

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
2425 Reedie Drive, 3rd Floor, Wheaton
Dec. 9, 2024

Board members present: Hutton, Holeywell, Hudson, Krauze, Mullis, Ricci, Jacknis, Sparer, Goettsch, Banda

Board members absent: Stickle, Delgado,

Staff present: Carmen Berrios, Gary Burnett, Adriane Clutter, Shawna Fachet, Jason Fasteau

Ex-Officio members present: Ross

Other:

Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. A quorum was not established.

6:35 pm: Review and approve December 2024 agenda

6:37 pm: Review and approve November 2024 minutes

Ricci said there are 9 total board vacancies. Fasteau said Goettsch, Mullis and Sparer are serving on the board nominating committee and have started interviewing candidates. The goal is to get appointments on the agenda of the first county council's meeting in January.

Clutter discussed the possibility of having an MCPS representative at a future board meeting. There was discussion about whether a letter to MCPS explaining the board's perspective on community use would be productive.

Hutton suggested more clarity about what the true goal of engaging with MCPS might be. Clutter suggested some of the obstacles that have come with securing consistent community use of MCPS facilities may be due to turnover, with newer administrators not aware of community use.

Holeywell said any engagement with MCPS should emphasize what's in it for them - i.e. consistent community use is good for schools' relationship with their communities. Mullis expressed concern that any bad experience users have with community use could risk turning them off from sports.

Ricci touted the value of the county's free fitness passes. Berrios said users will need to renew their memberships, which will remain free. Berrios said the department is publicizing this update.

Clutter provided a recreation update.

- Aquatics has started and the department is trying to hire more aquatics staff. Fachet said many youth employees don't want full-time hours in the summer, which requires hiring more summer staff.

- Soccer4Change recently concluded.
- Gender equity remains a priority for Recreation.
- As budget discussions approach, Krauze encouraged the department to urge its constituents to 'share their story' on social media. Clutter said the department surveyed residents and asked 'are you better off as a result of participating in this recreation program.'
- Hutton mentioned that Bethesda residents involved in the master plan are advocating for a new recreation center, even as facilities elsewhere in the county face needed upgrades. Burnett said plans included in the master plan aren't imminent; Clutter added that Clarksburg is next in line for a recreation center.
- Berrios said summer camp registration begins Jan. 21 at 6:30 am. She said the schedule will be visible in late December. Holeywell asked if the bug that had previously impacted summer recreation registration had been resolved, and Berrios said it is.

Burnett offered his parks update:

- Recent highlights include the Thanksgiving parade and a veterans appreciation luncheon that drew hundreds.
- Garden of Lights runs through early January
- At the end of ice lesson session 2, the Wheaton ice rink will shut down for refrigeration upgrades until late September.
- World GIS Day is Nov. 19.
- The Cabin John Winter Ice Show is Dec. 14.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.