

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

October 5, 2015
MEETING NOTES

Present: Morton Davis, Wesley Japp [via phone], Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Ron Maxson [CUPF], John Nissel [Parks], Susan Hoffmann [Rec],

Absent: Joy Barrow, Dave Magill, Vernard McBeth, Michael Waters, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Mike Riley [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Guests: Brooke Farquhar [Parks], Dominic Quattrocchi [Parks]

Paul Lofgren called the meeting to order in lieu of Chair Chris Richardson who was delayed in traffic and arrived later.

The Agenda and September meeting notes were approved, as amended, unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Began basketball registration last Monday. This is the second largest program in Montgomery County Recreation and growing. Gabe will be coaching his seven-year-old daughter's team.
- Gabe quoted a Washington Post article regarding the reduction of team sport participation due to the reduction of youngsters just having “fun” when they participate in a team sport. The Countywide Recreation Advisory Board is uniquely positioned to do something about it. The Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight [OLO] is the “think tank” of the County government. Gabe suggested that the Board write a letter to the County Council PHED Committee suggesting that OLO take on a project analyzing the national statistics on this finding, and determining if they apply to Montgomery County. We could launch it as the Countywide Play Initiative.
- Another Washington Post article dealt with the decline of motor skills in toddlers, due to the lack of unstructured play. Gabe will forward the article.
- Montgomery County Recreation has hired a graphic designer.
- Judy Stiles, a media specialist in the Office of Communications & Public Outreach, has moved to the Montgomery County Public Information Office. We will be advertising for that vacancy shortly.
- Recreation is developing a three-year strategic planning process as an update to the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. Will make presentation at January meeting.
- Community Use of Public Facilities has a \$4 million surplus which it must spend down by law. There is a suggestion to create two organic synthetic turf fields. The Board could write a letter in support of this proposal.
- CIP Report – Jeff Bourne
 - the CIP Report was circulated
 - Discussed details on the renovation of Good Hope Community Recreation Center.

- The Clarksburg Community Recreation, Senior, and Aquatic Center Facilities Overview, which comes from Vision 2030
 - Are there Board recommendations for community representatives to serve as part of the Designated Planning Team? They would be individuals who could bring value to the process, similar to the MCPS Parent Academies.
 - The Upcounty Recreation Board will be a part of this effort, as well.

Parks Update – John Nissel

- MNCPPC was awarded the Gold medal as the best Park System in the U.S. for the sixth time. There is the only park system to have received the award six times.
- Tomorrow is a big day at the County Council. They will be voting on the Pesticide Bill at 10:30am. Currently, ballfields are carved out. It includes no spraying of common lawn areas around playgrounds and child care areas, and a five-field pilot program to move to organic pesticide in three years.

Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update – Dominic Quattrocchi and Brooke Farquhar from Montgomery County Parks

- Presentation was made, followed by discussion
- The park was opened in April, 1963 and is 50 years old
- Park is one square mile

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 – going live with ActiveMONTGOMERY
- Commission on Aging [VACANT]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships –no report
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police – Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Recreation website has been updated
- Future Employee Excellence Awards
 - Will include Parks staff
 - Will be displayed in Rec HQ lobby
- Staff was instructed to send to Board the suggested advocacy roles the Board members could play
- Discussed a bus tour in June after camps start to include Countywide Recreation Advisory Board, and PHED Committee, Department of Finance, and OMB staff

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.