

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board

Minutes

Sept. 12, 2022 - hybrid

Attendance

Board: Aravind Banda, Alison Gillespie, Donald Hawkins, Dave Pullen, Melanie Stickle, Felecia Wilson, Robera Tasissa

Ex Officio: Greg Kellner, Kendall Matthews, Myriam Paul

Staff: Gary Burnett, Adriane Clutter, Janet Dixon, Robin Riley, Sandra Samuel, Melanie Sasse,

Guest: Tonya Gilchrist, Darren Flusche

6:35 pm – Introductions

6:38 pm – no quorum to approve September Agenda or June Minutes

6:42 pm – Member Input/Updates

-Melanie Stickle expressed HAPPINESS IMPRESSED with Club Adventure

-Alison Gillespie reported Long Branch festival was phenomenal a good time in a community that was hit hard over the past couple years. Looking forward to the Friends Festival. Shout out to Brian Turnball for the bike trails.

6:50 pm – Ex Officio Reports

-Kendall Matthews (COA) New commissioner installed; 2024 budget preparations have begun

-Myriam Paul (CAB) TESS Voter Registrations (see handouts); in-person and virtual tax assistance (see provided link)

-Greg Kellner (MCPS) Athletics are underway with team try-outs. Discussion regarding field lights. Multiple concerns on field conditions – driving on and then damage to field; athletic equities especially in the Silver Spring, East County and Wheaton areas; noise that comes from generators on noise, Greg will work with schools and organizations to follow rules regarding noise ordinance. Darren: parks has been discussing this issue and currently working on a case-by-case basis as there is no consistent approach. Expressed a need for internal stakeholders to find a systematic way. Alison: Access to this kind of amenity is not equal to all children, they internalize what they see at other schools and fields.

Tonya Gilchrist (CPWD) Commission was on a break over the summer; work on next year's budget as begun. Looking forward to Burtonsville Day. Questions on Accessible Bike. Darren Fusche noted an accessible bike was just acquired and assembled and ready to go (photos attached)

7:20 pm – Recreation Report; Robin Riley

-Vacancies are currently in abundance; we are trying a unique approach to hiring.

- Staffing at our pools continues to be a struggle, we need lifeguards and instructors.
- We now have two managers for our 22 centers instead of one.
- New position; Manager for Communications and Public Outreach
- Vicki Kane from Business Services retired and Charlotte Keys is the new Manager
- Silver Spring Regional Aquatic Senior Center is potentially going to open in July 2023
- Several new outdoor amenities at several centers, skate ramps, bocci ball, fitness pads, black tops, and pickle ball courts. Alison: how was it decided which areas received new amenities? Robin: we looked at who would need the space but also had to consider who had the space. Adriane: a key factor in the decision was current failing surfaces.
- There will be a Place Making Event in Burtonsville this October.
- Senior Olympics continues with Recreation leading the effort
- Out of School Time programs will launch in October
- 7:37 pm** – break to check for quorum, there was no quorum so no vote to certify ballot
- Purchase of security systems for centers that did not have any or were in much need of being upgraded.
- Adriane reviewed successful summer camps and programs.

7:40 pm – Parks Report; Gary Burnett

- A wide variety of events and happenings including the popular Acoustic & Ales. See attached list of upcoming events.
- Darren Flusche, Division Chief for Park and Planning and Stewardship at Montgomery Parks. Will be replacing Doug Ludwig. Shared Open Space Plan (PROS) and Bicycling Master Plan.

7:46 pm – Member Goals/Aspirations

- Dave Pullen asked group to consider why board members joined the board and what would you like to see happen moving forward.
- Discussion of how the group can share information.

Action Item

- Janet will send a doodle poll to the board so they meet to certify the June ballot.

8:02 – Adjourn

Submitted by Janet Dixon