

# County-wide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Monday, November 19, 2018

## Meeting Notes

**Present:** Safiatou Barry, Morton Davis, Matthew Lee, Karen Kincer, Carol Petrucci, Bradley Ryan, Rasheda Vereen, Felecia Wilson, Gail Gunod-Green, Benjamin DuGoff, Gabriel Alborno, Robin Riley, Adriane Clutter, Amanda DeFilippo, Kizzy Chambers, John Nissel, Doug Ludwig, Sandra Samuel, Howard Goldberg, Melanie Stickle, Michael Shimoff, Jeffrey Szuchman, Lyle Ganz, and Chris Richardson

**Absent:** Mark Pharaoh, Rodrigue Vital, Danielle Susskind, Brian Banks, and Carl Blake

*Meeting called to order by Carol Petrucci at 6:30p.m.*

- *Quorum eight (8) present*

### Welcome - Chair

- Carol Petrucci welcomed the board, new members and staff

### Introductions

- Montgomery County Parks Staff
- Montgomery County Recreation Staff
- Current Board Members
- New Members/Guests
  - o Melanie Stickle
  - o Lyle Ganz
  - o Michael Shimoff
  - o Howard Goldberg
  - o Rasheda Vereen
- Ex-Officio(s)

### Susan Hoffman – Appreciation

- Served the board for 10 years
- Will support the board in other areas
- Thanked everyone for their friendship and support
- Carol Petrucci thanked Susan for her service

### Communication and Staffing

- New location
  - o Better Communication
- Orientation binders
- Google Classroom
  - o Send all communication including documents and minutes
  - o Amanda will assist board members with access

- Chain of Command
  - o Staffing – Robin Riley

### Review of Agenda

- o Review and approve September's minutes
- o Motion made by Ryan Butler and seconded by Jeffrey Szuchman
- o Approved

### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities
  - o No update
- Commission on Aging
  - o Looking for New Rep
- Community Action Board
  - o Submitted Report
- Montgomery County Public Schools
  - o New member, Danielle Susskind, MCPS
- Commission on People with Disabilities

### Recreation Update - Gabe Albornoz/Robin Riley/Adriane Clutter

- New Recreation Dept. Director will be appointed by 12/11
- Pending Saving Plan (Next Fiscal Year)
- Good Hope Recreation just reopened
  - o Community requesting additional hours
- New Wheaton Rec. will open in the fall 2019
- County Executive Marc Elrich, holding listening sessions
  - o Previous session held in Germantown on November 17<sup>th</sup>
  - o Answered questions for 2 hours
- Thanksgiving Parade was a success, aired on Channel 8
- Youth Development
  - o Oak View and Gaithersburg Elementary School initiating "Excel Beyond The Bell (EBB)"
- Senior Transportation
  - o Received cuts to Friday transportation from prior savings plan
  - o Ridership and participation in Senior programs are still up
- Addressing Food Insecurity
  - o Snacks and lunches provided to youth
  - o Lunches provided to seniors
- Facilities are hosting their holiday events
- Major concerns about the reductions in budget
  - o Seniors will not receive hot lunches with no Friday transportation services
  - o Facilities are still operating at 20-30% less hours from pre-recession

## Parks – John Nissel

- Reopening & Dedication Celebration of the Mayor Jayne H. Plank Kensington Cabin on October 20<sup>th</sup>
- Showcase
  - New Drone – To look at density of foliage, mapping, reduces human risk for harm
  - Milling on our portable saw mill
- Purchase electric mowers for Down County/Urban Parks
- ADA Settlement Agreement with Department of Justice (DOJ) – Accepted
- Josiah Henson Park Museum and Education Center is forthcoming.
- Volunteer Cleanups - Montgomery County Parks reached their mark of 1-million-pounds of collecting recyclables and trash removed from parks
- South Germantown Driving Range increased by 65% in usage.
- Garden of Lights opening – Brookside Gardens

## Retreat Discussion – Advocacy

- Advocacy efforts crucial at this time of transition
- Centralized communication (Google Classroom)
- Become more of an “Advocate” board
  - Should the board advocate at the state level?
  - Should the board coordinate with Prince George’s County?
  - The Board is appointed by and served by Montgomery County. Must get approval prior to taking an action outside of the County.
- Board is here to support Recreation and Parks
- General public does not see the difference between Recreation and Parks
- Need to define differences and parallels
  - Provide a scope of the two agencies to the new members
- Robin Riley stated the board members need to connect with communities
- Chris Richardson suggests collecting data from the community
- Feedback
  - Easy fixes can be emailed to Robin and John
  - Big asks should be discussed at meetings then filtered by Robin and John
  - Community feedback can help drive subcommittees
- The board should try to attend County Executive Marc Elrich listening sessions
- Old Sub-Committees – Action items from last year
  - Should we keep them
  - Will allot time to discuss at our December 2018 meeting

*Motion* by Karen Kincer to submit a letter to endorsed Robin Riley as the new Director of Rec.; denied

*Motion* by Morton Davis to Submit a letter to County Executive Marc Elrich from the board to endorse Robin Riley as the new Director of Rec and reference the endorsement given by Gabe Albornoz; seconded by Ryan Bradley and passed

Other Business:

New Member Orientation

- Will conduct new member orientation in our December meeting started at 8:00pm

8:16pm Adjourn