

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
2425 Reedy Dr., 3rd Floor, Wheaton, MD 20902
January 12, 2026

Attendance:

Members Present (in-persona and remote)

- Banda
- Bentley
- Flores
- Goettsch
- Hudson
- Hutton
- Jacknis
- Krauze
- Ricci
- Royster
- Ryan
- Sparer

Members Not Present

- Delgado
- Holeywell
- Tondo
- Zarubin

A quorum was established at the meeting

Staff Present

- Albornoz
- Berrios
- Kress
- Fasteau
- Burnett
- Coppola
- Samuel

Ex-officio members present

- Ross
- Kellner

Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Ricci introduced changes to the agenda and minutes formats for boards, committees, and commissions, explaining the new cadence and simplification for public use.

Ricci and Fasteau shared the final report from the Committee Evaluation Review Board (CERB) review of boards, committees, and commissions, noting that their board will continue to benefit from clearer success definitions and outreach, with opportunities for coordination with other advisory bodies discussed among the group.

Review and approval of November Minutes and Meeting Agenda

Ricci shared the November 2025 minutes and the January 2026 agenda. Board members approve both.

Agenda Items

1. General Board Updates
 - a. Review of Staff Recognition Awards Event held in December 2025. Ricci led a discussion on the recent staff recognition event.
 - i. Feedback indicated the event was well received by staff and families, with increased interest in the awards and positive internal promotion following the event.
 - ii. Board discussed whether to adjust the event size or format and agreed to make slight adjustments for future events.
 - b. Members provided updates on new and renovated facilities, including disc golf course.
 - c. Recreation discussed recent issues with the recreation registration system, including technical outages, customer support efforts, and strategies to minimize system overload, with input from Holeywell and Royster on user experiences and possible improvements.
2. Upcoming board engagement opportunities
 - a. FY27 Operating & Capital Budgets: Board members discussed the county's capital budget cycle, ongoing funding battles for major projects,

refurbishment versus replacement decisions, and advocacy strategies for supporting proposed budgets and facility upgrades

3. Parks Report – included information of reopening of Greenbriar Local Park, Ellsworth Dog Park reopening; MLK Day Service Day Projects

4. Recreation Report – Albornoz addressed ongoing challenges in coordinating facility use with MCPS, including scheduling conflicts, maintenance responsibilities, and efforts to standardize policies and procedures improve communication between schools and recreation departments.
5. Public Comments - Community member and Members engaged in a detailed discussion on the pros and cons of turf and grass fields, referencing cost, playability, environmental concerns, and recent reports.
6. Member Time
 - a. Albornoz and board members discussed opportunities for public-private partnerships and the role of Friends groups in supporting, discussing legal requirements, in-kind donations, and the potential resurrection of dormant nonprofit support organizations.
 - b. Ricci previewed upcoming meetings, including February session focused on department priorities, and highlighting ongoing facility refurbishment and successful program launches with plans for continued advocacy and community engagement.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Feb. 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Fall-up Tasks

Send the final report on county boards and commissions to all board members for their review (Jason)

Distribute information about the capital budget after its release and coordinate board support for the proposed capital budgets of Parks and Recreations (Michael)

Work with Peter Moran to send a joint letter to all MCPS principals reminding them of the process for booking space and collaborating with CUPF. (Rec. Dept)

