

Montgomery County, MD
COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present Board: Carl Blake, Karen Kincer, Chris Richardson, , Michael Ma, Felecia Wilson Mark Pharaoh **Ex-Officio:** Benjamin DuGoff, , Stephanie Edelstein. **Staff:** Robin Riley, John Nissel, Safiatou Barry, Adriane Clutter, Doug Ludwig, Traci Anderson, Melanie Sasse, Trish Walsh, and Janet Dixon

Absent: Isaac Osei Asare, Melanie Stickle, Bradley Ryan, Rodrigue Vital, and Sandra Samuel, Jeff Sullivan

Guest-Nancy Steen

Marcus Coleman, Helaine Resnick, Alison Gillespie, Donald Hawkins, Marsha Webber, Otto Gonzalez

Meeting started at 6:33 pm,

Welcome and Announcements – Chair

- Karen Kincer welcomed the board

Review of December Agenda

- Motion made by Michael Ma and Carl Blake seconded . Approved.

Review and approval of September and November

- Motion made by Michael Ma and Mark Pharaoh seconded . Approved.

Reports

Officers and Committee Reports

Ex Officio Reports

Community Use of Public Facilities – Rod Vital

Commission on Aging – Stephanie Edelstein

Karen thanked Stephanie for her service. Expanding the Sr Meal program

Community Action Board – _____

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeff

County delayed the decision to push back the start of sports until at least Jan 12

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

Discussion of floating bus stops.

Parks Report - John Nissell

- Parks is adjusting to the rollback of county COVID-19 guidelines
 - Changing compacity is affecting wedding venues and programming. Have reserves they will have to use.
- Dine in the Park
 - Positive feedback with no issues. Pilot will go into the spring
- 7th iteration of union agreement with staff
 - People are using COVID-19 leave and they are short staffed
- Gearing up for snow removal for winter
- Launch new programs
 - Nature on wheels a rolling nature center
 - Try to get out to underserved communities and get to schools when they open
 - Karen asks-Does Recreation have programs afterschool.

- Adriane -yes Recreation does.
- Can Nature on wheels attend.
- Open Street initiative is going well
 - Suspending the Little Falls Parkway program because of work force reduction
 - Carl asked John about changes for tennis and youth ice hockey.
 - John-mask mandate has hurt tennis. Down 50% reservations. Ice programs struggling with revenue as well. Waiting to hear if they can offer open skate.
- Chris ask about Dine in Park. John- Local area Restaurants asked if they want to opt in. Chris asked if have reached out to food trucks. John- have invited Food trucks to the parkways.

Nancy Steen, Parks Budget Manager Operating budget

- Park Fund \$115,766,946 Tax supports Fund
 - FY21 Savings Plan Reduction 5.7% (\$5,630,264) Approved by County Council
 - Selective Hiring freeze to help with savings plan
 - Every division had to put forth reductions
 - Teleworking helps with savings
- Non-Tax Supported Fund
 - Property Management \$1,576,671
 - Enterprise Fund \$10,549,109
 - Run as business
 - Hockey, tennis conference centers
 - Special Revenue Fund- \$2,967,428
- Revenues
 - Property taxes, fees and charges, grants, interest income, reserves
- FY 22
 - Asking for 6,422,176 increase
 - Personal \$2,875,788
 - Operating commitments \$2,090,670
 - Program enhancements \$1,65,4695
 - Improving Customer Service \$64,610
 - Improving Quality of Ballfields \$282,358
 - Legislative mandates \$398,682
 - Maintaining and Improving what we have \$387,880
 - Park Activation \$65,000
 - Social Equity \$141,865
 - Water Quality Protection Fund \$79,518
 - Deb Services decrease (264,352)
 - Other Post Employee Benefits decrease (14,133)
- Budget Timeline
 - July-Nov Staff develops proposed budget
 - Mid-Nov Planning Board approves proposed budget
 - December Commission approves proposed budget
 - January 15 Exec Director submits proposed budget to County Executive
 - Jan-March Co Ex makes Budget recommendation to County Council
 - April County Council hold public hearings to review
 - April-May County Council Reviews Budget
 - May Montgomery county and Prince George's County Council meet for bi county budget
 - May County Council adopts budget

Presentation followed by Q & A

- Mark Pharaoh - we should focus on essential needs.
- Michael Ma- feels that enhancements and good park facilities are essential for the mental health of youth and adults.
- John- Spent money due to COVID-19 challenges

Recreation Report - Robin Riley

- Thank Stephanie for serving
- Submitted budget meet with EC in Jan
 - No enhancements
- 15 staff at board of election
 - Staff helping with food access and Covid Testing
- County Council gave \$\$ out of reserves for youth sports incentive
- Added senior programming
- Working on Spring Guide and Summer Camp production
- New vacancy Executive Assistant to the Director and Communications Manager
- Hoping to Open MLK Pool
- Mark Pharaoh- How many seniors are doing online programs?
 - Adriane we have a large number.

Letter to County Executive

- Karen- the departments are doing a great job. We get into specifics later in the budget process.
 - Mark -thinks we should replace the word essential with valuable. Carl thinks it is a great point.
 - Adriane says some programs are essential-shelters senior meals. Stephanie agrees that many programs are essential..
 - Mark Pharaoh motions to send the letter Carl Blake seconds.

Budget Calendar for 2021 / Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled to meet the 2nd Monday of every month.

7:57 motion adjourn Mark Pharaoh 2nd Michael Ma