

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 2, 2013
MEETING NOTES

Present: Renee Katz, James Krzyminski, Ron MacNab, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, Sean Thomas Smith, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Christine Brett [Parks], Ursula Hermann [MCPS], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Capt. Linus Louketis [Park Police], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Rose Alvarez, Erik Johnson, Paul Lofgren, Vernard McBeth, David Magill, Michael Waters, Steve Beach [CUPF], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Mary Bradford [Parks], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities].

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Agenda and November 4, 2013 meeting notes were approved.

Rec Update - Gabe Albornoz

- Praised Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade held on November 23, 2013
- Many demands are made for Aquatics time
 - Specific request has been made for child practice during adult swim lanes time
 - 80 percent of pool use is by children and youth
 - Will accommodate request this March and open one lap lane for youngsters
 - Montgomery County needs more pools, particularly in winter
 - Piney Branch pool
 - One of two pools constructed in mid-70s by Montgomery County Public Schools [MCPS]. Montgomery County Recreation had MOU to operate and maintain pool, while MCPS managed infrastructure and physical plant, since it was part of the school. Adventist stepped up to broker deal to take pool over.
 - Adventist Board now wants to get out of operation of pool. Montgomery County Recreation not in position to take it over. Councilman George Leventhal has scheduled meeting on the issue to be held shortly. There is no money for Recreation to take it over. Old physical plant is not inviting. Pool is closed on Saturdays and during school hours.
- Basketball is right around the corner. Director Albornoz is an assistant coach. We expect a record year. This is a major upward trend
- Ken Gar Community Center opening has been postponed until January
- We are close to the release of the Montgomery County CIP. Renovations are needed at a number of facilities
- Montgomery County Recreation Employee Recognition Awards recommendations for consideration by the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board:
 - Morris Buster – fulltime staff
 - Trish Gill – fulltime staff
 - Marco D'Ottavi – seasonal staff

- Awards will be presented in either February or March at a Montgomery County Recreation facility
- Increase in County minimum wage will impact Recreation. Still analyzing, but this is a good thing

Additional Update – Robin Riley

- Financial assistance kicked off today. Funds will be available in January.
- In 2013, \$1.5 million in financial aid was used.

Parks Update – Christine Brett

- Hiring a skating director and an ice technician at the Wheaton Ice Rink
- Hired a tennis instructor at Wheaton. Dan James of USTA, will teach “Tennis is Tennis.” Christine will share video of wheelchair tennis with Board.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no meeting. Attended Paul’s meeting – discussed combining the two. And combine the consortiums, perhaps.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – absent
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – spoke to Phil Smakula. Morty assigned two others to work with him on Keeping Seniors Safe – when should seniors be retested for driving.to work with absent
- MCPS, Ursula Hermann – MD Dept. of Education = long-term suspensions should be a last resort. What are the alternatives? How can changing behavior keep students in the classroom? More interesting approach – restorative justice – less punitive, more instructional. How to fix it [the offense the student may have caused]. The plan will be rolled out in the 2014-15 term and implemented in 2015-16.
- M-NCPPC Police, Capt. Linus Louketis – the department reorganized, adding a captain. They participated in the Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade with their mounted unit. The Alcohol Task Force will be in place from Thanksgiving Day through New Year’s.

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Update on status of CERB and Board terms – Susan Hoffmann
- Mark Pharaoh - asked that we promote the Community Recreation Centers. Perhaps hold a “free week” in January.
- Staff filled Board in on Be Active Montgomery! New Year's Resolutions free demonstrations at 13 different sites starting January 6.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm