

# **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

## **ZOOM MEETING MINUTES –June 17, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Jake Chesnutt, Betty Sonneveldt, Kristen Weaver, Lola Skolnik, Ric Gordon, Lance Beasley, Marc Siegel, Michael Lee, Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Jordan

**Guest:** Valerie Pierce, President Greenbelt Tennis Association

**Staff:** Greg Varda, Acting Director of Recreation Programs; Joe McNeal, Acting Director of Recreation Operations; Stephen Parks, Aquatics Supervisor; Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator.

**Excused:** Les Whitmer

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Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by Chair, Jake Chesnutt

May Meeting Minutes were approved.

**City Council Report: -Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Jordan-** Thanked PRAB for all that you do. A Special Council meeting was held on Sunday, June 14 regarding the County Executive moving into Phase 2 of recovery. Thank you to Recreation and Public Works for all they are doing. At the Council meeting on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the discussion will be on the status of the parks, reopening playgrounds and perhaps allowing people to grill over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Our staff is doing a very good job being conservative, making sure we have the capacity to implement the procedures that are necessary to move ahead.

**Greenbelt Tennis Association Grant Request: -Valerie Pierce, President of GTA-** Ms. Pierce informed PRAB that the GTA will be withdrawing the grant application for FY 21. Greg will work with the GTA in planning for FY 22.

### **New Business:**

#### **City Council Work Sessions-Advisory Board Chairs (June 24 @ 8pm)-**

Items to be addressed: Master plan, Recreation Department Director position and recreation amenities in Greenbelt West.

**Recognition Group Process** - Due to Covid-19, the Recognition Group Grant process has changed. Greg has communicated with each Recognition Group requesting application adjustments if needed. Once the groups have an idea on the impact of Covid-19 on their programs, Greg will bring the applications to PRAB or AAB for review and recommendations.

### **Old Business:**

**BALP Dam Project Parking Lot and Master Plan:** The Dam project is all but done except minor work around the spillway. Mother Nature will increase the water level.

Though email, Terri Hruba; Planning Director believes they will have the permits for the parking lot in the next few weeks. They are currently finalizing the RFP. Construction is expected to begin in August.

### **Recreation Department Update-**

**Facilities and Parks/Reopening Plan: -Joe McNeal-** The Prince George's County Executive Order has made it possible to open outdoor pools and playgrounds. The biggest obstacle regarding the pool is getting a permit from the County. Staff completed a pre-inspection and Stephen Parks; Aquatics Supervisor is working to schedule the actual inspection. Once the inspection is complete, staff training will begin. There is not a set date for the opening of the outdoor pool. To start, the outdoor pool will open for lap swimming/water walking only via reservations for pass holders and residents. Stephen Parks has acquired a supply of PPE, touchless thermometers and signage. Public Works is working on sneeze guards and coordinating a sanitation schedule.

Reopening indoor spaces is much more challenging. There is not a set date for reopening at this time.

Regarding outdoor spaces, fields will be available for permit to recognition groups. Public Works is preparing to reopen playgrounds and park restrooms when approved. July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities have been cancelled.

**Programs - Greg Varda-** We currently have 8 virtual camps that are set to begin on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff are working on registration and advertising. Financial assistance is available. There are over 30 visual/performing arts virtual classes being offered for the summer. Registration and participate feedback has been very strong. The plan for the fall is to offer a combination of indoor and outdoor classes with some virtual programming.

The next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathy Pracht, Administrative Coordinator