

Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
City Hall
March 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: Tim Chesnutt
Citizens: Eder Martinez

Meeting commencement: 7:01 pm

Re: Approval of February Minutes

A correction to the minutes removing Chip from the attendance list was noted. Bob Taylor motioned to approve February minutes as corrected. Second motion made to proceed.

Re: Citizens Forum

Eder Martinez is in attendance as an applicant of interest for the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board.

Re: Application of Interest

George welcomed Mr. Eder Martinez and had all members introduce themselves. Mr. Martinez shared that as Rockville resident uses some of the facilities here in The City of Rockville and is interested in offering his assistance to The Department of Recreation and Parks as a board member. Mr. Martinez has a four-year-old son who has taken swim lessons at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center and has attended programs at the Twinbrook Community Center.

Tim reviewed how the Boards and Commissions appointment process works and what Mr. Martinez can expect after meeting the board. George and Chip explained the role of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, along with the sub committees and projects that The Board volunteer their time towards.

Re: Staff Reports

- **Community Interest Survey for the Community Center**
Tim advised the board that he will share with them the presentation being shown to Mayor and Council on April 9, 2018 for the board's review and any questions that members may have. The survey results did not show a driving need for a community center, although 2/3 of the community supports the idea.
- **Recreation & Parks Master Plan (PROS Plan)**
The Recreation and Parks Department is in need of a new Master Plan, as the existing one is more than 10 years old. Tim Chesnutt proposed a professionally developed city wide master plan for FY19 and the associated cost would be from \$150K - \$175K. Tim shared a sample Master Plan for The City of Carlsbad with the board, so they can see what a Master Plan, done by a professional consultant, would include. Tim also conducted some research, reaching out to three different

consultants and obtained the following PROS and CONS of having a professionally developed Master Plan:

PROS

- 1) Lends a great level of objectivity to the process.
- 2) A consulting Firm will apply multiple community engagement methods that help maximize outreach and gain widespread input.
- 3) An independent objective assessment raises the credibility of the process and its legitimacy with the public.
- 4) Hiring a firm with national experience can result in a broader perspective of thinking.
- 5) Consultants bring external expertise with national operation experience that would help to validate internal perspectives.
- 6) The level of sophistication of master plan processes continues to evolve, therefore, the process would go more smoothly and quickly with a consultant. A master plan for a jurisdiction our size requires over 1000 hours of skilled staff time.

CONS

- 1) The cost associated with this size project; \$150K to \$175K

Tim asked board members to have a conversation about the pros and cons to the proposed Master Plan and provide their recommendation, which will in turn be shared with Mayor and Council. George will send the recommendation to Tim on The Board's behalf.

Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Youth Standing Committee Report** – None
- b) **Community Centers and Parks** - None
- c) **Glenview Mansion** - None
- d) **Recreation and Parks Foundation** - Chip
The Foundation is preparing for their Annual Foundation Golf Tournament May 11th.
- e) **RedGate** – None
- f) **Swim & Fitness Center** – (Bob)
The CIP is going forward, subject to approval at the April 23 M&C approval.
- g) **Sports and Fitness** - None

Re: Old Business/New Business

- **Spring Stream Clean Up**
Recreation & Parks supports the City of Rockville's Stream Clean Up efforts at the stream running behind The Glenview Mansion. This year's Potomac River Watershed cleanup will be taking place Saturday, April 14, and it is suggested that Clean Up efforts throughout The City take place on this date as well. The consensus from board members was to schedule the stream clean up at Glenview Mansion for Saturday, April 14 as well.

Re: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next meeting: Thursday, April 26, 2018 at RedGate Golf Course