

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Monday, May 1, 2017

Meeting Notes

Present: Gabe Alborno [Rec], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Chris Richardson, Mike Riley [Parks], John Nissel [Parks], Doug Ludwig [Parks], Arie Baker [Parks], Phyllis Rand [Commission on Aging], Gail Gunod-Green, Craig Kwiecinski, Brad Ryan, Amina James (by phone), Carol Petrucci, Mark Pharoah, Seto Adeyefa, Morton Davis, Jeff Bourne, Paul Lofgren, Vernard McBeth (by phone), Felecia Wilson, Carl Blake, Jeffrey Szuchman, Safiatou Barry, Robin Riley, Ron Maxson [Rec] (by phone), Matthew Lee

Meeting called to order by Chris Richardson at 7:03pm.

Review and acceptance of agenda.

Brief introductions to include name, area, and wish list item.

Wish list items included:

- *Additional trails*
- *Diversity use*
- *Community pools*
- *Spread awareness*
- *Indoor pools with extended hours*
- *Youth development*
- *Community spaces*
- *Availability of more team sports*

Review of March 2017 Meeting Notes

- One change noted: Parks update was delivered by Deputy Director John Nissel not Director Mike Riley

RPAB Orientation

Gabe Alborno, Director, Montgomery County Recreation

- Brief explanation on County government

- The Recreation Department was created in part as a response to a rise in juvenile delinquencies in the 1950s and to manage the County's after school activities
- The Director of Recreation reports to the County Executive
- Funding for the Department comes from the County
- Both the Recreation and Parks Departments report to the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee of the Montgomery County Council.

John Nissel, Deputy Director of Operations, Montgomery Parks

- Overview of the Department of Parks
- Explanation of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
- Montgomery Parks owns 11 percent of the land in the County
- Shared the Parks information sheet which lists important facts about the Department to include the 418 parks
- Montgomery Parks has a relationship with the Recreation Department because many of the Recreation centers are either on or adjacent to parks
- Provided brief explanation of the 10 divisions of the Department and stated that the Department's labor force takes care of the parks

Mike Riley, Director, Montgomery Parks

- As part of the Commission, Parks has a different governance model
- The Commission was chartered in 1927 and combined the general planning of both Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties
- Brief explanation of how park planning works, providing the example of trying to half an acre for an urban park in Bethesda
- The Commission is a six-time National Gold Medal winner

Gabe Albornoz

- The Department manages 43 Recreation facilities including four indoor pool complexes and seven outdoor pools
- The Department's aquatic web page is the third most visited County page
- Recreation is the largest provider of out of school time programs
- Operating budget of \$38.7 million and the Department is required to make \$12 Million in revenue
- The Department is charged with having to make money to cover its expenses while providing high quality services
- Programs to highlight

- Excel Beyond the Bell
- Special Events (i.e. – 4th of July Fireworks, Silver Spring Jazz Festival, Thanksgiving Parade)
- Summer is the busiest season for the Department
- Parks and Recreation is the third most important reason people chose to live in the County

Mike Riley

- There are two weeks left before the County Council is scheduled to vote on the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Programs (CIP)
- For the Operating Budget, the Department sends their budget request to the Planning Board for approval; it then goes to the County Executive
- The County Executive approved \$4.3 million less than what was requested
- Parks has \$1.7 million on the reconciliation list that would help fund trails, ball fields, and activating parks activities
- Offered an open invitation to meet and discuss with the Director's Office on how Board members can help

Gabe Albornoz

- Recreation Department asked for a nine percent increase in proposed Operating Budget
- County approved a tax increase last year
- There are Recreation programs at the middle and high school levels
- The Department is asking for programs on the elementary level similar to Excel Beyond the Bell
- The County Council is looking to expand on the Teenworks (job training) program

Question: *Do you receive any revenue from grants?*

Answer: *The Recreation Department has been listed as partners with organizations on their grant applications.*

For the Parks Department, grants are a pretty good piece of the CIP but not as much on the operational side.

Jeff Bourne, Division Chief, Department of Recreation

- Recreation Planning Documents are, similar to the Parks PROS plan, to drive their capital development

- Currently working on a 2017 update and will be presenting a draft to the Planning Board on Thursday, May 4, 2017
- From this document, projects move to the Capital Budget, such as trying to place facilities in the South County
- Will present to the Board at June meeting the sample of Silver Spring projects with Housing Authority

Question: *Who decides what moves forward?*

Answer: *The plan is laid out in sequential order. There are focus groups and community meetings. For example, when it comes to renovation projects, we ask what's oldest.*

There are traditional means on how things appear in the capital development and non-traditional ways.

Mike Riley

- Parks has a couple of exciting projects under the CIP
- Laytonia Park which will have four ballfields
- Kemp Mill Urban Park
- Kensington Cabin/Jane Plank Cabin
- A public forum for the FY19-24 CIP will be held at the Planning Board on May 18 at 7 p.m.

Question: *Where can we find out the information on Kensington Cabin?*

Answer: *Mike Riley will send out link.*

Question: *Are there any public meetings during reconciliation?*

Answer: *Meetings were held but written correspondences supporting restoration of funding for Parks are welcome. You can always request a face to face meeting. You can find out more information about [advocacy on the Parks website](#).*

Chris Richardson

- Old/New Business
- Review of Board goals
- Reading of mission statement
- Review of policies and procedures including the attendance policy
- Child care and transportation expenses (information to be sent out by Susan)

- There is a mandatory training for Open Meetings Law in the state of Maryland
 - o Complete and provide copy of certificate
- Review of Membership List
 - o Delete Felecia Wilson's home phone number
 - o Delete Paul Lofgren's work number

Gabe Albornoz

- Appointment of Nominator
- Chair: Chris Richardson
- Vice Chair Nomination: Mark Pharaoh
- Executive Committee: Paul Lofgren, Carl Blake, 2 incumbents – Felecia Wilson, Mark Pharaoh
- Election takes place at the June meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm