-in policy for TR programs.
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson reported on her meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett on April 3. Mark Pharaoh, chair of the East County Regional Board joined her. She will be testifying on the FY15 Budget on April 10.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm