

County-wide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Monday, April 2, 2018

Meeting Notes

Present: Chris Richardson, John Nissel, Doug Ludwig, Sandra Samuel, Robin Riley, Susan Hoffmann, Bradley Ryan, Phyllis Rand, Carl Blake, Jeffrey Szuchman, Carol Petrucci, Gail Gunod-Green, Karen Kincer, Adriane Clutter, Benjamin DuGoff, Felecia Wilson, Jeff Bourne, and Amanda DeFilippo

Dial-In: Matthew Lee, Safiatou Barry

Absent: Seto Adeyefo, Gabriel Albornoz, Morton Davis, Jonathan Brice, Rod Vital, David Pollen, Ron Maxson, Mark Pharoah, Vernard McBeth, Onyel Bhola, and Paul Lofgren

Meeting called to order by Chris Richardson at 6:36pm.

Review of Agenda

- Accepted

Review of March 2018 Meeting Notes

- Correction to the list of attendees, MOTION to accept; seconded and passed.

Presentation: Skate Park Presentation– Rebecca Kutler, Isacc Gilgoff, Arin Joshi

- Robin Riley introduced several residents and their (6) six children from the Bethesda area who made a presentation to construct a skate park specifically at the Caroline Freeland Urban Park.
- Presentation already made to County Executive
- The present-day location is Woodside Park
 - o Heavy Traffic
 - o 1-hour travel time
 - o Disruption with the older kids
 - o Lose time to play due to travel time
- The number of signatures on the petition, as of today, is 58.
- The group would like advice and input from the Board
- John Nissel mentioned sending over Pump track
- Robin Riley will continue serving as the point of contact with the group
- Chris Robinson assigned the follow up to Board Member Karen Kincer

Overview of Budgets: FY19 Budget – Robin Riley & John Nissel

Robin Riley – Acting Director

- No Update from the March 19th board meeting

John Nissel – Deputy Director of Parks

- \$5 million cut in the operating budget; want 2 million for restoration.
- John Nissel will send Tier 2 – Departmental Priority for Restoration info to the Board

- \$ 26 million cut from CIP; The Parks has agreed to \$15 million and hoping to keep \$11 million
- **Motions**
 - Board Member Karen Kincer made a motion to testify to support the Parks Dept. efforts to restore \$5 million and \$11 million for CIP budget support. MOTION to accept; seconded and passed
 - Board Member Carol Petrucci made a motion to reinstate 4% Montgomery County Rec. reduction back to full budget. MOTION to accept; seconded and passed.

CUPF Update - Ron Maxson

- No Update

Commission on Aging – Phyllis Rand

- Phyllis Rand provided written report

Commission Action Board – Gail Gunod-Green

- Gail Gunod-Green emailed the Community Action Board Ex-Officio Report prior to this meeting.

MCPS Update - Dr. Jonathan Bryce

- No Update

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

- No update

Action items

- o Chris Richardson inquired about the bylaws; John Nissel will provide a copy within the week
- o Susan Hoffman will email old bylaws to the board

Recreation Update – Robin Riley, Montgomery County Recreation

- Free Track & Field program for elementary kids
 - o East County Sports initiative
- Currently working on Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame

Parks Update

John Nissel, Deputy Director, Montgomery Parks

- Mary Wells Harley Dream Camp Scholarship: Raised \$7,000; to date and have awarded 15 scholarships.
- MRPA Awards: PACP Division received two marketing awards. Park Police Volunteer David Cohen awarded the Community Volunteer Award.

- HFEE: Has removed over 1,700 Ash trees and replanted this year over 600 trees. Over 3,600 board feet of lumber has been milled from our tree removal program which is being repurposed for bridge decking, trailer decking, mill work and natural play areas.
- Fields are now open for play, due to the wet weather many fields are closed. Please call the rainout line and register to get information on specific fields via text or email.
- ACEing Autism: Is a program for children and teens with Autism instructing them on tennis. It is designed to develop coordination, confidence and social skills.
- Ice Skating: Our two winter sessions just finished up with a record number 1,566 registration. Tennis finished up as well with 727 participants registered.
- Summer Camp: Summer camps are nearly filled with kids sitting on waiting lists.
- Cabin John Trains: Just took delivery of 5 new coach cars and managed to sell off the vintage 1964 cars to the Austin Zoo. These cars are ADA complaint and hit the tracks for the Spring Eye Spy Train season on March 24th.
- Pop Up Parks: During the winter season Parks hosted 34 Pop up events around the County with 600 participants.
- CCT Usage: Since 2016 nearly 850,000 walkers and bikers used the CCT trail near Bethesda. June was out busiest month with 95,000 users Trail totem to be installed this Spring.
- Facility and Program Access: We are in our third year delivering access to folks with disabilities for all park program and amenities. This year alone we coordinated and managed over 206 requests for accommodation and trained over 800 career and seasonal staff on inclusion access.
- Kensington Cabin: received the Montgomery Preservation 2017 Historic Preservation award.
- Wheaton Claridge – event is Saturday, 4/14 from 11am – 1pm. 11901 Claridge Road in Wheaton.
- Solar Farms Power Up – event is Wednesday, 4/25, 10 a.m. – 12p.m.

New Business

- Robin Riley spoke about having a “Late Summer Retreat”
 - o To help with the disconnect between board and services provided by Recreation & Parks
 - o Its purpose is to provide an overview of the basic concepts of recreation and parks; what are the top priorities for the board
 - o Guest Speakers and discussions on advocacy
 - o Staff to talk about services provided by each organization
- Karen Kincer expressed concerns about the board role/responsibility with Rec. Dept. and Parks Dept.
- Felicia Wilson asked how the board could further assist the Rec. Dept and Parks Dept.
- Chris Richardson asked the board to submit their names for the Employee and Volunteer Excellence Awards

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm.