

Meeting Minutes  
Sports Advisory Committee  
Upper County Community Recreation Center  
8201 Emory Lane, Gaithersburg  
February 22, 2024

**Board Members:** Mary Kate Crawford, Doug Remer, Doug Schuessler, Trish Heffelfinger, David Schardt; Rick James, Tina Won Sherman, Tom Cove, Joe Hooks, Tony Korson, Samantha Griffin, Ben Corb, Chris Wajda, Dustin Jeter, Amy Lopez

**Absent Board Members:** Princess Clemente, Max Levitt

**Ex-Officio:** Steve Solomon, Rebecca Frece, Nancy Petzold-Earp, Kathy Green, Ryan Denner, Darren Flusche

**Staff:** Jason Fasteau

**Guests:**

Montgomery County Recreation

Adriane Clutter - Division Chief, Programs

Montgomery County Parks

Carl Weber - Athletic Field Planner

Montgomery College

Kerry Norberg - Planning and Design Director

- 6:05 p.m. Call to order by Tom Cove, Chair
- 6:05 p.m. Welcome and General Announcements
- 6:08 p.m. Review and Approve Agenda - Doug Schuessler motioned, unanimous approval  
January Minutes - Trish motioned, unanimous approval
- 6:09 p.m. Team Building/Ice breaker (Invitation to others who may want to host a future icebreaker)
- 6:12 p.m. Debriefing of Committee testimony at respective hearings.  
Tina testified at a Public Hearing to speak about the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)  
Brainstorm question: How else might we be able to be in the community? Welcome to any ideas committee members may have.  
Reminder of committee rules: Anyone can speak on behalf of themselves and that they are a member of the committee, not necessarily a representative of the committee. The Committee Chair is supposed to be the only spokesperson of the committee.  
Ben made the recommendation to have 1-pager that we can each access in case we have the opportunity to speak.

Conversation about the budget and the upcoming budget cycle. There will be public hearings on the operating budget, where committee members could speak if they wish.

Tom spoke about his testimony at the Joint Council Committee briefing on Sports and Sports Tourism. Tom testified regarding the priority to be proactive in attending to equity in the sport tourism plan. He encouraged committee members to be out in the community as much as possible; lets leverage the capital that this group possesses.

Trish reinforced that the SSRAC ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday would be a great opportunity to be visible in our community.

- 6:45 p.m.      Montgomery Parks Report Historical Use Briefing and Survey (Presented by Carl and Darren)
- Athletic Field Use Policy Review - 18 month timeline
  - Invitation from Tom to consider how we might want to provide feedback in a focus group format
  - Focal areas: historical use, practice on game fields, lighting, permitting season

- 7:00 p.m.      Working Group Recommendation Proposals
- Facilities Working Group:** Case Study - no new business, working towards RFP
- Participation Working Group:**
- Plan at the earliest would be for fiscal year 26 to provide more staff and more resources
  - Community Outreach Specialists are already in Equity Zones
    - They are already looking to hire more people, but there are challenges to meet the job qualifications
  - Hard to know what recommendations we could give them to help direct their energy and resources,
  - They are already working to reduce silos and making connections across departments
  - One recommendation might be to hire a data analyst for the rec program

Discussion regarding how we might we push Montgomery College to build out a recreation major that helps build the workforce for recreation and sport professionals in the community

- This is showing up in a variety of ways and effects including in the rec department's ability to recruit and retain employees
- bility to recruit and retain great potential employees
- Dustin - how might we leverage the state's new Year of Service recommendation - [Governor Moore's recent announcement](#)

- **Program Working Group:**
  - Tina talked through the next steps for this group which is to prioritize what other municipalities and organizing groups have used something like this in other areas (food access)
  - Question from Joe: is there buy-in from the Rec department to support and endorse the central directory?
  - Question about if we want to include a disclaimer or a vetting process
- **Recognition Group:**
  - Pivot to unsung heroes focus rather than simply on high school champion
    - Honored at the Hall of Fame Ceremony
    - Recommendation from Joe to identify sub groups or categories in order to help vote
      - Working on criteria for nomination/award
      - Councilmember Proclamation (3 each Tuesday)
    - Positive Coaching Alliance - national and local awards
    - Motion to continued work: David; unanimous approval

8:00 p.m.      Administrative Items:  
 Nominating Committee reminders- email Jason if you wish to serve  
 Operating Budget Calendar

Next Meeting: Thursday March 22 - 6:00pm -8:00pm  
 SSRAC Ribbon Cutting February 24, 10:00 am

8:08            Motion to adjourn Rick; unanimous approval