

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES –April 21, 2021

Draft

PRESENT: Jake Chesnutt, Kristen Weaver, Lola Skolnik, Lance Beasley, Ric Gordon, Betty Sonneveldt , Malik Gupta; Youth Advisory Committee Liaison to PRAB, Mayor Pro Tem Jordan

Staff: Greg Varda, Recreation Director
Andrew Phelan, Recreation Coordinator - Data Administrator
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator

Presenters: Patrick Gleason, Coach for ERHS
Ian Gleason, Coach Babe Ruth Baseball

Unexcused: Les Whitmer, Marc Siegel

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

Agenda accepted with minor modification to the item order.

April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Council Liaison update: Mayor Pro Tem Jordan apologized for missing PRAB meetings due to scheduling conflicts between PRAB meetings and City Council meetings. He is thankful for PRAB's work and advisement. Also to the work of the Recreation Department.

YAC Liaison Update:

- YAC will be partnering with the Howard and Montgomery County Youth Councils possibly later this year or next year for a statewide Youth Conference.

Synthetic Turf Field Presentation:

Patrick Gleason, Greenbelt Soccer Alliance (GSA) Coach, addressed concerns regarding the current state of the athletic fields in Greenbelt. Due to drainage issues, fields are not useable following rainy days. In addition, the overall condition of the fields make use unsafe for sports, especially soccer. Mr. Gleason stated that the Greenbelt fields are less than ideal and are limiting the opportunities for youth to play. The GSA is using fields in other jurisdictions to avoid using fields in Greenbelt due to poor conditions.

Mr. Gleason has proposed to have a synthetic turf field installed in the City of Greenbelt. A synthetic turf field would provide a safe playing environment and would help in retaining players to Greenbelt organizations.

Ian Gleason, Greenbelt Babe Ruth President, addressed the environmental impact of a turf field. He stated overall maintenance of a turf field would be minimal compared to a natural grass field.

PRAB Discussion:

- Questioned an athlete's health and wellbeing regarding synthetic turf field versus the natural grass fields.
- Questioned the Recreation Department's management of a synthetic turf field.
- Inquired about funding resources and possible fundraising partnerships.
- Questioned existing field maintenance program. Would like to hear from Public Works Parks Superintended
- Requested professional input from other agencies that have experience with synthetic turf fields

Recreation Department Update:

- Camp Season:
 - Camp Activity Guide is available online.
 - Registration started this week for residents.
- Schrom Hills Park (SHP) Rentals:
 - Rentals of the Pavilion will resume.
 - Number of people will be limited to 30.
 - Picnic tables will not be available for use.
 - Folding tables will be provided. Park Rangers will set up and break down.
 - Chairs will be provided by renters.
 - Masks will be required.
- Grant Review Panel (GRP): The GRP will convene on 4/24/21. Malik will represent YAC and Lance will represent PRAB.
- Recreation Budget Work Session: Scheduled for Wednesday April 28th at 7:00pm.
- Council Agenda item: Minimum Wage. The City is following the State's minimum wage plan march to \$15/hour.
- Festival of Lights: Recreation sent a memo to CRAB stating the Recreation Department's practice regarding holiday events. Greg will put this on the next PRAB meeting agenda.
- Springhill Lake Programs: Staff are offering a variety of outside programs this spring and summer.
 - Recreation is partnering with Boys and Girls Clubs of America to assist with programming.
- Outdoor Pool: Under preparation for Health Department inspection.
 - Depending on the number of lifeguards available, both the indoor and outdoor pools could open simultaneously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator