

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
2425 Reedie Drive, Wheaton MD
June 12, 2023

Board Attendance: Dave Pullen, Melanie Stickle, Chris Nasti, Yolana Goettsch, Alison Gillespie, Brenda Bonazelli, Steffany Hamlett, and Robera Tasissa

Ex Officio Attendance: Felecia Wilson, Kendell Matthews, Romona Bell-Pearson, Greg Kellner, and Derek Ross

Staff Attendance: Adriane Clutter, Darren Flusche, Sandra Samuel

Staff Absent: Janet Dixon and Jason Fasteau

Welcome and Call to Order – Dave Pullen

- The meeting started at 6:44pm
- Dave Pullen welcomed board members and staff.
- A quorum was confirmed after the attendance was recorded and the meeting was called to order.

Review and Approve Agenda

- Agenda was approved by the board. Motion made by Melanie Stickle and seconded by Chris N.

Review and Approve May minutes.

- May minutes with minor corrections. Motion made by Melanie Stickle and seconded by Chris N.

Election of Officers – (Chair and Vice Chair)

- Felecia Wilson has no report.
- The committee received one nomination for the Chair (Chris Nasti) and no other nominations. Chris Nasti accepted the Chair nomination via. email. During today's meeting, Melanie Stickle accepted the Vice Chair nomination.
 - Motion made by Yolanda and seconded by Mike Ricci
 - Approved the Candidates – motion made by Yolanda G. and seconded by Alison Gillespie
- Committee members
 - Dave Pullen, Melanie Stickle, and Felecia Wilson

Ex-Officio Reports

- Kendall Matthews from Commissions on Aging:
 - Working with County, Federal and Local Government to get nursing home inspected.
- Ramona Bell Pearson from Community Use of Public Facilities:
 - Introduced Derek Ross, Community Specialist

- The contract fee study has been made to Quality Metrics, LLC. The Department of Procurement publicly posted the award on May 15th. The attorneys are discussing contract terms, and the study will commence by the end of this month.
- This past week, CUPF has managed many outdoor facilities permit cancellations. While cancellation was not offered to permit holders, CUPF did publicize that no cancellation fee would be charged if they decided to cancel their events.
- Most cancellations occurred on Wednesday and Thursday of this past week. By Friday, the air quality was still classified as poor but better than the previous days, so fewer permit holders canceled events.
- CUPF has been assisting the Wheaton Regional Service Director in hiring three staff members to manage, facilitate the permitting process, and event management for the Wheaton Town Plaza, known as the Marion Fryer Plaza, and the Wheaton Veteran's Park.
- The interviews for a manager of the part-time event monitors are in the final stages, and an offer should be made shortly. The two part-time event monitor positions are being recruited and are having interviews set for those selected candidates to be considered for the positions.
- Once all three positions are filled, the Wheaton Plaza and Urban Park will be open for permitting by the public through CUPF.
- **Montgomery County Public Schools – Greg Kellner:**
 - Gaithersburg High School is having architect work on auditorium sound system, making big moves, getting a contractor.
 - Gaithersburg Middle has a comparable situation, back on board by school start.
 - Spring session is over, and two state championship.
 - Spring session working on the park field renovations projects, four or five sites to start.
 - Blair High School phase 2 on the way
 - Baseball field – permanent power and brand-new board
 - Fall season will be sooner to expect. Any process with lighting?
 - Rec – Will follow up with Parks?
 - Parks – Cliff has moved to PG, and now Carl Weber is the new contact.
 - Portable Lights – 5 group – no issues, and the school did have issues with locations with portable lights – 8 clocks power-down.
- **No Reports**
 - Commission Action Board – Myriam Paul
 - Commission on People with Disabilities – Tonya Gilchrist

Parks Report – Darren Flusche

- **Montgomery Parks** is a proud sponsor of the Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival this weekend in Potomac, MD. Featuring a children's carnival and music performance, as well as art exhibitions, food, sports, and presentations on Black history in this region, the events for the federal holiday on Monday, June 19th, will be spread across the Cabin John Regional Park, Cabin John Village, and the Scotland community on Seven Locks Road.

Recreation Report – Adriane Clutter

- Adriane thanked everyone on the board.
- The Sports Advisory Committee (SAC) is a diverse group with an impactable job. We will continue to report factors that affect participation and diversity in sports in Montgomery County.
- We are having a banquet for staff who worked throughout the school year.
- Summer camps and pool start June 26th.
- In the process of training 522 staff
- New benchmark – attendance looking good.
- MCRD has started prepping for the CIP.
- Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center is scheduled to open in late Fall. Yolanda inquired about the recruiting process for camp staff and changes to the pool schedule.
- Aquatic centers will now be split into sessions to allow more people to swim and enjoy the pool.
- MLK Upper Pool will have more opportunities for county residents.
- Melanie suggested having a program for toddlers under five to swim before noon.
- Staff are doing their best under current conditions. Paperwork for summer staff is extensive. We are working to resolve issues with seasonal HR paperwork.
- Tracey Anderson is the HR Director.
- Suggestions of a One Stop Shop to complete the hiring and onboarding process on the same day.
- Chris asks if college students are applying for the positions.
 - Mainly teachers and college students
- The existing problem is that seasonal staff can only work up to 40 hours. We need staff to work from 8 to 6 pm.
- Yolanda asked if having private party policy changed because of staffing issues.

Other Items

- Alison wished everyone good luck for the following year.
- Dave hoped to be back in a year, express his gratitude, and encourage new members to bring concerns and ideas to the board.
- Alison suggested to the board to start budget advocacy early and offer to assist.
- Melanie mentioned that the Recreation Dept is more critical than Parks concerns.
- Adriane stated that both Parks and MCRD are essential.
- Alison advises taking field trips to see other facilities.
- Currently, the board has three vacancies.

NOTE: Attendance Sheet was misplaced/lost. Attendance re-created via board notes, personal calendars and Microsoft Teams log.