

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
Brookside Gardens
1800 Glenallan Ave, Wheaton, MD 20902
01/13/2025

Board members present: Michael Ricci, Ryan Holeywell, Hannah Hutton, Kelli Hudson, Yolanda Goettsch, Duncan Mullis, Robin Sparer, Gustavo Delgado, Ed Krauze

Board members absent: Michael Jacknis, Aravind Banda

Staff present: Sandra Samuel, Gary Burnett, Jason Fasteau, Adriane Clutter, Robin Riley, Shawna Facht

Ex-Officio members present: Tonya Gilchrist, Derek Ross

Michael Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was not established. Minutes were not reviewed or approved as a result.

6:40 pm General Board Discussion – Michael Ricci and Hannah Hutton

Burnett welcomed the board to Brookside Gardens. He previewed an upcoming orchid exhibit at the conservatory, as well as a shifting approach to the rose garden to avoid the need for pesticides and fungicides.

Ricci initiated a discussion about the snow response. Riley said there were a few lockouts that prevented recreation activities from occurring in the days following the storm. She said there will be an evaluation of how the department responded. Holeywell praised the county's communication of closures.

Fasteau provided a nominating committee update. He shared that the board has 7 vacancies, and the committee put forward 6 names for review. Fasteau hopes to have them reviewed by February. One vacancy remains in East County. Committee members thanked Fasteau for organizing the review process.

Ricci shared a drafted letter about improved collaboration with MCPS. Clutter suggested reminding school district administrators that CUPF is a priority.

Mullis introduced his staff appreciation work. He said previously there was an annual board-sponsored appreciation event. Mullis suggested making it a big annual event and inviting councilmembers. Previously, there were six honorees each year. Mullis said he will work to develop more information about staff recognition.

Robin Riley delivered her recreation update:

- Camp registration is Jan. 21
- Basketball recently started
- The last weekend of February is the mermaid event

- Clutter emphasized the importance of our recreation facilities being used not only by visitors but by local residents, too.
- Damascus Senior Center will be closing for 18 months for renovations, followed by Holiday Park.
- Fachet mentioned the upcoming one-year anniversary of SSRAC. Summer lifeguard staff recruitment is underway.
- Fachet said the Damascus playground will begin 6 to 8 weeks of renovation in a few months
- Futsal (indoor soccer) started this week with hundreds of participants
- Fashion Boot Camp starts soon

Burnett shared his parks update:

- The GreenScapes Symposium will be returning to an in-person on Feb. 14.
- Valentine's Skate will be held in February
- There will be a Jan. 23 tour at the Josiah Henson Museum and Park
- The second winter term for ice and tennis starts Feb. 14, and once it concludes, the Wheaton Ice Arena will be closed April-October to replace its refrigerant system.

Gilchrist shared that the committee is working on housing policy, and bike lane/sidewalk/bus stop accessibility.

Ricci adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.