

**Recreation and Park Advisory Board
Rockville Senior Center
January 22, 2018
Board Meeting Minutes**

PRESENT: Board Members: Tom Lynch, George Sushinsky, Rob Harriman, Chip Boylan, Dirk Whatley II, Xiao-Feng Xie, Kent Wong, Bob Taylor
Staff: Rob DiSpirito, Andrew Gunning, Tim Chesnutt, Karla Sheehi
Citizens: Nancy Pickard, Marianne Hull, Trisha Woodward

Meeting commencement: 7:02 pm

Re: Approval of January Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes presented.

Re: Rob DiSpirito (Parkland Acquisition)

Rob DiSpirito and Andrew Gunning are in attendance to discuss the City's Parkland Acquisition initiative developed by Community Planning, that The City currently does not have. The parkland acquisition aims to generate revenue from developers to create a City fund for creating new or expanded parks and recreational facilities as new development occurs. This initiative provides tools to ensure our parks and recreational facilities are not over burdened with the stress of increasing population. The City currently does not specifically require parks to be provided as part of new development projects. Instead we have standards requiring that "open area" and "public use space" be provided within new development projects.

The City has explored tools that other jurisdictions use as a means to ensure new parks and recreational facilities are provided as new development occurs. There were two options that the City is considering that are being presented to Mayor and Council as possible approaches for the acquisition and expansion of parks and recreation facilities are:

1) Parkland dedication, or fee-in-lieu when dedication is not feasible (a new option supported by the Comprehensive Master Plan)

This approach would be implemented as a zoning ordinance standard, requiring onsite parkland dedication for public use, or payment of a fee-in-lieu of dedication. This approach would implement the Master Plan Recommendation of allocating a certain percentage of a development area for parkland, or to allow a fee-in-lieu where it is not practical or feasible to dedicate. This would apply to all new applications for development that result in a net increase in residential dwelling units.

2) Impact Fee for parks and recreation facilities (a new option).

This impact fee could be charged to new development applications during the permitting process. An impact fee is a commonly accepted financing mechanism used by local jurisdictions to offset the cost of expansions of infrastructure or government facilities that would be required to be built as a result of new development.

Re: Citizens Forum

Citizens in attendance: Nancy Pickard, Executive Director of Peerless Rockville, Marianne Hull and Trisha Woodward.

Nancy Pickard wants to make our Board aware of Chestnut Lodge's history and its recognition. Peerless Rockville's goal is to preserve history of Rockville and its properties. Chestnut Lodge Sanitarium was in existence since the late 1800's and in 1906 became Chestnut Lodge. Chestnut Lodge is known internationally. Nancy pointed out that a letter was sent to The City Clerk's office with supporting documentation on the history of this property and why it should remain as Chestnut Lodge. Nancy also brought material to share from the Archives on Chestnut Lodge.

Tim clarified the process of the naming recommendation by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, pointing out that goal by the Advisory Board is to review the list of the names submitted to the City Clerk's office and discuss at our February board meeting- if there is sufficient information to make their recommendation to Mayor & Council.

Re: Staff Reports

- **Budget Review Meeting with City Manager**
We have finished our final phase of the budget review with the City Manager. The meetings to review our Operating and CIP Budgets with the City Manager went well.
- **R&P Annual New Year's Breakfast**
Chip represented the R&P Foundation at the breakfast, and donated \$20 gift cards that were raffled to staff. This division event is funded and sponsored by Tim's Leadership team. The time of day for this event, gives all our staff an opportunity to attend as it is conducive to their schedules so we have a majority turn out of our Rec & Parks staff.

Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Community Centers and Parks** - None
- b) **Glenview Mansion** - (Tom)
A meeting was held where we discussed the ADA Parking project was discussed, and events will be shut down for about 4 months. Target completion of project is for Christmas. The committee is in need of an additional member.
Dirk Whatley volunteered to be part of this committee. Karla to send a follow up email.
- c) **Recreation and Parks Foundation** - (Chip)
As Chip shared, The R&P Foundation donated \$20 gift cards that were raffled at the R&P Annual New Year's Breakfast

d) **RedGate** – None

e) **Swim & Fitness Center** – (Bob)

Locker room as discussed project is moving along. We lost a staff member to another opportunity positive for them. Training continues amongst staff. We are looking to bring a Youth Standing member for our subcommittee.

f) **Sports and Fitness**

Karla reminded the group again that there is opportunity to volunteer and work with Jen Liberto's Sports group and assist with their events and programs. Kent Wong and Chip Boylan volunteered.

Re: Old Business/New Business

- **Naming Rights – Chestnut Lodge**

The list of names submitted to the City Clerk's office for the Chestnut Lodge property were distributed to the board. The board will review the list of names, make notes and mark their selections for discussion at our February 22 board meeting.

- **Board Member Terms & Reappointments**

George Sushinsky's term will expire March 1, 2018 therefore a re-appointment application has been sent to him for consideration.

We also have one additional vacancy that continues to be advertised on our Boards and Commission's page as well as Rockville Reports.

Re: Adjournment

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

The next meeting: Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Montrose Community Center