

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
2425 Reddie Drive, 10th Floor, Wheaton
Monday, February 10, 2025

Board members present: Bentley, Hutton, Ricci, Flores, Tondo, Krauze, Delgado, Royster, Banda, Jacknis, Mullis, Zarubin, Hudson, Goettsch, Holeywell,

Board members absent: Sparer, Ryan

Staff present: Fasteau, Coppola, Riley, Clutter, Berrios

Ex-Officio members present: Kellner, Ross

Michael Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Ricci motioned to approve the December 2024 and January 2025 meeting minutes, as well as the December 2024, January 2025 and February 2025 agendas. Krauze seconded. Unanimous approval.

Mullis provided information and the history of staff recognition events, which annually highlighted the contributions of six county parks and recreation employees. The recognition event was last held in 2019. Mullis and a board committee are updating a nomination form and new categories to include part-time staff and volunteers. Mullis said the group tentatively suggested 12/8/25 for the planned recognition event. The committee is now working on a run-of-show for the event.

Mullis said the next step would be to work on event planning. Royster suggested publicity to promote awareness. Holeywell asked if the public could nominate employees, however, Berrios noted that many workers don't have public-facing positions.

Ricci shared the upcoming process/timeline for the FY 26 budget. The operating budget will be submitted by the county executive in mid-March, kicking off several weeks of advocacy. By mid-May, the council will take final action on the budget.

Flores asked about the threat of losses of state and federal grants to the county budget. Riley said that impact may not be totally clear until after the budget is submitted. Riley said there would be impacts to numerous agencies; for now, it's wait-and-see. Coppola said more of the state grants cover capital projects rather than operating costs.

Krauze asked about the status of the capital budget. Riley said the budget was tight, and every refresh the department hoped to do has been delayed by years. Coppola said there were no changes to the parks department's capital budget request.

Riley provided the Recreation update:

- Many summer camps were enrolled within a few minutes. There remain openings for contract camps. Berrios said the camps will soon have waiting lists. Berrios said Recreation is working on ways to reduce the load on the sign-up system. Krauze asked about increasing price to address demand.
- A therapeutic recreation work group is being assembled
- March 28 is Fashion Boot Camp Finale
- The mermaid convention at SSRAC is in early March
- Two players for the Baltimore Orioles visited the at East County rec center for a community event and while there participated with kids in their youth cricket program
- The County Futsal Finale ends in two weeks (Germantown and Wheaton)

Coppola provided the Parks update:

- New cemetery grant
- Greenscape symposium at Brookside Gardens
- Montgomery County / Prince George's County naturalist training recently held
- Many Black History Month events happening in February, including at Woodlawn and Josiah Henson
- Spring sign-ups coming up
- Planning Board working on disc golf planning

Follow-up items:

- Invitations to fashion bootcamp will be shared
- Budget process information will be shared
- Board volunteer/engagement opportunities will be shared.

Ricci motioned to adjourn. Krauze seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.