

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
FEBRUARY 3, 2014  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Joy Barrow, Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Gabe Alborno [Rec], Steve Beach [CUPF], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Robin Riley [Rec]

Present by phone: Wesley Japp, David Magill, Vernard McBeth, Felecia Wilson,

Absent: Erik Johnson, Myron Johnson, James Krzyminski, Sean Thomas Smith, Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Ursula Hermann [MCPS]

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Agenda and December 2, 2013 meeting notes were unanimously approved.

Rec Update - Gabe Alborno

- Department experienced considerable challenges related to the weather.
  - Coffield Community Recreation Center experienced a burst water pipe at 9am during one of our coldest days. In just one hour there was one foot of water. The Board needs to advocate for prevention-based maintenance. Coffield will be closed for one month. There will be improvements made, but should never have happened if maintenance had been ongoing.
  - Montgomery County Recreation had heating issues along with MCPS. Staff and Community Use of Public Facilities have been helpful to find alternative spaces for our programs.
- County Executive released FY15 budget, which contained good news for Montgomery County Recreation.
  - The North Potomac Community Recreation Center is back in, with construction scheduled to start late summer 2014
  - Overall CIP hearings will be on February 5 & 6
  - Wheaton joint project with the library is moving forward
  - February 12 - Historic Preservation staff presents historic facts associated with Wheaton Youth Center at Saddlebrook Park Police
  - February 13 - Wheaton Community Association to meet at the Wheaton Community Recreation Center
  - February 25 – Montgomery County Council to hold public hearing on all Historic Preservation Resources, including Wheaton Youth Center. Sign up to testify by 2/25 at 10 am
  - February 27 - Combined PHED and HHS committees – worksession on Wheaton CIP project
- Another small CIP project – 20 years ago Montgomery County built an inline skating rink at the Potomac Community Recreation Center. Now it is rarely used. Montgomery County received a request from the disabilities community to convert it to a therapeutic

recreation facility by changing the surface. Gabe thanked Jim Krzyminski for his help facilitating discussion with the surrounding community. The new facility will be programmed this summer and will be operated similarly to the Miracle League. There will be a hearing on it on February 11 at 1:30pm.

- Basketball season is underway. Gabe is coaching his daughter's team. Basketball is the fastest growing sport in the County.
- Jeff Bourne – CIP Update
  - Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center update – re-enveloping of the building will require it to be closed for 14 months
  - Scotland is continuing apace, although it is about three months behind
  - Discussion ensued on WiFi at Community Recreation Centers. Gabe recommends testifying in support of funding it. Robin will provide list of Recreation facilities and their connectivity information.

#### Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- Has a Capital Projects list
- Parks will testify on their CIP on February 5. They are asking for \$165 million for their six-year program. They manage 10% of Montgomery County's land mass. Requested a letter from the Board in support. Mary will send information to staff for distribution to Board.
- They are managing a number of partnerships, including cricket fields.
- MCP costs have come down
- Christine Brett
  - Winter tennis and ice skating programs are underway
  - 700 boy scouts were at the annual Klondike Derby
  - They have been impacted by cancellations
  - The Community Gardens program will be expanded in the UpCounty

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – Commented on a lack of basketball courts. Asked about status of Summer Fun Centers. Gabe reported that Montgomery County Recreation is looking at entire program, including Summer Fun Centers and Before School Programs. The Strawberry Festival is on. All East County centers had holiday events that were all well attended.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no meetings for the last six months. Elections are scheduled for March 6. Board needs stability.
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – no updates. Need to keep active membership. Since September, have been rotating meetings to all centers in UpCounty. His issues are WiFi and fiber.
- Ex Officio Reports
- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – beginning process of reviewing forms. They do not yet have construction list and summer school list from MCPS. He hopes to have it by the end of this week. There is a high demand for summer camps. Community Use of Public Facilities is recruiting for two new positions.

- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – absent
- MCPS, Ursula Hermann – absent
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – wants information on Potomac rink, so Commission can support. Commented on a new kickball league.
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – absent

#### Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Renee Katz –
  - What is status of playground at Wheaton Claridge Local Park?
  - Will the duck pond be replaced at the Olney Family Neighborhood Park?
  - Before Care – Impact Silver Spring comes to PTSA meetings
  - Will there be a Splash Park in East County? Splash Park is too small.
  - Getty is on the list to be renovated
- Suggestion that on the Montgomery County Recreation home page or RecWeb, we provide a link to Montgomery County Parks and vice versa. Staff reported that we will have one portal for both in about 18 months.
- Maydale Nature Center has been closed for many years. There are five other centers in Montgomery County.
- Mark Pharaoh - asked again about a “free week.”

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 8:47pm

Minutes were approved 3-11-14 with the following amendments:

- A request was made for Montgomery County Recreation to capture attendance at the Community Recreation Centers. Staff said they would look into it.
- Is senior transport working? Staff reported that ridership is maintained by transit provider. A report will be available about mid-year. A report will be made to the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board and CountyStat.

#### Corrections from Boardmember Katz:

- I believe Director Bradford corrected me as to the plans to renovate Getty Park, and mentioned a different park that is going to be renovated, but I did not catch the name of it. I had received a suggestion from a Silver Spring resident that Getty Park could be a site for a new splash park, but that was when the resident was under the impression that it was going to be renovated soon. I learned at our last meeting that Good Hope Sprayground is still open - I will let the resident know about this sprayground. I have not actually visited it so I did not mean to voice any concern as to the size of it. I learned at the meeting that splash parks have quite a big footprint and it sounds like a major undertaking to add one to a park.

Director Bradford’s response: In answer to the comment, I can confirm that Evans Parkway Park is the park being renovated, rather than Getty Park. By separate email, I am providing directly to you the updated information about the pond(s) in Olney.

- To follow up, and because I was not very clear when inquiring about the park in Olney, here is an article that references the issues I was asked about by an Olney resident (it looks like there are no plans to replace the duck pond, but I was asked if I could find out about the general status of renovations. The article is a few years old though.) - <http://www.gazette.net/article/20111005/NEWS/710059519&template=gazette>
- I referred to Mark Pharaoh's past suggestion of a "free week" at community centers but I don't think he repeated the suggestion himself - I brought it up to lead into another suggestion that Montgomery County offer a \$5 day pass similar to what Prince George's County is doing - here is the link to that - [http://www.pgparks.com/Things\\_To\\_Do/Community\\_Centers/One-Day\\_Community\\_Center\\_Passes.htm](http://www.pgparks.com/Things_To_Do/Community_Centers/One-Day_Community_Center_Passes.htm)

I believe that currently Montgomery County residents can buy a punch pass for \$20 which gives them 4 visits, but there isn't an option for one day. I thought it could be a way for people to try out a community center gym, for example.