



AGENDA

Sports Advisory Committee
Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center
13850 Travilah Rd, Rockville, MD
Thursday, September 18, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.

Board Members: Princess Clemente, Ben Corb, Tom Cove, Mary Kate Crawford, Jay Goldstein, Rick James, Tony Korson, Amy Lopez, David Schardt, Doug Schuessler, Christopher Wajda

Absent Board Members:, Samantha Griffin, Trish Heffelfinger, Tina Won Sherman

Ex-Officio: Mark Comer, Heather Fine, Derrick Thompson, Steve Solomon, Bryan Walker, Carl Weber

Staff: Jason Fasteau

6:06 pm - **Welcome and General Announcements** (Tom Cove)

6:14 pm - **Review and Approve Agenda** (Mary Kate Crawford moved, unanimous approval)

6:14 pm - **Review and Approve July Minutes** (Mary Kate Crawford moved, unanimous approval)

6:16 pm - **Summer Program Trends – MoCo Rec and Community Input** (Tom Cove, committee)

Discussion and information sharing about program updates and participation trends over summer and early fall.

Recreation Department (Mark Comer and Jason Fasteau)

Rec report on 2024-2025 summer camp participation: year over year is overall up. Down ↓ in soccer and karate, up ↑ in volleyball, skateboarding, multisport.

Discussion: how to prevent no-shows in light of high demand for summer Rec programs. Question for future: how do we best grow participation in sports overall as far as camps versus leagues.

7:06 pm - **Update on Project Play, Children's Sports Bill of Rights** (Jason Fasteau)

Update on Rec Department efforts to engage county municipalities to endorse campaign along with county.

ACTION: Committee members are invited to attend Oct 9, 4:00 pm roll-out event at Northwest Branch Recreational Park. Event also coincides with National Youth Sports Week. Soccer 4 Change will participate as well.

Discussion followed about how to prompt the Bill of Rights elsewhere and whether this belongs under the Communications working group (conclusion was yes).

7:25 pm - **Montgomery Parks Athletic Fields Policy** (Carl Weber)

Presentation on draft updates to athletic field permitting policy:

- Will be open for public comment soon, for 1 month
 - With explanatory video
 - To all user groups
 - English only (relying on users to translate as needed)
- Change in classification system for fields. New designations include:
 - game/only fields,
 - practice/game fields, or
 - Year-round synturf fields
- Permitting order of consideration made explicit:
 - Contracts
 - Priority use (formerly historic use - any user group that has 2 years in a row permitting) as well as special events
 - Down from 7 days a week to 3 weekdays and 1 weekend day (Sat/Sun) (this aligns with CUPF practices)
 - Must submit previous year's roster - does currently require players' names and zip codes
 - Teams must be 2/3rds county residents
 - MoCo gov agencies (mostly MCPS and Rec)
 - Go-live event (reserved online, first-come first-served). Draft clarifies:
 - Event details
 - Dates/times
 - Which facilities
 - Links to activemontgomery.com
 - Consolidated field closure guidelines
 - Clarified use orders for non-designated sports
 - Clarified conditions of use
 - New section about pilot programs - enabling Parks to run them w/o violating own use policy
- Added language about reporting concerns; ghost and sublet permits; changed the change/return fee - down to 25% of permit from \$50 processing fee which disincentivized small users from returning

Planning Board briefing and approval in Nov/Dec. Then plan to implement the new policy starting Fall 2026 season permit.

Discussion followed, including how we can support these proposed changes before the Planning Board.

8:01 pm - **Working Group Discussions**

Community Engagement (members: Samantha Griffin, Princess Clemente, Amy Lopez, Rick James)

Amy: handout of stakeholder interviews

ACTION: email her with comments by next Thursday 9/25

Operations (members: Tina Won Sherman Mary Kate Crawford and Christopher Wajda)

Everyone should be reading the Annual Report soon

Recognition (members: David Schardt, Trish Heffelfinger, Princess Clemente, Steve Solomon)

30 nominations received so far for next Unsung Heroes awards

ACTION: deadline October 31 for nominations – share it with community members

Communications (members: Mary Kate Crawford and Christopher Wajda)

Advocacy (members: Ben Corb, Jay Goldstein, Tom Cove, Tony Korson, Steve Solomon)

Update from Ben on County Council outreach

8:12 pm - **Adjourn** (Mary Kate Crawford, unanimous consent)