

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Online WebEx Meeting  
July 23, 2020  
Board Meeting Minutes**

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

**Meeting commencement: 6:04 pm**

**Re: Approval of June Minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended.

**Re: Citizens Forum**

John Becker was present for tonight's meeting. Mr. Becker was experiencing some technical issues on his end, however, was able to sit in for the duration of the meeting. Mr. Becker followed up via email to Tim Chesnutt and Councilman Pierzchala later that evening, with an inquiry on Monroe Park. Mr. Becker wanted to know if there was an update on the work that is scheduled to take place at James Monroe Park once 50 Monroe Place (Main Street) completes its work and relinquishes James Monroe back to the City. Mr. Becker also extended his appreciation to the staff and commissioners for the topics discussed as he found them informative and educational. A response was obtained from Rob Orndorff advising that as construction finishes on the Main Street, 50 Monroe Place, work will begin on James Monroe Park and completion of the work is expected to be this Fall.

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

- **Mayor and Council Recess**  
Councilman Pierzchala shared that the next Mayor and Council meeting is August 3, 2020, followed by a six-week recess returning September 14, 2020. Mayor and Council have successfully conducted ten meetings via WebEx some of which went until very late. Mayor and Council are looking forward to the break for recharge.

**Re: Staff Reports**

- **Parks & Facility Maintenance Update**  
Parks and Facility maintenance staff have returned and reporting to their respective roles since mid-May.

- Parks are all open, all basketball hoops are back up, tennis courts, playgrounds and bike paths are all open. It's great to see that they are being used heavily by families.

George commented that while jogging by Calvin Park one early morning, he noticed Jordan Perry (Rec & Parks Sports Supervisor) was opening the park to prepare for an Adventure Park Camp. Dianne confirmed that there was a selection of parks being used for the Park Adventures Summer Camp; Calvin, Dogwood, Hillcrest, Isreal, King Farm, Potomac Woods and Woodley Gardens Park.

- **Summer Camps & Programs**

Recreation Programming teams have strategized to develop virtual camps and programs along with the small outdoor camps:

**Croydon Creek Nature Center**

Nature To Go (virtual) – Ages 3-5 yrs., 5-7 yrs., 8-10 yrs., 11-13 yrs.

Creek Crawl (virtual) - Ages 3+

The Buzz About Honeybees – Ages 3+

Bushcraft in a Bucket – Ages 11-16 yrs.

**Lincoln Park Community Center**

Make it Happen Basketball (virtual, on demand) - Ages 9-11 yrs.

Tiny Hoopers Basketball (virtual, on demand) – Ages 4-6 yrs.

Wellness and Nutrition Camp (partnered with UMD) – Ages 6-11 yrs.

**Twinbrook Community and Recreation Center**

Virtual Summer Book Club – Ages 8-11 yrs.

Virtual Tween Book Club – Ages 12-15 yrs.

Online Slime Time Classes – Ages 5-12 yrs.

In person Playing it Safe Classes – Ages 6-13 yrs.

**Thomas Farm Community Center**

Art4Fun Camp (Virtual) – Ages 7-17 yrs. \*\* Cancelled due to contract delays, which in turn delayed the Advertising for timely registration.

**Community Centers/Nature Center Joint Offering:**

Rec It Kits: 5 activities per kit, distribution will be the second week of August, 50 kits available for purchase via Rec1. Purpose: Participants pick up a fun Rec-It Kit that include five different activities including fitness & nature related activities and crafts to work on at home or at a nearby park.

Tom Lynch and his family had the opportunity to experience using one of these Rec-It-Kits and emphasized how creative and great the kit was with so many supplies for each of the activities.

**Re: Subcommittee Reports**

**a) Glenview Mansion – (Tom)**

None

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

The Swim Center is offering youth swim lessons as well as well as competitive swim classes, all still within the appropriate scheduling and distancing guidelines.

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

The Golf Tournament is approaching on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Arts**

***David Skull Art Project/Carving (Stephanie):***

Dianne provided an update on this project, as she has also been involved with this project, given the spot picked for the carving. Kris Connors was recommended to carve a Red-Tailed Hawk for the Cedar tree at David Skull Park.

***Thomas Farm Art Project (Tom):***

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.

d) **RedGate Park**

Dianne and Karla shared that they are both on the RedGate Reimaging Project. The project was kicked off mid-July with a meeting between the Executive Team and Project team to identify expectations, roles and review the Project Charter and project meetings will be scheduled by the Project Lead, Larissa Klevan.

**Re: Old Business/New Business**

• **New Business**

- Broome Park Tennis courts - Rob pointed out that at Broome park he noticed the tennis court nets being held up by a string. Dianne confirmed that replacement nets were ordered for those. The nets arrived the day following our board meeting and were replaced by facilities staff.
- Social distancing not being adhered to – several of our board members as well as councilmember Pierzchala, have witnessed groups and park attendees not properly social distancing nor wearing facial masks. It is suggested that larger signage may help. Citizens walking thru the trails have to walk by each other and therefore, should be wearing masks. Although these are open spaces, they are shared trails.

• **Old Business**

- George shared that the Letter regarding the Roundup Pesticide concern was presented to Mayor and Council at the July 6, 2020 meeting.

**Re: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm

**The next meeting:** September 24, 2020 at 7 p.m. Via Webex