

MINUTES

Sports Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Silver Spring Civic Center

1 Veterans Pl Silver Spring, MD

Board Members: Mary Kate Crawford, Dustin Jeter, Trish Heffelfinger, Tina Won Sherman, Joseph Hooks, Doug Remer, Princess Clemente, Tom Cove, David Schardt, Doug Schuessler, Amalia Lopez, Christopher Wajda, Tony Korson, Max Levitt, Samantha Griffin

Ex-Officio: Elijah Davis, Yuling Mei, Steve Solomon, Rebecca Frece, Kathy Green, Darren Flusche, Ryan Denner

Staff: Adriane Clutter, Jason Fasteau

Welcome and Call to Order - Tom Cove

- The meeting started at 6:06 p.m.
- A quorum was confirmed after attendance was recorded and the meeting was called to order.
- Tom Cove welcomed committee members and staff.

Review and Approve Agenda

- Motion made by Trish Heffelfinger to approve agenda. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Review and Approve June Minutes

- Motion made by Amalia Lopez to approve the June minutes. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

Administrative Items – Jason Fasteau

- Ethics/Conflict of Interest Form - QR code provided - need everyone to review and sign ASAP
- Online Trainings - a reminder to submit completed certifications

New Business

Review of SAC Member Survey Results - Tina Won Sherman and Mary Kate Crawford

- Mary Kate Crawford and Tina Won Sherman: presented their process of data analysis and findings. Each response was independently coded with keywords and codes, organized into categories and themes
- Tina Won Sherman: the responses to the second question of the survey regarding what the success of the committee would look like. Response Analysis from Question 3 - wait to determine what our goals and vision of success are before we decide how we will collect data

- Tony Korson: The committee should identify immediate action items
- Amalia Lopez: Develop a large overarching goal to increase participation so we do not tie our own hands as we move forward
- Dustin Jeter: Make recommendations when we are ready to (in other words, we shouldn't limit ourselves to not making recommendations in the first year)
- Trish Heffelfinger: We are a group that has created things and we should use that to our benefit - can we use our experience and expertise to create more than just a report?
- Tony Korson: Noted about the upcoming grant that the county is awarding money in the coming weeks/months
- Doug Remer: We need more coaches which will allow for more kids
- Tom Cove: How could this committee get more coaches? (partner with college students as an option)
- Max Levitt: Recommend funding so that coaches can be paid in certain communities - raising registration fees is not a good option
- Joe Hooks: We should figure out what coaches need to be successful and what others need to get into that role (what support do they need); can we find ways to offer camps for free (but still pay the coaches) - we should take the time to look at what is going well in the county, and what's not - for example, who is using our great facilities? How do they get access to those facilities?
- Yuling Mei: Could we bring or create a training or resource for coaches in the county; how do we return informal play - perhaps an app or forum to link up people who want to play informally (tennis partner, etc) - how do we create a community when people are not in close proximity to each other?
- Tony Korson: Recreation Dept employees could shift their hours to support after-school programs
- Kathy Green: Clarified schedule of MCPS Athletic Directors and other Recreation Dept employees
- Adriane Clutter: Suggest educating the community of what the Recreation Dept does (and what the size of the department is) - how do we improve communication about what already exists in the county?
- Rebecca Frece: Noted that all the Recreation Dept staff she works with flex their hours and support after school programs in underserved communities (specific to Gaithersburg) - opportunity to grow and better communicate these programs
- Kathy Green: Outreach is an issue - asked if an outreach coordinator exists? Could we make that recommendation? What apps are parents using? How could we better recruit coaches?
- Joe Hooks: We need to get people to go into the communities where the kids already are - rather than expecting kids to come to them
- Princess Clemente: How are we going to prioritize the committee's efforts? Princess works at a DEI Consulting Firm and talked about how we could develop a strategic plan to:
 - increase the number of coaches
 - increase outreach

Presentation - OLO Reports on Youth Sports and Gender Equity in Youth Sports

Natalia Carrizosa, Office of Legislative Oversight, Montgomery County Council

- Natalia highlighted the facilities and programming for youth sports in the county
- Recreation Dept youth basketball leagues by zip code: Bethesda, Potomac and Poolesville
- More boys than girls in basketball registrations and the gap widens as ages increase
- No data available by race/ethnicity
- Community based youth sport providers use of public facilities (bookings) by zipcode
- No data available for non-county facilities
- Conducted parent surveys on challenges: location, time, costs, variety, persons with disabilities, and competitiveness
- Conducted provider surveys on gender equity: serve more boys than girls
- Conducted parent surveys on gender equity: boys prioritized by MCPS and private providers; lack of welcoming of LGBTQ+
- There are 3 youth sports discussion issues and 3 gender equity recommendations (see reports for details)

Committee questions sent to Natalia:

- What are the robust and low-costs programs cited in the report? No specific examples came to mind
- What is the status of the latest MCPS gender equity report? Almost completed; every 7 years is a Title 9 **requirement**; CUPF track participation by gender, race, and ethnicity
- Has anything changed as a result of the reports being produced?
 - she is not aware of any changes (other than this committee)
 - she looked at jurisdictions that mandated gender equity and she saw that groups had to submit rosters to get permits, etc.

Tom Cove: silos are a problem in the county - define this problem for us?

Natalia Carrizosa: there is a lot going on in MoCo, but folks do not know all the opportunities that exist

Tina Won Sherman: call for action and next steps

- Define underserved populations. Gender, Race, and ethnicity
- How do we help the underserved? Each group should identify best practices as part of their work:
- Participation
- Programs
- Facilities
- Awards/Recognition
- Joe Hooks: Suggested a survey for high school students - can we understand what's going on in the PE departments in MCPS; question about budgets and who receives grants
- Christopher Wajda: Question about why can't girls do rec sports before they get to high school?
- Dustin Jeter: What are the barriers that exist for coaches, officials, and facilities

A proposal for 4 ad hoc working groups was introduced:

- Working groups include Participation, Programs, Facilities, and Recognition
- Overarching theme (serving the underserved)
- Define this in each group
- Address several topics within the theme
- Each group will include:
 - Best practices (included in here is outreach and marketing)
 - Identify barriers
 - Identify needs
 - Targeting (awareness)
 - Role of government vs. non profit

For recognition: let's highlight not just the star athletes, but those who are going above and beyond in their community or encouraging participation

Working Group Leaders volunteered to organize their group

- Tony Korson: Programs
- Doug Remer: Participation
- David Schardt: Recognition
- Mary Kate Crawford: Facilities

Action Items:

- Complete the upcoming survey regarding working groups. Working Groups should begin to address the questions/topics above by the next meeting.
- Complete the Conflict of Interest form and any outstanding trainings

Next meeting: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 6:00-8:00 p.m, location TBD

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn at 8:06 p.m. made by Tony Korson. Seconded. Approved.