

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Online WebEx Meeting  
March 24, 2022  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT**

Board Members: Jack Thirolf, Kirsten Kaplan, Tom Lynch, Chip Boylan, Dirk Whatley  
Kathleen Linehan, Maryann Kearns  
Staff: Tim Chesnutt, Karla Sheehi  
Absent: Elisabeth Fischer, Jonathan Weiss  
Councilmember: Councilman Pierzchala

**Meeting commencement:** 7:01 pm

**Re: Approval of January Minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended.

**Re: Guest Forum**

No guests in attendance

**Re: Council Report - Councilman Mark Pierzchala**

Councilman Pierzchala expressed that during this time of the year, the focus is on be city's budget and is hoping to see the R&P Advisory Board participating in the next budget public hearing. It would be good to have the board's input on the priorities for capital improvement project such as the Swim Center, RedGate Park, King Farm Farmstead, and 6 Taft Court.

Councilman also spoke during the Arts Subcommittee updates, about an Art presentation made by REDI. It was about the Economic Impact of Art. He shared their presentation with R&P staff to pass along.

**Re: Staff Reports**

**City Hall Reopening**

City Hall reopens Monday March 28, 2022.

**Meetings for Boards and Commissions**

Discussions are being held to implement hybrid meetings for boards and commissions. Board members will have the choice to meet in person or virtual. Those who wish to meet in person, will need to show proof of vaccination. Proof of vaccination should be provided to the City of Rockville liaison.

**Forestry Cleanup**

The forestry crew have been cleaning up fallen limbs and trimming damaged trees, due to increased winds.

**Citywide Staff Training**

**Cyber Security** - The City's IT Department has been implementing citywide Cyber Security Training to increase awareness and knowledge when using city applications on a regular basis.

**ADA Training** – Recreation and Parks department started mandatory ADA training for all staff, focusing on Programming as well as Infrastructure.

**King Farm Farmstead Market Analysis**

As you know a consultant was hired for this. The report is being presented to Mayor and Council on April 4<sup>th</sup> and hope the board will get the opportunity to review this.

**Reimagining RedGate**

There are two opportunities to view the proposed concept; a virtual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The second, will be an in-person community meeting on Saturday, April 23 at RedGate Park from 10am to 12noon.

## Re: Subcommittee Reports

- a) **Glenview Mansion** (Tom & Dirk)  
Nothing new to report.
- b) **Swim & Fitness Center** (Jack)  
The committee has both a youth member who was approved to serve on the advisory board as well as an employee advisor.  
The mask mandate was lifted at the Swim Center. The sauna and hot tub are both re-opened. There was a budget submission, where the chair presented to Mayor and Council, focusing on salary compression.  
Committee meetings have gone back to in-person meetings at the Swim Center.  
There is an hiring Expo taking place at the Swim Center to ramp up hiring.
- c) **Recreation and Parks Foundation** (Chip)  
The foundation has agreed to participate at Hometown Holidays manning beverage booths, selling beer and water. Chip will be soliciting volunteers to help out, we can also take some teens looking for SSL hours.
- d) **Arts**  
*Gateway Art Project (Jonathan):*  
No new update.  
*Swim Center Art Project (Jack):*  
Project is moving ahead. With the passing of Bob Taylor, there was discussion within the committee to make some sort of dedication. The Naming & Dedication Policy to be shared by Karla.  
*Skate Park Art Project (Jonathan):*  
No new update
- e) **RedGate Park (Kirsten)**  
Kirsten requested Tim explain the framework of the upcoming community meetings and what the intent is. Both meetings are for the public, allowing boards and commissions to participate and provide input.  
Kirsten wanted to follow up on the meeting dedicated to the RedGate discussion, covered various viewpoints and a consensus may not have been reached. Therefore, Kirsten recapped the points and Jack shared the summary of the agreed priority actions as well as different visions without consensus. The board discussed what strong points the board should move ahead with to present. There was also an reference to the Recreation and Parks Strategic Plan, adopted in 2020 by Mayor and Council.  
The board revised some of the points, Vision & Actions, discussed what points should be presented for the April 4<sup>th</sup> budget meeting then the points specific to RedGate for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and a formal presentation for Mayor and Council in June.  
Dirk made a motion for the board's agreeance on the final points, Marianne second' the motion, Jack to send out after tonight's meeting. All in attendance voted in favor. Once the final documented points are shared, Kirsten will take and finalize the verbiage to finalize and prepare to present during the April 4 Mayor and Council meeting on the board's behalf.

**Re: Old Business/New Business**

**New Business**

- Old Business  
RedGate Project - discussed and documented above.
- New Business  
Spring Stream Cleanup at Civic Park Stream – proposed two dates for stream cleanup:  
Saturday April 9 & Saturday April 16.  
Karla will send out a brief vote to get a consensus on the date.

**Re: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

**The next meeting:** April 28, 2022, at 7:00 pm at RedGate Park (weather permitting)