

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
December 8, 2015
MEETING NOTES

Present: Morton Davis, Wesley Japp [via phone], Renee Katz, Paul Lofgren, Dave Magill, Vernard McBeth, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Chris Richardson, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], Ron Maxson [CUPF] [via phone], John Nissel [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Absent: Joy Barrow, Michael Waters, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Mike Riley [Parks],

Guests: Carlos Castro [Rec], Adriane Clutter [Rec], Joanne Roberts [Rec], Sara Swarr [Rec]

Chris Richardson called the meeting to order.

The Agenda and November meeting notes were approved unanimously.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- Recreation has been given a reduced mark for the FY17 Budget of 2%, which is slightly under \$700,000. It will be difficult to make the cuts, but a way will be found. Staff will meet with the Office of Management and Budget. There will be five budget public presentations. It is important to attend them and encourage others to attend. Below is the schedule of budget presentations:
 - **Wednesday, January 6**, at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
 - **Monday, January 11**, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.
 - **Wednesday, January 20**, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.
 - **Thursday, January 21**, Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring
 - **Monday, January 25**, BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown.
- The East Meets West Guong Dong Province Dive Show took place on November 29. Participants included some divers who are likely to be on a future Chinese Olympic Dive team.
- The current location for the Recreation Department at Bushey Drive continues to be problematic, requiring the frequent implementation of our Continuity of Operations Plan [COOP], resulting in the need for staff to work offsite due to physical plant issues at HQ. Bushey needs to be renovated and it is not worth the investment. Consequently, Rec is looking at alternative locations, including the new County building planned in downtown Wheaton.

- Wheaton Library/Community Recreation Center/Gilchrist Center is on schedule, as is Ross Boddy. The North Potomac Community Recreation Center is actually ahead of schedule. The \$1.2 million overage from North Potomac, which came in under bid, will be applied to the Silver Spring Library cost overruns.
- Damascus High School won the Maryland state football championship. The County Executive will implement a more formal recognition of winning sports teams for each season.
- The County Executive hosted a senior summit and will create a sub-cabinet position dedicated to seniors who make up 22% of the Montgomery County population. By 2035, there will be more seniors in the County than children in the school system.
- Sharon Norcio and Montgomery County Recreation staff made a presentation to the disabled community. There is a lot more to be done and more programming is needed.
- Gabe attended a briefing on several high profile MS13 murders in the County, particularly in Montgomery Village.
- Robin Riley
 - Wrapping up the Camp Guide which will be out on January 7 and moving on to the Spring Guide.

Parks Update – John Nissel

- Parks budget is through the planning process. It includes new initiatives and several new positions.
 - \$400,000 will be devoted to deal with the emerald ash borer, which is devastating ash trees. They are working with a consortium across the state to fight infestation. They have identified 1200 trees that are in critical condition and must come down while they are still alive, to avoid having them fall on the public. They are hoping to get it funded.
- They will be hosting the Third Annual Trees Matter. Michael Dirda, author and Washington Post book reviewer, will be the keynote speaker.
- The Brookside Garden of Lights is open and is a great show. The butterfly program is extremely well-attended. Parks will host a spring Board meeting at Brookside Gardens.
- The Multi-Agency Service Park [MASP] at the Airpark Rock Creek maintenance yard is “pushing dirt,” but running behind. It will be a LEED certified maintenance yard.
- Staff is looking at rewriting rules and regulations to include the possibility of allowing alcohol at some events in parks. They are also considering access to parks at night.
- They will add “crime in parks” to a future agenda and invite Parks Police Chief Tony DeVaul to attend that meeting.

Move More Montgomery/100 Mile Challenge – Joanne Roberts

- The presentation was made and brochures and flyers were distributed
- January 20 – the Kickoff will be held at Holiday Park Senior Center, 7 to 9pm
- April 30 – Move More Montgomery Festival will be held at Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center, noon to 4pm
- Corporate sponsors include ABC7/WJLA and Bethesda Magazine
- The Board can help with obtaining prizes for the Challenge winners by participating and by attending the Kickoff and the Festival.

- Staff will send the Kickoff flyer

Youth Development Programs – Sara Swarr and Carlos Castro

- A power point presentation was made explaining the various programs for youth for which this Recreation Team is responsible.
- The Board requested a copy of the power point.

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no report
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no report
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – the floor of the party room at Germantown was damaged and is still unrepaired. What is the status of the Germantown gym floor? Gabe will look into what is the delay. Requested WiFi. Gabe explained that until last year, our facilities were built using T-1 lines, not fiber. Staff will send Vernard a copy of the 100 Mile Challenge Corporate Sponsor package.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Ron Maxson – they are full speed ahead with ActiveMONTGOMERY. They are working as a team with Recreation and with Parks
- Commission on Aging – [VACANT]
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships – absent
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police – Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business – Chris Richardson

- Next meeting will include the cricket presentation and the other agenda items as discussed

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.