

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

PRESENT: Board Members: 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, Chip Boylan

Meeting commencement: 6:02 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 phase affects our food delivery, Parks and Facilities and 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, 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.

Senior Services is ramping if their food program and now doing personal shopping trips. They are offering wellness checks at homes.

Senior Fitness group put together seven short fitness videos to send to participants prior to the start of summer classes.

- **Skate Park**

We are in the process of building the new skate park, while maintaining the old one functioning. We have been challenged with the chain link fence being cut, locks on the gate being broken. It was proposed to the City Manager is to re-open the existing skate park on July 6 as a supervised amenity.

- **Parks Staff all on duty**

All Parks staff are all back on duty. There is no more admin leave.

Re: Subcommittee Reports

a) **Glenview Mansion – (Tom)**

None

b) **Swim & Fitness Center (Bob)**

The soft opening of the Swim Center went well. Access to the facility is being handled by reservation only, so they can comply with County Guidelines.

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

The Gold Tournament is still on for August 31st. The 1 person per cart is still the policy.

d) **Arts**

Thomas Farm Art Project (Tom):

The second meeting for the art installation meeting was held. The submissions went from 40 to 140 submissions. At the meeting, all participants brought their top 10 and looked for the common artists among the top 10 lists. The list is narrowed down to 5 candidates who will come to Rockville to tour the site and then asked to provide plans and go from there.

Swim Center Art Project (Bob):

The committee met and narrowed down their submissions down to 4 submissions and expect to see something further from the 4 artists in August.

e) **RedGate Park**

Looking forward to organizing the citizen input meeting and the outcome having been to keep RedGate a passive park.

Re: Old Business/New Business

- **None**

Re: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

The next meeting: July 23, 2020 at 6 p.m. Via Webex