

COUNTYWIDE RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Minutes

Present Board: Carl Blake, Karen Kincer, Chris Richardson, Michael Shimoff, Michael Ma, Felecia Wilson Mark Pharaoh **Ex-Officio:** Benjamin DuGoff, Jeff Sullivan, Stephanie Edelstein. **Staff:** Robin Riley, John Nissel, Adriane Clutter, Doug Ludwig, Sandra Samuel, Melanie Sasse, and Valerie Inge

Absent: Lyle Ganz, Isaac Osei Asare, Traci Anderson, Melanie Stickle, Safiatou Barry, Bradley Ryan, Rodrigue Vital, and Trish Walsh

Meeting started at 6:39 pm, Quorum present

Welcome and Announcements – Chair

- Karen Kincer welcomed the board

Review of November Agenda

- Motion made by Carl Blake and seconded Felecia Wilson. Approved.

Review and approval of September minutes

- Trish will provide the September minutes notes at the next meeting.

Reports

Officers and Committee Reports

Ex Officio Reports

Community Use of Public Facilities – Rod Vital

- No Report

Commission on Aging – Stephanie Edelstein

- Commission is seeking two Social Worker positions.
- COA discussed exploration of providing lawyers to victims of eviction which will increase and beginning of 2021
- Ms. Edelstein announced that she is leaving due to term limits and Marsha Weber will take over the position.

Community Action Board – _____

- No Report

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jeffrey Sullivan

- Start of meeting series to review Health Metrics for the safe return of students. Upcoming meetings scheduled for November 10th and November 17th.
- In person school athletics moved from February to December.

Commission on People with Disabilities – Benjamin DuGoff

- Report sent electronically to Karen for distribution to Board.

Recreation Report - Robin Riley

- Soccer4Change is a very successful program that targets high school students who are not academically eligible for school sports. Program success expanded to middle schools with total participation of over 320 students.
- RMSC swim practices using safety protocols with only three pools available (with no locker rooms).
- Adult soccer and kickball program participation is increasing.
- Rec received \$500K for initiative to fund non-profits sport programs in low-income communities.
- Rec staff continues working with Board of Elections for data analysis and provisional ballots counts.
- Staff also working with food access and housing assistance programs.
- Long Branch and Coffield operating as homeless shelters.
- Education Beyond Borders (EBB) after-school program ongoing at Leleck and South Lakes with 72 students, five days a week.
- Rec currently working on Winter and Camp Guides.
- In partnership with Parks will implement a new Recreation application to replace ACTIVE. Full deployment target is Summer 2021.
- FY22 Budget submission due Nov 12. CIP presentation to Council Nov 7.
- Planning development of small group fitness programs (i.e. Family Fitness Hours) to implement across centers.
- Seven facilities utilized for COVID testing.
- Decline in weekly Senior meals due to funding and need. Currently 380 households down from 700.
- Rec is creating a customer survey and will distribute to area locations to obtain geographical concerns.
 - Action Items: Robin will work with Board for survey questions.

Parks Report - John Nissel

- Partnering with MCRD on new software application. John thanked Robin and IT dept.
 - New system will provide cost-savings and efficiencies.
- Various county parks were already booked for upcoming weddings; however, due to new COVID restrictions, attendance is reduced from 50 to 25.
- Outdoor ice rinks have minimal impact due to restrictions; however, indoor skate is not allowed.
 - Action Item: John will talk to Health Officer for waiver and authorization. Will advise Board of outcome.
- Addition of new park and completed renovation:
 - Josiah Henson in Bethesda. Includes museum with historical reference inspired by author Harriet Beecher Stowe.
 - Dewey Local Park in Silver Spring upgraded with 22,000 sq. lighted dog park and street hockey facility in partnership with Washington Capitals.
- Parks is continuing to work with the community for rent forbearance and abatement of tenants.
- Will work with MCRD on 5-year proposal plan and will make presentation to Advisory Board on the plan.
 - Action Item: John will present plan to the board

Board Report

- Town Hall for Recreation
 - Chris Richardson recommends that the Board receive a collaborative calendar of MCRD and Parks events prior to the meeting.
 - Action Item: MCRD will work with Parks and provide monthly Center Highlights to Board

- Social Media
 - Michal Ma suggested updates to Board social media channels and webpage.
 - Action Item: MCRD will review pages and submit suggestions to the Board
- Attending Recreation and Parks Events
 - Karen and John recommended that the Board review the calendar and pick relevant items for small group attendance. Goal is for members to attend programs/activities and increase advocacy for the Board.
 - John and Karen suggest writing a letter of support to the Council and budget talking points for Board Chair to present at Council.
 - Action Item: John will bring distribute budget events to the group
 - Action Item: Robin will send key points to Karen regarding budget support
 - Action Item: John will bring Budget Representative Nancy Steen to brief Parks budget at the December meeting.
- Budget and Networking Meetings
 - Will have a separate discussion – John, Robin, Karen, Carl Felicia, and Chris
- Karen suggested December meeting to adjust to one week earlier due to holiday schedules
 - Action Item: Karen will propose revised dates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm