

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

Present: Lola Skolnik, Jay Shah, Paul Sabol, Betty Sonneveldt, Lester Whitmer and Ken Blue.

Staff: Joe McNeal, Co-Acting Director  
Julie McHale, Co-Acting Director

Excused: John Winfrey, Marc Siegel, Kelly Ivy, Chris Husker, and Jacob (Boomer) Fletcher, student representative

Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member

- Lola called the meeting to order at 7:45
- Konrad Herling gave his update from Council
  - ✓ Konrad is on the coordinating committee of Envision and requested PRAB to discuss and document what the City already does that addresses goals
  - ✓ By May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Envision hopes to have taken the ideas of citizens and implemented them
  - ✓ Joe McNeal stated that in the past people had requested inventories but not programs and inquired when a request for a list of programs would come from the committee.
  - ✓ Konrad stated the City of Greenbelt has more arts programs than any other municipality.
  - ✓ Konrad reported that with the reduction in bus routes the City has gone from 3 to 3 Metrobus routes.
  - ✓ A discussion resulted about the advantages of the Greenbelt Connection and the disadvantages of Metro Access.
- Joe reminded PRAB members that the banquet is October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-8pm at the Community Center and that members could bring a guest. Joe also asked if PRAB needed a new Vice Chair as Rachel McMullin has moved.
  - ✓ Lola stated that election of officers should be on the agenda for the October meeting and that a new Vice Chair would be selected.
- June 16<sup>th</sup> minutes were approved 6-0. The motion was made by Ken Blue and seconded by Paul Sabol.
- Joe McNeal and Julie McHale gave Recreation Department updates.
  - ✓ Joe stated that the department was going to a web-based brochure and web-based marketing. Residents got a postcard and can go online to read the brochure. If residents sign up individually, the City will email the brochure separately. It can also be read by going to the City website.
  - ✓ Julie stated that information about Recreation Department programs had been displayed at about 10 back to school nights in the area.
  - ✓ Joe and Julie stated that the Recreation Department will continue to be at community events to publicize programs.
  - ✓ Lola asked how registration for summer camps and programs finally ended.

- ✓ Julie reported that camp registrations were down, that about \$10,000 less in fees had been collected, and that the staff will review in October the numbers to determine staffing for next summer. Julie stated that the enrollment in the Park and Planning day program in Springhill Lake was down as well, and that program is very inexpensive.
- ✓ Julie reported that the City is going to apply for recognition by the First Lady's Let's Move Towns and Cities Initiative. Julie stated that Greenbelt should have no problem as the City provides all of the services and programs and facilities needed for the requirements.
- ✓ Joe reported that they are preparing to replace some mechanical equipment at the pool. The entire facility will be shut down for 2 or 3 weeks in November and possibly early December. The fitness portion may be able to be open for 1 week of the time while the pool is still closed.
- ✓ FallFest at Schrom Hills Park is October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Renovation of the Greenbelt Library is behind schedule. The City is still providing a satellite center, but Joe has told PGCMLS that the City cannot continue indefinitely to provide this service.
- City Council referral – Smoking Restriction Policy
  - ✓ The Recreation Department has submitted to Council changes to the smoking policy. This resulted from an incident at McDonald Field and caused the Recreation Department to review the smoking policy.
  - ✓ Joe stated that in Anne Arundel County smoking is prohibited within 100 yards of a recreation facility. The City of Rockville has a ban 40 feet from a playground. The State of Maryland bans smoking 25 feet from the entrance of any public building. The accepted research states that you must be 23 feet from a smoker to avoid second-hand smoke. Howard County has tobacco free programs.
  - ✓ The Greenbelt policy would expand the prohibition on smoking within City Recreation facilities to include fully enclosed fenced areas such as the outdoor pool, tennis courts, dog park, etc. Prohibit smoking within 25 feet of the entrance of indoor Recreation facilities and prohibit smoking within 25 feet of outdoor park facilities not fully enclosed by a fence such as ball fields, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, etc. This does not include the path between the tennis courts and the ball fields at Braden Field or the path around Greenbelt Lake.
  - ✓ PRAB motioned to recommend adopting the new smoking policy for parks and recreation facilities. The motion was made by Ken Blue and seconded by Paul Sabol. The vote was 6 to 0 to adopt the policy.
- Greenbelt Middle School Taskforce Appointee
  - ✓ Both Ken and Jay volunteered to be on the task force to be made up of 1 member of APB, PRAB, CRAB, AAB, ASCA, ACE and YAC, and 8 citizen members
  - ✓ It was agreed that Ken would be PRAB's representative and Jay would serve as a back-up.
  - ✓ Joe will advise Council of PRAB's appointee to the task force
- Contribution Group Training/Workshop Report

- ✓ The Greenbelt Community Foundation (Bill Duncan) presented a free workshop on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 on how to apply for 501c3 status.
- ✓ Joe mentioned that several City of Greenbelt Contribution Groups that has submitted a RSVP did not attend – Greenbelt Sity Stars, Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club, and Greenbelt Tennis Association.
- ✓ Joe did get the power point and the handouts from the presentation and will forward them to the groups that registered but did not attend.
- Recreation Director selection process update
  - ✓ Joe reported that in August the City started to advertize the position.
  - ✓ The position is open until filled.
  - ✓ The position will be advertized for a minimum of 30 days.
  - ✓ Joe and Julie did not know how many applicants had applied
- New business – Joe McNeal had 2 items of new business
  - ✓ 1. Coming to PRAB in October will be an item concerning volunteer background check for all volunteers who are responsible for the care and custody of a child. Volunteers in this capacity would be required to participate in a volunteer background check program for which the City would pay the fee. The groups would need to provide a list of the names and social security numbers of the volunteers. If the group already participates in a background check program the City would have to sign an affidavit. Joe stated that the challenge is confidentiality because if a volunteer does not pass the check, the organization would have to be informed but no information could be given as to why. Ken asked how social security numbers would be protected and Joe said they would be kept under lock and key at the Recreation Department. All groups must go through the City for this background check and no other background check performed elsewhere will be allowed.
  - ✓ 2. Joe asked if PRAB wanted to put Leslie Riddle on the agenda for October to talk about the new policy on pesticide free parks. The City has been weaning itself off pesticides for a long time and taking a more organic approach to part management. PRAB members decided that they did not need to hear personally from Leslie at this time.
- It was noted that on the agenda for the October Meeting will be elections and the background check policy. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.