

Sports Advisory Committee  
Plum Gar Community Recreation Center  
19561 Scenery Drive, Germantown, MD  
May 16, 2024

Board Members Present: Mary Kate Crawford, Ricardo James, Amy Lopez, Samantha Griffin, Christopher Wajda, Princess Clemente, Tom Cove, Joe Hooks, Tony Korson, David Schardt, Max Levitt, Ben Corb

Absent Board Members: Dustin Jeter, Trish Heffelfinger, Doug Remer, Tina Won Sherman, Doug Schuessler

Ex-Officio: Steve Solomon, Derrick Felton, Darren Flusche, Yuling Mei,  
Staff: Jason Fasteau

Guests:

Montgomery County Parks:

Carl Weber - Athletic Field Coordinator, Park Planning and Stewardship

County Council - Office of Legislative Oversight

Kristen Latham

6:00 p.m. Welcome and General Announcements - Tom Cove  
Intro to Kristen from OLO - study on turf fields- welcomes questions or comments

6:05 p.m. Review and Approve Agenda - motion to approve Rick, unanimous

6:08 p.m. Review and Approve April Minutes

- Motion to add a note about Joe's idea to add youth sport voice to our committee/recommendations
  - How can we be more intentional about getting the voices or opinions of children in our community?
  - Amy mentioned some precedents that are set regarding youth on other boards in the County (e.g. Board of Education)
  - Jason provided a few recommendations for how we could connect with MCPS youth Sports Advisory Council - possible opportunity to connect
  - Reach out to community and solicit feedback
- Motion to approve addition and rest of minutes, Rick - unanimous
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6:22 p.m. Further discussion on how we might incorporate a youth voice into the work of the committee.

- Joe recommended we consider a high school student as a member of the committee when the new member cycle comes up this summer.

- Tony said Koa Sports used to have a youth board (pre-covid); suggestion to have a youth committee that could meet the hour before our regular meeting
- Princess made a suggestion to have a youth as a committee member OR we need to formally go to where the youth are (an existing meeting or council)
- Tom - summarized what others have said: "How can we hear the youth perspective more? Can we get a youth on the committee? How might the committee actively engage in existing youth committees/meetings?"
- Other communities of concern: seniors, people with disabilities, or other communities
- Motion to agree to proceed with this initiative- unanimous

6:29 p.m. Aspen Institute's Project Play Conference in Baltimore

- Committee members spoke about their experiences at a recent conference
  - Ideas shared at the conference on ways to improve youth sports:
    - Sport sampling - getting kids trying out many different sports - avoid specialization at a young age
    - Coach education, safety, and training; recruitment and retention of coaches
    - Policy is important
    - Revitalizing "in-town" leagues. Local cities and counties can make a difference - SAC was highlighted as an example. Continuing to find ways to make sports fun.
  - Conversation ensued around what training is needed for coaches and challenges with recruitment of coaches

7:13 p.m. Finalize Recommendations and Build Annual Report

### **Participation Working Group**

#### **Build Capacity of Community Liaison Program**

1. Increase funding for operational and personnel costs to extend the reach and capacity of the Community Liaison Program. This includes funding for lower grade or part-time positions.
2. Revise hiring policies for marketing and outreach roles to enable the Recreation Department to hire for these positions without requiring candidates to have extensive prior recreation experience.
3. Review and revise the Community Liaison hiring classifications to identify outdated requirements for recreation experience that impedes the hiring of qualified candidates.
4. Hire a Data Analyst for the Recreation Department to focus on managing and analyzing data specific to recreation programming and community engagement efforts."

Expand the reach of the Montgomery County Recreation Liaisons to increase sports participation county-wide, encompassing all sports opportunities, not just Dept. of Rec. programs.”

1. Engage with other county agencies and organizations to reduce silos, driving participation in all agencies including but not limited to: MCPS support staff (eg. Parent Community Coordinators), Community (eg. Collaboration Council), Nonprofits (eg. Identity, So What Else), Faith-based (eg. congregations, youth groups), and Foundations (eg. Montgomery Village Foundation)

2. The Community Liaison program should broaden outreach to include all sports providers, not just Montgomery County Recreation programs (participation directory as resource)

3. Collect data and evaluate- report on community needs to inform sports programs and initiatives and report on outcomes twice per year to both Rec and the Sports Advisory Committee and create a feedback mechanism for conversations within communities.

Discussion on the recommendation ensued.

Motion to approve program working group recommendations , Ben, Max seconded - unanimous approval

### **Recognition Working Group**

David - reminded us of the previously voted upon language to focus on unsung heroes. Small adjustment to add communities of concern. Footnote - first time this will happen would be in 2025

Tom - questions? All in favor - unanimous

### **Facilities Working Group**

1. Case Study (i.e. review of policies regarding facility use);
2. Social Marketing Campaign

Motion to approve the two recommendations from the Facilities working group - unanimous

Motion to approve that Tony to follow up on the issue of the dissolution of the Adopt a Field issue - unanimous

### **Programs Working Group**

1. Directory of Sports Providers  
Do not be proscriptive now, but we need to make sure it is kept up to date.  
Make sure the directory is youth friendly (mobile friendly) dynamic, up to date included into the recommendation

Motion to approve the program recommendation for a directory, unanimous

7:58 p.m. Kristen Latham provided an update regarding the upcoming OLO Turf Field Study

8:12 p.m. Action Items Next Meeting: June 20, location TBD

8:13 p.m. Motion to adjourn - Rick; unanimous