

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
September 8, 2014  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Joy Barrow, Wesley Japp, Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, David Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Susan Hoffmann [Rec]

Absent: Erik Johnson, Myron Johnson, James Krzyminski, Ron MacNab, Vernard McBeth, Ingrid Pufahl, Sean Thomas Smith, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Ron Maxson [CUPF], Mike Riley [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Guests: John Nissel [Parks]

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Mid County Community Recreation Center.

The Agenda and the June 2014 meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Gabe thanked the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board for their service. He also stated he was looking forward to working with new Parks Director Mike Riley, observing that the Parks Department was in good hands.
- Montgomery County Recreation, Montgomery County Parks, and Community Use of Public Facilities will be moving to ActiveNet, a new software that will permit all users to access space rentals with “one swipe.”
  - This will be a significant improvement to customer service.
  - It will be necessary for each agency to be assured that their funds get to the right “pot.”
  - We will need the Board’s help. There are 650,000 registered Montgomery County residents.
  - Montgomery County Recreation served 16,000 youth through camps and Summer Fun Centers.
  - Rec raised \$1.7million this summer via 650,000 visits.
- The department has seven staff vacancies which they are working diligently to fill, including a senior administration manager position.
- Rec had to close the UpCounty pool for one week due to a ruptured water feed. The leak was repaired in about seven days.
- Attendance records were broken at the combined 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in both Wheaton and Germantown, with a total of 36,000 people.
- This summer saw nine drownings of youngsters in Metro D.C. Rec will re-introduce the active promotion of water safety and aquatics training for children and their parents. Paul Lofgren suggested creating a voucher for evenings and/or weekends. Gabe said we will also partner with municipalities and Ys.
- Gabe reported on the success of the Silver Spring Jazz Festival and thanked staff.
- Because there is only one contractor in the entire County that builds, maintains, and repairs gym floors, the County has to rely on that firm. Regrettably, time ran out on

refurbishment of the Jane Lawton Center floor. It is now sanded and waiting to be finished. It should open next Monday.

- Rec will hold an all day staff training on September 26.
- The No. Potomac Community Recreation Center groundbreaking was held on June 14.
- In order to have a splash park in Montgomery County, a full time lifeguard is required. Rec and Parks will tackle this challenging requirement together to see how other jurisdictions do it, including Toronto.
  
- Jeff Bourne – Division Chief
  - We will be hosting early voting at many of our Community Recreation Centers.
  - Club Rec and Club Fridays are in full swing
  - Increases have been made in senior programming hours.
  - Construction at Scotland Center continues, although we keep running into hurdles. Opening is projected for November.
  - The Potomac adaptive Sports Court is in final design.
  - The Western County Pool in Poolesville will undergo a complete renovation. Currently we are deep into schematic design.
  - Good Hope Neighborhood Center renovation is in schematic design.
  - The Wheaton Community Recreation Center/Library/Gilchrist Center schematic design will be submitted on September 22.
  - September 19 – a meeting is scheduled with the Department of General Services to review action plans scheduled to kick off this fall, including:
    - Kennedy Schriver Aquatic Center
    - Clarksburg Community Recreation Center and Aquatics Center
    - Schweinhaut Senior Center
  - Will be looking at the Piney Branch Pool for possible future usage

#### Parks Update – John Nissel

- Capital improvements have been made to the skating rinks, with fulltime directors at each rink.
- Parks has a good candidate to replace Christine Brett.
- A successful event was held at Little Bennett Park to attract attention to this gem of a park.
- The Miles Glass building was removed from Piney Branch.
- Parks has completed a five-year sustainability plan to be presented to the Park Board.
- They are ready to hire three therapeutic personnel.
- Working with DOJ and ADA to identify violations.
- Looking at the FY16 budget and hoping for more money.
- In response to a question regarding adding another ice rink – a number of CIP projects are in the queue, so will have to wait some before that happens. It would be excellent to put on in the Upper County.

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no meeting was held. The Praisner Center will host Burtonsville Day on September 27.

- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no meeting was held. Attended several meetings re Wheaton. Concerns were raised regarding the use of artificial turf. We need to get out the word on its safety.
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

#### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – working with Phil Smakula and Mike Conrad on “Keeping Seniors Safe”
- MCPS, [vacant]
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul - absent

#### Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- The Nominations Committee made its report. Nominations were as follows:
  - Chris Richardson for Chair
  - Dave Magill for Vice Chair

There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and Chris and Dave were re-elected to their positions.

- Executive Committee:
  - Mark Pharaoh
  - Paul Lofgren

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mark and Paul were elected to serve on the Executive Committee. The Chair asked for volunteers to increase the size of the Executive Committee. Renee Katz agreed to serve.

The voting tally sheet is on file.

- A request was made for a chronological list of calendar events and other activities for Rec and Parks. John Nissel provided one for Parks.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.