

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 3, 2012
MEETING NOTES

Present: Erik Johnson, James Krzyminski, Paul Lofgren, Ron MacNab, Mark Pharaoh, Chris Richardson, George Schlapo, Sean Thomas Smith, Michael Waters, Felecia Wilson, James Zepp.

Jeff Bourne [Rec], Mary Bradford [Parks], Christine Brett [Parks], Morton Davis [Commission on Aging], Ursula Hermann [MCPS], and Susan Hoffmann [Rec].

Absent: Rose Alvarez, David Magill, Clara Pribluda, Don Shulman, Gabe Alborno [Rec], Steve Beach [CUPF], Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Kamran Rasul [Commission on Disabilities], and Robin Riley [Rec].

Guests: Kate Stookey [Parks]

Chair Report – Chris Richardson

- Chair Richardson welcomed everyone and introduced guests.
- Meeting Agenda and November 5, 2012 Meeting Notes were unanimously approved.

Rec Update – Jeff Bourne for Gabe Alborno

- Formal CIP budget meetings have begun with the County Executive and OMB. There are no significant changes for FY14.
- Montgomery County Recreation is working through policies and procedures with Community Use of Public Facilities on their booking process.
- North Potomac Community Recreation Center was returned to the CIP by the Montgomery County Council for construction to begin July 1, 2013. Construction is anticipated to take 18 to 20 months.
- Jeff Bourne met with the community at the Potomac Community Recreation Center to discuss the repurposing of the outdated roller rink on the property. The overall community reaction was negative. The County is looking at alternative opportunities to provide therapeutic services, possibly replacing the existing surface with a new one that would be appropriate for adaptive sports uses for the disabled. The skating rink is 78' x 182' – about the same size as a hockey rink.

Parks Update – Mary Bradford

- The Departments of Parks and of Recreation are not the only entities in Montgomery County in the business of providing our programs and services. Meetings have begun with municipal recreation and parks departments.
- The Darnestown Heritage Park was opened two weeks ago – it is the site of an old Civil War hospital.
- Met with the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board. Because lots of high rises are going up in downtown Silver Spring, there are not adequate parks in walking distance of urban residential development. There is no place to walk dogs. In lieu of getting small patches of green space from developers, Parks is looking at asking for an amenity fee that will be pooled for future acquisition of open space adequate to the population.
- At the next meeting of the Maryland Board of Public Works, plans will be sent for approval.

Kate Stookey -- Chief, Public Affairs & Community Partnerships, Parks

- In her first stop in community outreach and public presentations, she presented the draft Corporate Park Naming and Sponsorship Policy. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. Discussion ensued.
- Her next presentation was the Updated Athletic Field Use Policy. Parks worked closely with Community Use of Public Facilities on the document, which was distributed to the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board. Questions and discussion followed.
- Kate offered to return for the Board's January 7 meeting or if there are subsequent Board questions, they will be conveyed by staff.

Christine Brett – Chief of Enterprise Division

- A skating show was held at Cabin John last weekend

Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – their last board meeting was held at the White Oak Community Recreation Center. They will talk about trails at their next meeting. He praised the new security cameras at White Oak. They are very hi def...one can see everything. Side doors are alarmed. Mark inquired as to whether financial aide was increased and if it has all been used. Staff responded that financial aide was at the same level – \$1 million and approximately half the money has been used to date.
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – no report. Board has not met for three months. Will meet Thursday.

Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Steve Beach – absent
- Commission on Aging, Morton Davis – concerned that not enough people are using Montgomery County Recreation facilities. He is doing “Keeping Seniors Safe” at White Oak. Very few are attending. He met the new director of the White Oak Active Adult Center, Nekia Williams. He also suggested that transportation is a problem in Montgomery County.
- M-NCPPC Police, Chief Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business

- It was decided that the Board will hold a meeting in February.
- Chair Richardson inquired as to in what areas would the Board members like to assist Montgomery County Recreation and Parks? What additions to the actions the Board provides would be most useful? Mary Bradford suggested that during budget hearings the Board could turn up in force at County Council meetings and hearings wearing shirts and buttons with supportive messages.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

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