

## **Park and Recreation Advisory Board Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2011**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Kelly Ivy, Marc Siegel, Lester Whitmer, Betty Sonneveldt,  
Christopher Husker, Ken Blue, Michael Lee  
Staff: Greg Varda, Recreation Supervisor  
City Council: Leta Mach  
Absent: Elizabeth Hammett, Jay Shah

- Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by Lola Skolnik
- June 15, September 21 & October 19 meeting minutes were all approved as presented. 8 – 0.
- Council update given by Councilmember Mach as follows:

1. Election Update – Voter turn out was low. All incumbents were voted into council with the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem remaining the same.

2. Councilmember Mach will be a representative for the Playful Cities USA in Baltimore City on Wednesday, November 18. She will be talking with Baltimore City representatives about the benefits of becoming a Playful City.

- Department updates were given by Greg Varda as follows:

1. Director Julie McHale and Recreation Supervisor Greg Varda attended the NRPA Congress in Atlanta, Georgia. Both attended many useful sessions and did some very necessary networking.

2. Many holiday special events and programs are on the horizon; Craft Show, Tree Lighting, North Pole Calling, Elves' Workshop, Polar Plunge, Santa's Visit to the Youth Center & Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Staff encouraged PRAB members to participate in the Gobble Wobble on Thanksgiving morning.

3. Emergency Tip Cards are in place in every room in the Community Center. These cards are to help guide patrons and staff in the event of a lockdown, evacuation or take shelter. Staff training has been completed. Patron training is scheduled for the future.

4. Retirement of Janet Goldberg.

- PRAB meet with Representatives from the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC). GCDC is requesting Recognition Group status. Barbara Simon, Ed James and Marsha Voight explained the group's mission and vision.

After a brief discussion, PRAB voted 7-1 to recommend Recognition Group status to GCDC. Lola Skolnik will forward a report to Julie McHale for City Council.

Michael Lee added that the "GCDC stated that they do not have intentions of applying for Contribution Group status in the future" (added 1/20/2012 by jjm)

- Update on the Greenbelt Middle School Task Force was Given by Ken Blue as follows:

Due to a letter received by Dr. Hite, Prince Georges County Board of Education Director, the GMSTF is more confused than ever. The letter was vague and non-committal. That being said, the GMSTF will

continue to move forward. Future plans are to schedule a Charette and to receive more input from Greenbelt Citizens.

- Update of Greenbelt's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was given by Greg Varda as follows:
  1. Products have been purchased and will be on sale at the Annual Craft Show.
  2. Recreation Department staff has been, and will continue to be involved with the planning and implementation of the events and programs.
- New Business/Old Business

#### Organizational Study

**Skolnik** - Would like to look into the possibility of having a combined Parks and Recreation Department.

**Mach** - Will be attending a Council Work Session to provide input as to what information will go into the RFP.

**Siegel** - The organizational study could be handled in-house by staff.

**Ivy** - **With the** two additional council members, the City Manager needs more staff.

#### Management of the Greenbelt Movie Theater

An email from the City Manager was distributed stating how the movie theater is managed, a brief history and rudimentary future plans.

**Ivy** - Would like to explore why summer camps are not using the theater.

**Blue** - Why would theater management not work with recreation staff?

**Varda** - In response to Ivy & Blue - Tried to work with theater management in the past. Management was not interested due to staffing issues and possibly not making enough money to cover costs.

**Varda** - Will continue to contact theater management to try and work out a deal that would be beneficial to both parties.

- Next meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 7:30pm Community Center, Room 112.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Greg Varda