

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
February 1, 2016  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Renee Katz [via phone], Paul Lofgren [via phone], Dave Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Ron Maxson [CUPF], John Nissel [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Joy Barrow, Morton Davis, Wesley Japp, Vernard McBeth, Michael Waters, Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Mike Riley [Parks]

Guests: Julie Allbrooks [Parks], Brooke Farquhar [Parks], Marybeth O'Quinn [Parks]

Chris Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

The Agenda and January meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Reviewed snow closure policy. Reviewed DGS and MCPS roles in the process. None of our facilities had significant problems. We are rescheduling events whenever possible and making refunds as necessary.
- The County is moving forward on replacing the synthetic ice rink in the Upcounty and Gabe is the lead. The owner of the existing rink has been quite reasonable and agrees that a 3,000 square foot use and its location are inappropriate in the Agricultural Reserve. Parks is also exploring possibilities. Everyone is working with Poolesville on a possible relocation.
- The County Executive received a request to rename the North Potomac Community Recreation Center in honor of late Councilmember Nancy Dacek. The designated committee will review her contributions to the community. Felecia Wilson volunteered to serve on the committee. After the record is closed, it will make its recommendation to the County Executive.
- Provided an update on the 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge as part of the Move More Montgomery County Executive Initiative. The closing festival will be on April 30, noon to 4pm at the Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center. The Board is invited to participate
- HerTime2Shine is a program that will celebrate Women and Girls in Sports Month on February 13 at Montgomery Mall. The Board is invited to attend.
- In his role as lead on Positive Youth Development, Gabe reported that there is an increase in violent gang activity in Montgomery County. Efforts to fight the root causes will be submitted through budget requests to the County Executive.
- Regarding the repurposing of the old Silver Spring Library, there is much community interest in developing a senior wellness center, as well as the increase in open space. The County has heard from developers that they would want to create senior housing. An RFP will be issued next week.
- The County Executive agrees that Recreation should move to the new office building in Wheaton. Approximately 70 staff will be moving. The CIP will support the move.

- Based upon a briefing from the County Attorney on the issue of transgender, it appears that we will be moving our policy to one of self-identification, rather than one of biology.
- A parking lot has been proposed by the developer of the Gables on Parks' land. Parks has a proposal to turn the asphalt into a nicer surface. It was not recommended by the County Executive. There are concerns about using a garage instead of a lot.
- Vernard McBeth
  - Complimented staff
  - Gym floor at Germantown Community Recreation Center is substandard.
  - The multi-purpose room floor work is poor and still in need of repair.
- Robin Riley
  - Metros Swim Competition will take place at Germantown Swim Center on Friday and Saturday
  - Fashion Boot Camp will be held at East County Community Recreation Center on Friday for girls and boys.
  - Montgomery County Recreation exhibited at the first area Camp Expo on Saturday, January 30 at the Hilton in Rockville. The second one will take place at LakeForest Mall on March 5 and 6. We will exhibit there, as well.
- Susan Hoffmann
  - The Friends of Recreation Fund provided \$1977.35 to supplement those who received financial assistance, but still needed the additional funds.

#### Parks Update– John Nissel

- On 1/15 received the County Executive's budget recommendations, which were less than requested. Asked the Board to testify on behalf of Parks to get CIP funding back. First priority is PILAR; second is Wall Park. John will distribute the Parks CIP program and Kristi Williams' contact information
- During the snowstorm, with 417 parks, there's a lot of snow to push. The challenges are the 52 miles of sidewalks adjacent to parks, especially the ones with bus stops.
- The Board voted unanimously to support the restoration of some or all of Parks' requests. Will work to set up a conference call.
- Hired a Ballfield Supervisor
- Julie Allbrooks
  - Discussed the impact from the storm on reservations. Reported on the enterprise programs. Attended the Camp Expo. There is a Bouncy Pillow at Little Bennett Park.
- MNCPPC Revisions to the Recreation Guidelines for Private Residential Development – presentation by Marybeth O'Quinn.
  - Recreation amenities guidelines were originated in 1992 so that residents would have recreation opportunities. The PowerPoint presented the updated guidelines. There will be a public forum in late spring/early summer for review.

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no report
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no report
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

#### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson– ActiveMONTGOMERY implementation is occurring in phases. They have received 2,000 requests from the community. Fields go live to the community on 2/16. On 8/1 indoor school use goes live.
- Commission on Aging – [VACANT]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – absent
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police – Tony DeVaul – crime is down in parks. There were two gang homicides in Montgomery County. They are hiring quality, not quantity. The chief discussed the tragic fatality at Turkey Run Trail Crossing at Viers Mill Road. It is a state road. Body-worn cameras are in the budget for all 95 officers. The Officers -- Kids Tournament was postponed until 3/24. The Internal Awards will be held on 5/25 at the Silver Spring Civic Building.

#### Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- The May 2 Countywide Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held at Brookside Gardens

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.