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

• Open Street initiative is going well
  o Suspending the Little Falls Parkway program because of work force reduction
  o 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
  o 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
  o Property Management $1,576,671
  o Enterprise Fund $10,549,109
    • Run as business
      Hockey, tennis conference centers
  o Special Revenue Fund- $2,967,428

• Revenues
  o Property taxes, fees and charges, grants, interest income, reserves
• FY 22
  o Asking for 6,422,176 increase
    • Personal $2,875,788
    • Operating commitments $2,090,670
    • Program enhancements $1,65,4695
      o Improving Customer Service $64,610
      o Improving Quality of Ballfields $282,358
      o Legislative mandates $398,682
      o Maintaining and Improving what we have $387,880
      o Park Activation $65,000
      o Social Equity $141,865
    o Water Quality Protection Fund $79,518
      • Deb Services decrease (264,352)
      • Other Post Employee Benefits decrease (14,133)
• Budget Timeline
  o July-Nov Staff develops proposed budget
  o Mid-Nov Planning Board approves proposed budget
  o December Commission approves proposed budget
  o January 15 Exec Director submits proposed budget to County Executive
  o Jan-March Co Ex makes Budget recommendation to County Council
  o April County Council hold public hearings to review
  o April-May County Council Reviews Budget
  o May Montgomery county and Prince George’s County Council meet for bi county budget
  o May County Council adopts budget
Presentation followed by Q & A
  - Mark Pharaoh - we should focus on essential needs.
  - Michael Ma- feels trial enhancements and good park facilitates are essential 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 incitive
  - 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 asks 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