



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





Who We Are

The Sports Advisory Committee is comprised of community members who research and report on factors that affect participation and diversity in sports in Montgomery County. The Committee makes recommendations to the County Executive and County Council on ways to address discrepancies found in youth sports including how to improve the quality, quantity and variety of sports opportunities and facilities. The Committee also recognizes outstanding teams and athletes.

TIMELINE

2020



MARCH

The County Council commissioned the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) to study the state of youth sports in Montgomery County. OLO found that while affordable and recreational youth sports programs exist, youth sports provision overall is not well-aligned with the needs of many families.

SEPTEMBER

The Youth Sports Initiative (now known as PLAYMontgomery) was established by the County Council to provide opportunities for Montgomery County Recreation to collaborate with youth sports providers to eliminate barriers to participation and increase equity by expanding low-cost programs in underserved areas for children of all skill levels and abilities.

2022



FEBRUARY

OLO reported on the state of gender equity in youth sports and identified significant disparities in participation throughout the County, with women and girls accessing fewer participation opportunities than boys and men.

MARCH

The County Council increased funding for Montgomery County Recreation to provide programming to increase access and opportunities for girls to participate in sports.

JUNE

The County Council established the Sports Advisory Committee to increase access to youth sports and address disparities in participation. The Committee will advise the Council and County Executive on issues related to sports programming and facilities across the County.

2023



JANUARY

More than 100 applications were received for the 17 public member positions on the Committee.

JUNE

The Sports Advisory Committee held its inaugural monthly meeting and held six meetings in 2023.



→ Nominating Committee

The pool of interview panelists consisted of a diverse group of individuals with experience in sports and recreation programming, ballfields and facilities, board governance and youth advocacy.

→ Membership

Members of this newly formed committee are volunteers from across the multicultural spectrum of communities in Montgomery County. Members serve staggered terms between one and three years. The nominating committee took steps to ensure ethnic and geographic diversity and that all members have a passion for sports and access to programs.



Members 2023-2024

Tom Cove, Chair – 2026
Tina Won Sherman, Vice Chair – 2025
Princess Clemente – 2024
Ben Corb – 2025
Mary Kate Crawford – 2025
Samantha Griffin – 2026
Trish Heffelfinger – 2026
Joseph Hooks – 2025
Ricardo James – 2024
Dustin Jeter – 2024
Tony Korson – 2025
Max Levitt – 2026
Amalia Lopez – 2026
Doug Remer – 2024
David Schardt – 2024
Douglas Schuessler – 2025
Christopher Wajda – 2026



Montgomery County Recreation Staff ←

Robin Riley, Director
Adriane Clutter, Division Chief
Jason Fasteau, Program Manager

Ex-Officio Members

Ryan Denner, Revenue Authority
Derrick Felton, Montgomery County Recreation
Darren Flusche, Montgomery Parks
Rebecca Frece, Municipalities (City of Gaithersburg)
Kathy Green, Montgomery County Public Schools
Yuling Mei, Montgomery College
Nancy Petzold-Earp, Community Use of Public Facilities
Steve Solomon, Montgomery County Sports Hall of Fame
Vacant, Health and Human Services





→ Meetings

Committee meetings were strategically held at various locations across the County to better familiarize members with Recreation facilities. Meetings have been held at Mid-County Community Recreation Center, Silver Spring Civic Center, Ross Boddy Neighborhood Recreation Center, Potomac Community Recreation Center, Wheaton Community Recreation Center and the Activity Center at Bohrer Park.

Members have been focused on information and data gathering as they develop their recommendations to share with the County Executive and County Council. Members submitted preferences to be placed in one of four ad hoc working groups - Facilities, Participation, Programs and Recognition - to analyze key aspects of the committee's work, identify issues to address, develop ideas and submit recommendations in those priority focus areas.

→ Ad Hoc Working Group Chairs

Facilities - Mary Kate Crawford

Participation - Doug Remer

Programs - Tony Korson

Recognition - David Schardt

→ Speakers

The following speakers were invited to meet with Committee members in 2023:

Gabe Albornoz, *Montgomery County Councilmember*, spoke about the value of sports participation, the vision for the Committee and the importance of expanding sports participation and programming, particularly to the County's youngest residents.

Natalia Carrizosa, *Senior Legislative Analyst*, Office of Legislative Oversight, spoke about the recent OLO reports on Youth Sports in Montgomery County and Gender Equity in Youth Sports including data gathered and conclusions.

Melanie Huggins, *Athletics Permitting Supervisor*, Montgomery Parks, discussed the process and policies for permitting facilities and ballfields maintained by Parks.

Nancy Petzold-Earp, *Operations Analyst*, Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF), shared the process and policies for permitting facilities and ballfields overseen by CUPF including school locations.

Rebecca Frece, *Senior Program Supervisor*, City of Gaithersburg Recreation, discussed the permitting process and policies for the City of Gaithersburg.

Carmen Berrios Martinez, *Manager, Communications and Public Outreach*, Montgomery County Recreation, spoke about the Communications and Public Outreach Office including the various channels for communications and marketing strategy with the public and media. She also shared about the new Community Outreach program that helps identify community needs and how best to bring Recreation programming to those areas.




OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

IN 2024, THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE ITS FIRST SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL ON, AS SET FORTH IN STATUTE:

1. The factors that affect sports participation in the County, including the availability of and access to athletic fields, facilities and sports; and
2. Recommendations to improve the quality, quantity and variety of sports opportunities and facilities in the County; and
3. The committee will also establish a process for the recognition of athletes and teams who win state championships or compete nationally or internationally.

Contact Us:

 240-777-4934

montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/about/sac.html

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