

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
November 2, 2015  
MEETING NOTES

Present: Morton Davis, Wesley Japp [via phone], Renee Katz, Dave Magill, Mark Pharaoh, Ingrid Pufahl, Felecia Wilson, Gabe Albornoz [Rec], Cynthia Bangali [MCPS], Jeff Bourne [Rec], Susan Hoffmann [Rec], John Nissel [Parks]

Absent: Joy Barrow, Paul Lofgren, Vernard McBeth, Chris Richardson, Michael Waters, Tony DeVaul [Park Police], Susan Hartung [Commission on Disabilities], Ron Maxson [CUPF], Mike Riley [Parks], Robin Riley [Rec]

Guests: Mark Galliano [CUPF]

David Magill called the meeting to order.

The Agenda and October meeting notes were approved unanimously, once a quorum was present.

Rec Update – Gabe Albornoz

- The Chinese Dive Team from Guong Dong province is coming to train in Montgomery County while in the U.S. The Montgomery Dive Club, which is working with the team, will be coordinating a dive show on Sunday, November 29 at the Germantown Swim Center. If interested in tickets, pls contact staff.
- Montgomery County Recreation has a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] with Rockville and Gaithersburg to charge their residents non-County rates, since the municipal residents do not pay County Recreation fees. Our prior software, CLASS, could not track those inside or outside the municipalities, so the County ate the costs. Our new software, ActiveNet, can track the information. When some of our customers are informed that they are “non-residents” they express frustration. However it is the law. There will be more to come on resolving this issue.
- The North Potomac Community Recreation Center is ahead of schedule. Usually this is a good thing, but Recreation is not prepared to program it in FY16. Questions have been raised by the Office of Management and Budget as to whether the facility should provide a senior center, as planned. If we decide to go forward with the original plans, we shall ask the Board to write a letter in support. More to come in January.
- A delegation visited the old shopping center in Burtonsville. A developer is looking for a creative use until they are ready to build a mixed use development. They are considering building a field house to include a practice ice facility and a skate park with a BMX component. The field house would be permanent.
- Recreation is hiring a media specialist to fill the vacancy in the Communications & Public Outreach team.
- Recreation had to administer COOP [Continuity of Operations Plan] eight times within the last three years, due to the age of the infrastructure and inadequacies of the HQ building. When staff cannot operate at their designated work station or office due to an emergency or the failure of the physical plant, COOP is enacted. The County is constructing a new Park

and Planning office building in Wheaton and is adding two floors which might be adequate to house Recreation. We may need support from the Board within the next two months.

- CIP Report – Jeff Bourne
  - The grand opening of the Potomac Adaptive Sports Court has been moved from December 19 to a yet-to-be determined date in the spring.
  - Playground surfaces will not be composed of rubber grind, but rather we will use pre-consumer “virgin” rubber instead. Ballfields will use organic cork.
  - The Clarksburg Overview update was distributed.

#### Parks Update – John Nissel

- The Germantown Town Center Park was opened, with 500 persons in attendance. It is the only urban park in the Upcounty.
- Wheaton Redevelopment update: tomorrow evening will be an opportunity to receive community feedback.
- The Park Foundation received a \$60,000 contribution.
- Parks will host a spring meeting of the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board at Brookside Gardens.
- Parks plans to upgrade their website.
- Reported on the “attack owl” on the Capital Crescent Trail. The feral cat colony in Damascus will be moved to Mt. Airy.
- The Halloween trains received their highest attendance numbers ever.
- Parks has created the new position of Ballfield Coordinator.

#### Keeping Seniors Safe – Morty Davis

- The presentation was made and several marketing materials were distributed
- December 3 – the Montgomery County Senior Summit
- December 8 – will be in Annapolis to receive the honor as one of the best Senior Safety programs in the state

#### Local Board Reports

- Eastern County, Mark Pharaoh – no report
- Mid County, Paul Lofgren – absent
- Upper County, Vernard McBeth – absent

#### Ex Officio Reports

- Community Use of Public Facilities, Mark Galliano – working in ActiveMONTGOMERY
  - Libraries are launched
  - Registration centers launch November 15
  - Schools launch July 16
  - Working with Recreation camps
- Commission on Aging [VACANT] – Morty Davis recommended Chuck Kauffman to serve as representative. Staff will look into it.
- MCPS, Cynthia Bangali, Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships –no report
- Commission on People with Disabilities, Susan Hartung – absent
- M-NCPPC Police – Tony DeVaul – absent

Old/New Business – Dave Magill

- Will move the cricket presentation to the January meeting, due to a full December agenda
- Staff will send a doodle to reschedule the December 7 meeting, since it falls on the same evening as the Executive's Ball.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.