

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Rockville Senior Center  
June 25, 2020  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Board Members: Chip Boylan, Tom Lynch, George Sushinsky, Bob Taylor, Maryann Kearns, Dirk Whatley  
Staff: Tim Chesnutt, Karla Sheehi  
M&C Liaison: Mark Pierzchala  
Absent: Rob Harriman, Stephanie Pankiewicz

**Meeting commencement: 7:02 pm**

**Re: Approval of May Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**Re: Citizens Forum**

No citizens were in attendance.

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

- **Park Tour**

Councilman Pierzchala shared that he has personally visited all of the parks in the City of Rockville. He rode his bicycle 520 miles to visit each park and accumulated over 30k pictures on his cell phone while visiting all of the parks. There is one park that Autre-Saint Mary's Park in the northern part of Twinbrook and is a hidden gem that many residents are not aware exists. It is very historic; in that it houses the grave of a revolutionary soldier.

Our parks connect all of our City neighborhoods.

During Memorial Day this year, Councilman Pierzchala visited all of the graveyards in the City of Rockville and found that someone had placed an American flag at all of the graveyards.

George Sushinsky shared that another Rockville Citizen, Josh Spencer, took the opportunity during the COVID pandemic, to run all of City of Rockville streets; which consists of 500 plus miles.

- **RedGate Park**

At the last M&C meeting, Mayor and Council approved Recreation and Parks department take the lead on making a plan on how to proceed with the RedGate Park project. RedGate Park will remain 100% for parks and recreation use.

## Re: Staff Reports

- **Reimagining RedGate Project**

Recreation and Parks has received authorization to develop the process for this project.

The project team is refining some logistics and will begin the process of soliciting community input to help identify and prioritize desired amenities for RedGate Park.

- **Moving into Phase II**

This affects our food delivery to our Parks and Facilities to Recreation Programming.

All of our outdoor facilities are open – basketball rims are being reinstalled; playgrounds are opening as well as pickleball courts. The playing fields are being opened up, with some restrictions.

Facility Maintenance are getting our buildings ready for re-opening, City Hall had social distancing markers installed; sneeze guards have been installed. All of the periodic maintenance for the HVAC is being done; carpets are being cleaned; physical distancing signs at shelters are being put in; handwashing signs in the restrooms, deep cleaning of the Rec Centers.

Recreation Centers are working with PIO to get a cloud-based recreation system where customers can sign up for specific amenity use at each center.

The Civic Center working with RESCO's back into their storage units, and Glenview Mansion hopes to begin tours back up by July 1.

- **Special Events**

**Farmers Market** – Opens June 6<sup>th</sup>. It will look the same, however the logistics will be different in order to maintain physical distancing.

**Festing In Place** – Had 2500 hits on the website and 1500 views on social media.

Kudos to the Special Events staff who came up with this and made this happen.

- **Recreation and Parks Part Time Temp Staff Pay**

Mayor and Council have been gracious to continue paying our part time temp staff through May 24, 2020 during COVID-19 stay at home mandate.

- **Foundation Golf Committee**

The committee has started to hold their virtual meetings, to begin June 2, to continue the planning of the new date of August 31, for the annual golf tournament at Lakewood Country Club. Casey Construction group has been secured as the presenting sponsor. donating \$10K.

- **Virtual Programming**

**Sports Division** held their first E Tournament – NBA 2K over the Memorial Day weekend.

Twenty-four players signed up for the tournament and really enjoyed it. With the positive feedback, received, more of these will be held in the future.

**Virtual Summer Programs** will be available inline on June 10 registration for residents will open online and June 12 will be for non-residents.

**In Person Camps** – there is a possibility that these may be permitted in July. The logistics will look different with the COVID guidelines. These will be outdoor camps.

- **Senior Services**

A large portion of services is providing meals. Virtual course programming has ramped up. There we 588 seniors who signed up for these virtual classes – educational and exercise classes.

Seniors play online Trivia, continue their Red Hat Club and happy hours.

Donations continue to come into the Senior Center.

There was a 7 year, who established a nonprofit, called “Cool and Dope” by the name of Kavanaugh, who will be dropping off 180 care packages to Seniors.

- **Rockville Swim & Fitness Center**

All pools passed their pre-opening inspection. Opening to the public is conditional and will need 7-10 days in order to prepare for re-opening, once we get authorization from the County.

- **Strategic Master Plan**

R&P continue to gather feedback from the Boards and Commission groups identified by M&C. The deadline has been extended to end of June by Mayor and Council, allowing additional time to review the Master Plan draft and submit a consensus of feedback from each Board and Commission group.

### **Re: Subcommittee Reports**

a) **Community Centers and Parks** – None

b) **Glenview Mansion** – (Tom)

**Art Commission Projects -**

Hilltop corner of Fallsgrove Rd & W. Montgomery Ave-

Tom was impressed as 27 submissions were initially submitted. That number went up to 90 submissions and the submission does not close until Friday, May 29, 2020. So, there are quite a number of submissions to go through and narrow down, for review on June 22.

David Skull-

Stephanie is working on the tree carving art project at the David Skull park, which is open to proposals. There has only been one submission. Stephanie would like to find out how to get more exposure in order to draw more submissions. The deadline for submissions is June 5.

Karla will connect Betty Wisda with Stephanie to find out how to proceed.

Swim Center Art Project

Bob updated advised that there have been 140 submissions for proposed art at the Swim Center. Submissions are open until June 6. Betty Wisda is also leading this art project.

c) **Recreation and Parks Foundation** – (Chip)

**The Annual Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 31.**

Lakewood agreed that it is not necessary to have a 100 golfer minimum for the tournament.

There are logistics that still need to be worked out; golf carts to accommodate 1 per cart, seating for provided lunch.

d) **Swim & Fitness Center** – (Bob)

Maintenance being done in preparation for reopening.

e) **Sports and Fitness** – None

f) **RedGate Park** – (George)

The grounds condition is not so great, so hopefully a decision will be made soon.

It could use another bathroom. There is one now, which George found is well maintained.

### **Re: Old Business/New Business**

- **Old Business**

**Pickleball Fencing**

Fencing has been completed.

The Pickle ball group who supports Pickleball has submitted \$3500 of their \$5k donation. The remainder is in the mail.

### **Walter Johnson Woodcarving statue at Dogwood Park**

Was completed. George was the park representative for this project.

### **The Deer Culling Program memo** George sent the memo to Mayor & Council.

Based on the Mayor & Council meeting, the location has been officially moved to the Hayes Memorial Forest. It will have 3 separate times designated for hunters, one in September, December and one in February. George provided feedback on the proposed September times, and the fact that the park gets a lot use and should not be designated for hunters.

### **R&P Strategic Master Plan feedback**

On May 6, Stephanie distributed the board's consensus on 6 points regarding the Strategic Master Plan. Stephanie suggested getting together by way of a meeting to review the group's feedback and finalize the advisory board's feedback. Stephanie will send a follow up email with suggested dates and times to do so and will be published.

MaryAnn inquired as to whether the data used for the Strategic Master Plan draft was representative of our population. Tim explained that the data came from the statistically valid survey mailed out to City residents. The information referenced on the master plan draft comes from data gathered from respondents to the survey.

- **New Business**

Review and discuss the goal of each of the subcommittees and possible changes/additions

- Keep - RedGate and change to RedGate Park – remain assigned to George
- Add Arts in the Parks
- Remove - Community Centers and Parks will be covered under Staff Reports as needed
- Remove Sports and Fitness will be covered under Staff Reports as needed
- R&P Foundation will remain
- Glenview Mansion will remain

### **Re: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm

### **The next meeting: June 25, 2020 at 6 p.m. Via WebEx**

(June is normally our Park Tour and we meet at 6pm)

Although we won't be able to conduct a park tour, we will still meet early