

County-wide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Monday, May 11, 2020

Meeting Notes

Present: Board: Carl Blake, Karen Kincer, Chris Richardson, Felicia Wilson, David Pullen, Michael Ma, Howard Goldberg, Melanie Stickle, Bradley Ryan, Lyle Ganz, Michael Shimoff **Ex-officio:** Rodrigue Vital, Stephanie Edelstein Benjamin DuGoff, Jeffrey Sullivan, **Staff:** Robin Riley, Adrienne Clutter, Trish Walsh, John Nissel, Doug Ludwig, and Sandra Samuel

Absent: Safiatou Barry, Mark Pharaoh, Szuchman, Jeffrey, Osei Asare, Isaac

Meeting called to order by Karen Kincer at 6:35 p.m.

- *Quorum 11 present by 6:35pm*

Welcome – Chair

- *Karen Kincer welcomed the board and thanked everyone for their flexibility*
- *Adjusting to the new forum*

Review of Agenda

- Reviewed and approved May's agenda
- Motion made by Howard Goldberg and seconded by Melanie Stickle. Approved.

Review and approval of March minutes

- Reviewed and approved March's minutes with additional of attendance list
- Motion made by Dave Pullen and seconded by Felicia Wilson. Approved.

Community Announcements

- *Commenced the MCRS and Parks staff*
- *Adrienne received High Riser award*
- *Heavy Trail Use – Interest in Parks increased*
- *MCRD served over 2,000 meals to date*

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities – Rod Vital
 - Over 1,000 refunds / cancellation
 - Losing 1 million a month

- All staff are teleworking
- Commission on Aging – Stephanie Edelstein
 - County paying for Zoom licensing
 - MCRD meal distribution has been a great success
 - Nutrition Programs - Transportation to get the meal out to the residents
 - Concerns for social isolation
 - Transportation to the Recreation Centers and the North Potomac Center
- Community Action Board –
 - No Report
- Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeffrey Sullivan
 - Entering Phase III - Continuity of learning for our students
 - Food & Nutrition services provided for students
 - IT Dept provided Chrome books for students
 - Staff are working remotely
 - Teachers and Parents are doing the best can doing this pandemic
 - Athletics has been postponed until further notice
 - Coaches have done an outstanding job engaging the seniors
 - Road to recovery
 - Planning safe return to schools
- Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff
 - No Report

Recreation – Robin Riley

- Zoom presentation to Council
 - Received lots of support
- Senior Team has been delivering senior meals
- 2 homeless shelters at Long Branch and Gwendolyn Coffield Community Centers
 - Impacting programs
- Working with county recovery team
- Refunded all summer camps
- Coming up with new camp plan and protocols
 - Help those with the highest need
 - Camper to staff ratio 8 to 2

- Camper drop-off at the drop door
- Establishing protocols for reopening
 - Health, safety users, and staff
- Paperwork is now electronically process
- Online TR dance – Good social interaction 80 participants
- Classes Team is starting to offer virtual classes
- Working in protocols for pool openings
 - Sessions of use – 2 hours at a time, clean between use
 - Lap lanes only for indoor pools
- Supporting food distribution in East County
 - 700 meals were given away
- Supporting HHS Distributing PPE
- Some MCR staff are supporting the County Communication Team
- Same service budget w/saving plan, anticipated
 - Depends on State/Federal support funding

Parks – John Nissel

- MRPA roundtable w/all State Rec. & Parks Depts
 - Sharing ideas
 - Creating a questionnaire to all Parks Directors
- Trying to become the advisory to the Governor
- Parks are open with some closed all amenities
- Staff employed / teleworking
 - Implemented rotating EP schedule
 - Awarded staff with 40 hours COVID Social Distance Leave
- Visitation up 44% - Two Silver Lining
 - Realizing the importance of Parks to the residents
 - Athletic fields are getting a great opportunity to rest
 - Maintaining the fields at the competition level on the regional and recreation side and local level
 - Great opportunity to get growth and vibrant roots
 - MCPS contractor still maintain those facilities

- Parks camps have the same issues with cancellations
- Not sure when recovery Phase I, II, III will happen and how they will apply to different programs
- Cancelling all activities through June
- Monitoring all our COVID expenses and revenue loss through our Enterprise Access System
 - labor, materials, revenue loss – FEMA request
 - Will have a big impact on our budget
- Closed roadways for exercise – social distancing
- All of trail heads are packed
- New trails are really paying off
 - Special thanks to Casey Anderson
- PAB Tennis Courts at Cabin John was open as a testing site
- Plant sales at Brookside Garden was highly successful
- Nature Center doing instructional videos for MCPS
- Virtual Programs as well
- Opening transition will be harder than closing down
- Will use NRPA framework
- Shoutout to the board for advocacy
- Special thanks to PACP for communication/ customer service
- Thanks to admin supports

Questions

- Brad – Are their guidelines that the county has for face mask to people who are jogging and biking?
 - John – We did a lot of signage and information message on the website to the biking community. Will reach out to our Trails group.
 - Karen can assist with getting word out to the running community
- Carl – Bathrooms and Water fountains – What are the policies for those facilities in the parks? open? Closed? Use?
 - Closed all our front-facing restrooms
 - Port a johns are still open, we have a contract
- Carl - Are they any smaller parks w/great trail with fewer people?
 - John will ask Trails group

- Karen – As you go through the progress of getting front-facing restrooms open back up, let us continue to work on the communication as things reopen.
 - John – With our Opening Transition team, have 20 staff people working on that and looking at the NRPA guidelines.
 - Messaging and Public outreach
- Brad – Dog Parks are crowding, lack of social distancing. Any plans to handle?
 - Senior staff and Park Police are monitoring the dog parks
 - Have not had enough inquiries to close.

Nominating Committee Report

- Terms – September to June
- Plan for things to be back to normal in September
- Need officers for the Executive Committee
- Received enough nominations to fill all five (5) spots
- Karen / Trish will put together a ballot
- Nominations to date
 - Chair – Karen Kincer
 - Vice Chair – Carl Blake
 - Committee – Felicia Wilson, Mark Pharaoh, and Melanie Stickle
- Will keep open for those not in attendance
- Use Poll function to vote through TEAMS or Zoom
- Use a different platform next month so we can see everyone
- Robin Riley will follow up before June meeting
- Karen will send another email with closing date for nominations

7:56 pm ADJOURN