

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2010**

Present: Paul Sabol, Kelly Ivy, Lester Whitmer, Lola Skolnik, Betty Sonneveldt and Chris Husker
Staff: Julie McHale. Co-Acting Director
Council: Konrad Herling stopped by to say good-bye to PRAB. Leta Mach did not attend.
Excused: Ken Blue had a Greenbelt Middle School Task Force Meeting
Absent: Marc Siegel, John Winfrey, and Jay Shah

- The meeting was called to order at 7:40 and the October 20th, 2010 minutes were approved 6-0. The motion was made by Kelly Ivy and seconded by Chris Husker.
- The meeting scheduled for 2011 was set with the meetings continuing on the third Wednesday of the month beginning at 7:30pm.
- Appointment of a Secretary
 - ✓ Lola stated that someone needs to step up and take the position. She stated that she cannot run a meeting and take notes too.
 - ✓ PRAB may have to go back to taking turns recording the minutes.
 - ✓ The minutes can be handwritten and turned into Debbie Coulter for typing.
- There has been a new PRAB member appointed – Kahli Brannigan. Lola mentioned that she did not get a letter advising her of a new member. Kahli was appointed December 10th.
- Konrad Herling stopped in on his way to AAB to greet PRAB members and explain his switch from PRAB to AAB.
- Greenbelt Soccer Association Recognition Application
 - ✓ David Whiteman, Assistant Soccer Commissioner for the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club came to PRAB representing the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance.
 - ✓ The organization is newly formed with 5 board members.
 - ✓ The organization was incorporated as a non-profit in November 2010.
 - ✓ It is a soccer advocacy group whose goal is to increase participation in soccer in Greenbelt and to encourage participants by offering a soccer experience that emphasizes the value and fun of teamwork, cooperation, practice, sportsmanship and physical fitness on appropriate sized fields with appropriately sized teams for specific ages. The group wants also to provide information on the variety of soccer opportunities that exist in Greenbelt.
 - ✓ David questions why there are so few kids playing soccer in Greenbelt and wants to keep a program cheap and simple.
 - ✓ 84 kids played soccer in the fall in Greenbelt.
 - ✓ Lola asked why there needed to be a separate organization. David responded that the Boys and Girls Club had only one path to play soccer. The Greenbelt Soccer Association would like to keep prices down and the fun aspect up.
 - ✓ Kelly asked David what kind of support the Boys and Girls Club gave to soccer. David responded that soccer is a money maker for the Boys and Girls Club. The kids start at age 6 on a huge field with full sides. The Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club do not offer small sided soccer.
 - ✓ Kelly suggested that the Association go through the Recreation Department to start a soccer program in Greenbelt that offers more opportunities and more age appropriate fields and teams.
 - ✓ Julie stated that the Recreation Department was not allowed to compete with the Boys and Girls Club.

- ✓ Kids are currently being sent to other locations to play. Lola stated that she wanted Greenbelt kids to play in Greenbelt, not farmed out.
- ✓ David said the Association's plan is to run a successful clinic in the fall. It would be free and all can come and play.
- ✓ Both Laurel and Hyattsville have invited David to meetings to discuss how to involve Greenbelt kids on Greenbelt teams in local soccer programs.
- ✓ Lola asked if the Association was a 501c3. David said that they have no money and so they automatically qualify. Over \$5000 means you must apply.
- ✓ Kelly made a motion to approve the application to be a recognition group. Paul seconded. The motion was approved 6-0.
- City Council Referral – Background Checks will come up on the Council agenda in January. Council did get PRAB's report and recommendations.
- Greenbelt Middle School Task Force was meeting for the first time this evening, December 15th, 2010. There are currently 15 members.
- Kelly asked how the Director selection process was progressing.
 - ✓ Kelly had questions for Council: Is Julie Acting Director or are there still Co-Directors? Joe McNeal pulled his application, so why is he still a Co-Director? Are we going to keep 2 Assistant Directors?
 - ✓ Julie responded that she had asked the question of Council about 2 Assistant Directors as had Lola and the response was that it depends on what happens.
 - ✓ Lola responded that Co-Directors spread the work around. The City Manager indicated that he would leave it up to the new Director.
 - ✓ Julie was asked if the new Director came from inside would the full time equivalent stay the same.
 - ✓ Julie stated that if she were selected that she would like to keep both Assistant Director positions.
 - ✓ Kelly stated that the Recreation Department needs both a dedicated Program Director and a dedicated Facilities Director. Kelly also stated that we have a great bunch of people working in Greenbelt and we need to hire from within.
 - ✓ Lola is on the interview panel and stated that anyone on an interview panel must be as neutral as possible.
 - ✓ Kelly stated that the person selected for the position needs to know Greenbelt and been through the Greenbelt recreation programs.
 - ✓ Lola stated that the City Manager is looking for someone who has the skills to meet with other departments and collaborate with them.
- Julie informed PRAB that the Personnel Director's house burned down and we needed to keep the family in our thoughts
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.