

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2014

PRESENT: Chairwoman Lola Skolnik; Lester Whitmer; Betty Sonneveldt; Marc Siegel; Kelly Ivy; Amanda Leigh Brozana

STAFF: Andrew Phelan, Recreation Coordinator; Greg Varda, Acting Assistant Recreation Director

COUNCIL: Councilwoman Leta Mach

GUESTS: Jeff Keenan, UMD Recreation Sport Clubs Advisor, Greenbelt resident

EXCUSED: Ken Blue, Chris Husker, Michael Lee, Jay Shah, Abdul Turay.

- 1) Call to order 7:31 p.m.
- 2) Councilwoman Mach presented the following information in her update
 - a) The council is in the middle of the FY2015 Budget discussions/examination. Recreation budget will be discussed at the April 30 7:30 p.m. meeting.
 - b) County council passed law that will allow Greenbelt Community Center kitchen to be rented. Recreation department will work on how to implement.
 - c) Council does expect to have the contract for the Greenbelt Theater renovation in place at the next meeting. Renovations would close the theater for use for about six months starting in the middle of June.
 - i) In order to continue to support Roosevelt Center businesses and provide entertainment for Greenbelt residents, the Recreation Department is planning movies on the lawn – the grass area adjacent to the arts center, with a 20' inflatable screen. The department has the dates and will match movies to those dates soon and announce the schedule.
 - d) Chairwoman Skolnik and other members of the board advised Councilwoman Mach that they could not make a recommendation regarding the budget for the Boys & Girls Club because the application was incomplete and did not contain the budget details needed for the coming budget cycle.
- 3) Department updates (postponed to end of meeting to maintain schedule with two groups seeking recognition status)
 - a) Skate Series, Egg Hunt, Artful Afternoon are all upcoming (see rec schedule).
 - b) All three sessions of April 18 Underwater Egg Hunt are sold out.
 - c) Spring Camp Registration numbers: 45 (full) for first session; 30-35 for second session. These are higher than usual numbers of registrants according to Varda.

d) Related to discussion with Councilwoman Mach, Varda and Phelan said Phelan has spent a good amount of time with president of Boys & Girls Club group to go over application and discuss concerns. President assured staff that changes and updates were simple and would be made soon but no new application or updates were ever submitted.

i) Chairwoman Skolnik and the rest of the committee asked the recreation department staff to look into the department handling youth sports currently under the Boys & Girls Club and bring information back to the next PRAB meeting.

4) Recognition Groups

a) At 7:57 p.m., Leah Cohen representing Greenbelt Homeschool Learning Collaborative presented information regarding their group's request for recognition status. PRAB voted 6-0 to recommend recognition with reservations. If the organization is looking for meeting space for meetings of members, PRAB sees no problem. However, PRAB does not support this group obtaining free space to run its own classes where they are paying an instructor or undercutting Recreation Department classes.

b) At 8:10, Franklin Park Cooperative Daycare/Pre-school spokeswoman Carolyn Lambright-Davis, her husband and a representative from Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS) presented their plan to host a 7-week "Around the World" summer learning camp for children of the Franklin Park community, ages 5-13.

i) Davis said the camp would be held June 16-Aug. 1 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center upon approval from the city. The camp would cost \$75 per week per child.

ii) The program may help to reduce some of the need created as the Campfire USA program will not be in place this summer in Franklin Park. That need is further exacerbated by the fact that no summer playground will be held at Springhill Lake Elementary School this year due to renovations of the school.

iii) Because of those two issues, Varda told the committee and representatives from the group that the Recreation Department already has scheduled a summer camp to be held at that facility from 9 a.m. to noon, plus drop in hours.

While the educational activities that the group is proposing might meet a large unmet need in the Franklin Park community, the camp program that they are proposing does not meet the criteria for Recognition Group status. PRAB voted 6-0 not to recommend the group as it does not meet the criteria of a Recognition or Contribution Group.

5) Old Business

a) Boys & Girls Club discussion previously held; see notes above.

b) An update was sent to the board before the meeting on the status of the beavers at Buddy Attick Lake Park. Discussion was held, noting that the population is at least 7 or more beavers that are pretty aggressive. PRAB

plans to draft a statement on record related to wildlife management, especially at the lake. This memo will be sent to the city manager on behalf of the board.

6) New Business

- a) Ivy told the committee a bookkeeper has volunteered for the Labor Day Festival Group.
- b) Brozana said she was looking into improvements, grants and partnership for the Greenbelt Dog Park.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amanda Leigh Brozana

Minutes approved 6-0 on 5/21/2014