

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 6, 2015
MEETING NOTES

Present: Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, Dave Magill, Vernard McBeth, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Ron Maxson [CUPF], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Joy Barrow, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], John Nissel [Parks], Mike Riley [Parks]

By phone: Wesley Japp, Mark Pharaoh

Guests: Mitra Pedoeem [Parks], Subeera Singh [Rec], Kristi Williams [Parks], Matthew Harper [Parks], David Vismara [Parks], Capt. George Coleman [Park Police]

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:05 and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Agenda and February meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Discussed the pool connected to Piney Branch Elementary School in Takoma Park.
 - Aquatics has to break even but this pool didn't, so MCPS took it over. It continues to lose money and MCPS does not want to operate it any longer.
 - The recommendation is to suspend operation until it can be determined what the costs, including ADA upgrades, will be. There is a great deal of community interest.
 - A conversation with the Montgomery County Council will occur, keeping in mind that four of the councilmembers reside in Takoma Park.
- The Code of Maryland [COMAR] has added a new regulation which impacts both Recreation and Parks. In addition to current regulations, all camp employees must go through a child protective services background check and it must be notarized. Recreation and Parks will be meeting with HHS to confirm their responsibilities and requirements .
- The Wheaton Community Recreation Center/Library project status update
 - The original cost estimates, which did not include the underground parking, exceeded the budget by about \$30 million.
 - The Montgomery County FY16 priority is the school system
 - Next week will see a County Executive briefing on options
- Hundreds participated in futsal
- Gearing up for camps. Registration numbers are not great, although the Summer Fun Centers are fine.
- Department of General Services has recommended that Recreation partner with Parks for reuse of the old Silver Spring Library on Colesville Road. There is no money in the FY16 budget, so it will sit empty for now.

Robin

- The recent Youth speak out at the Silver Spring Civic Building was the most well-attended ever.

Parks Update – Mitra Pedoeem, acting deputy director of Parks

- Athletic fields have been open since April 1
- There was a hearing on the pesticide legislation last week
- Close to closing negotiations on the new Park Foundation executive director
- Parks budget
 - The County Executive recommended a delay of Little Bennett Park and the Montgomery County Council restored the original date
 - Parks is requesting advocacy from the Board for their request for a 5% increase
 - Priorities were discussed
 - County Executive recommended a 1% increase
 - Asked for support at the budget hearings
 - Chris Richardson asked Parks for talking points

Christy Turnbull

- Going before the Planning Board for fee increases on April 30. Will send the fee schedule to the Board. Increases will apply to:
 - Ice rinks, leased ice [starting in '17], boars, Splashpark, mini golf, Little Bennett Campground, camp equipment, horse trailer camping ground, Wheaton sports, Rockwood Manor, business meeting centers, Brookside Gardens, and community gardens.

ActiveNet – Subeera Singh, Recreation

- Presentation on the upcoming change in software for Recreation, Parks and Community Use of Public Facilities.
 - The program will be called ActiveMONTGOMERY
 - The Board was provided background as to why this change is planned
 - The project was defined and the benefits highlighted
 - Timelines were discussed
 - Q&A followed

Activating Urban Parks – Dave Vismara, Parks

- Presentation of new program which will affect older parks down county. The program plan is to add benches and tables at:
 - Wall Park at the Kennedy-Shriver Aquatic Center
 - Woodside Park
 - Germantown

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no report
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no report

- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – a pipe broke at the Germantown Community Recreation Center. The floor is being resurfaced. WiFi will be added to 18 Community Recreation Centers in two phases.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – ActiveNet is taking up lots of their time along with summer camps
- Commission on Aging [not represented]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, with the Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – absent
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Capt. George Coleman – Chief DeVaul is at the FBI National Academy.
 - January - deer management was concluded
 - February - two experienced canine teams responded to a bomb threat
 - March – 5 citizen volunteers for the agency completed their training

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Mark Pharaoh had a meeting with the County Executive, Gabe Albornoz, David Dise and Jeff Bourne to discuss his proposal for an indoor sports facility. Under consideration is a 12-bay modular building. The next meeting to discuss potential costs will occur in June
- Ron MacNab will chair the Nominating Committee for the 2015-16 Countywide Recreation Advisory Board. The Committee will report at the May meeting. Elections will be held at our closing meeting in June.
- Renee Katz reported that she met with John Nissel at Maydale Conservation Park. They plan a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.