

## COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

May 4, 2015  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Joy Barrow, Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Ron Maxson [CUPF], John Nissel [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Dave Magill, Vernard McBeth, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Mike Riley [Parks]

By phone: Wesley Japp,

Guests: Joanne Roberts [Rec]

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Agenda and April meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Information on costs of Piney Branch pool have gone to Montgomery County Council. It is up to the Board of Education since it is their property. It appears that the Council will put in money for FY16 and it will “limp along” for at least another year.
- Gabe expressed his appreciation to the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board for its support on the Recreation budget. It does not appear that there will be any additions or subtractions to Recreation’s request.
- A formal letter was received from Trans Unity, representing the transgender community, requesting a change in County locker room policy from identification by biology to one that would recognize gender self-identification.
  - Montgomery County met with Trans Unity representatives. It was valuable to hear their concerns.
  - The state passed legislation requiring private organizations to comply with gender self-identification.
  - A meeting with the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights is scheduled. This is a very complex issue which impacts the entire population.
  - Montgomery County is looking at our current policy and what physical changes we might make to our dressing rooms. There is no budget for this.
  - Discussion/Q&A followed.
- Recreation will be advertising for a new graphic designer.
- Strathmore Hall is expanding its programs to the eastern part of the County, including Good Hope Community Recreation Center.
- The Council has given its final approvals for the Wheaton Community Recreation Center/Library project and it is moving full speed ahead, starting Fall 2016.

Jeff Bourne – distributed draft of CIP Budget Update

#### Parks Update – John Nissel

- Parks is in the final throes of its budget. There is a need to enhance deer management.
- Several members of the Park Police were sent to Baltimore to provide assistance last week.
- Parks has its struggle with ballfields which received winter damage and pushed all openings to April 1.
- A new position of ballfield coordinator has been created.
- Nearly finished with the renovation of Jessup Blair House with a budget of a half million dollars.
  - Montgomery County was generous.
  - Parks will be looking for tenants for the structure. The Montgomery County Historical Society is going to move into the basement.
  - Department is moving forward with fee increases. Parks' enterprise fund is completely cash in/cash out.
- Brookside Camp is up 500%
- Other camps are at 75% capacity
- Established a management team to patrol parks on bikes

#### Montgomery County Recreation's new Wellness and Fitness Institute presentation – Joanne Roberts, PhD, Recreation

- Following the powerpoint, a robust Q&A ensued

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – Smith Center is an outstanding facility
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no report
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

#### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – ActiveNet transition; will be first to go live in May
- Commission on Aging [VACANT]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, with the Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – on April 14, the MCPS Give Back Pack fundraising campaign kicked off. Postcards and envelopes were distributed to the Board
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police – Tony DeVaul – absent

#### Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Chair and Vice Chair co-conducted the CIP Forum with the Planning Board Chair
- Chair testified at the Montgomery County Council budget hearings on behalf of both Recreation's and Parks' budgets.
- Report from the Nominating Committee by Ron MacNab and Ingrid Pufahl. Election of officers will take place at the June 1 final meeting of the year. The recommended slate was presented:
  - Chair – Chris Richardson
  - Vice Chair – David Magill

- Executive Committee – Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Mark Pharaoh, Felecia Wilson
- Employee Excellence Awards Committee members were appointed: Chris Richardson, Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren and Mark Pharaoh. Awards will be presented at the June 1 final meeting of the year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.