

## **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2022**

**Present:** Jake Chesnutt, Matt Sickle, Marc Siegel, Michael Lee, Lance Beasley

**Excused:** Lola Skolnik

**Council Liaison:** Mayor Pro-Tem Weaver

**Staff:** Greg Varda, Recreation Director  
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Townsend, Public Works, Assistant Public Works Director

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Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Jake Chesnutt, PRAB Chair  
June Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Council Liaison Report (via email): Mayor Pro Tem Weaver** -The major points from Council regarding ARPA funds are Recreation related items. A decision on the Space Study has not been made regarding the Ground Floor East although there is an item on Monday's Council meeting agenda to fund a second study. The second study would look at broader options like expanding Springhill Lake Recreation Center, expanding the Municipal Building or building a new one, as well as potentially the Armory space, which could lead to options that could potentially meet the needs of Recreation and CARES without taking away space that is currently being used.

**Tree & Park Maintenance-Brian Townsend, Public Works, Assistant Public Works Director-Parks:** Public Works applied for the Community Parks and Playgrounds grant. The grant funds, \$219,000, will be used to upgrade the Springhill Recreation Center's playground area. ARPA funds will supplement the additional costs of project. The playground at BAP is on hold pending the Buddy Attick Park Masterplan update.

PRAB had questions regarding the drastic change in aquatic vegetation growth at the lake. Mr. Townsend indicated sampling the lake water would be necessary to reveal what is causing the issue.

PRAB also inquired about the tree canopy in the City after recent storm damage. Under normal circumstances Public Works plants approximately 200 trees each year. After the large number of trees lost over the past few months, Public Works may look into a reforestation project in certain areas.

**Buddy Attick Park Master Plan-** Discussed PRAB's expectations regarding involvement with the Master Plan. A draft RFP will be presented at the November meeting.

**Space Study Update-**The scheduled City Council Work Session for October 31<sup>st</sup> has been postponed. The City Manager would like to get additional information before another work session is held.

### **Recreation Department Updates:**

- Personnel:
  - Recreation has one vacancy, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor.
  - A Visual Arts Coordinator and a Community Center Coordinator were hired over the summer.
- Programs:
  - Summer camps were held in-person. COVID situations were managed effectively.
  - Senior programs returned to in-person meetings. Seniors trips to Toby's Dinner Theatre and other select places are scheduled.

- SAGE classes, operated by Prince George's Community College, are back in session along with Holy Cross Fitness class.
- Food and Friendship program will return in-person two days a week beginning in December. In the interim, meals will continue to be delivered to seniors on Fridays.
- Springhill Lake Recreation Center:
  - Futsal program takes place on Friday nights.
  - After-School program is currently full.
  - The computer lab is very popular.
  - A new program, Pre-k Bilingual Story Time is being offered with assistance from community group, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness.
  - Security upgrades include additional lighting and cameras.
- Youth Center:
  - Received certificate from the Maryland Department of Education for Pre-School program. The program is almost full at this time. The primary success of the program is due to the 30+ year tenure of the head teacher.
  - Teen Takeover program is drawing 30-40 teenagers. A female counselor was added to the program.
- Aquatic and Fitness Center:
  - The majority of aquatics programs returned this Fall with strong registration numbers.
- Special Events:
  - Fall Fest and the Art Crawl were held. With other events taking place around the county last weekend, Fall Fest was not as crowded as usual.
  - Preparations for Halloween event in the Roosevelt Center, The Wild Rumpus, are underway. The theme this year is the children's book, Where the Wild Things Are. Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor is coordinating the event with the art's staff. There is a Halloween event scheduled at Springhill Lake Recreation Center as well.
  - On November 5<sup>th</sup>, a celebration of Emancipation Day will be held at the Community Center Coordinated by Recreation staff and the Greenbelt Black History and Cultural Committee.
    - Dr. Frank Smith, Director of the African American Civil War Museum, will be the guest speaker.
    - A program will be presented by FREED (Female Reenactors of Distinction)
- Capital/ARPA Projects:
  - A contract was signed with ATC for tennis court resurfacing, crack repair and adding pickleball lines. Unfortunately, work was not able to begin this Fall before the temperature fell. Temperature is a factor in repairing the cracks. The project is tentatively scheduled for May 2023.
  - Replacing the sand filter and structural repair in the outdoor pool pump room will be schedule between now and Memorial Day weekend.
  - A splashpad for the GAFC's outdoor pool is being researched and could be funded in FY24.
  - Neighborhood Design Center completed community meetings. The plan could possibly be ready for review by PRAB at the November meeting.

**Administration:**

- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
  - Jake Chesnutt, PRAB Chair - Unanimously
  - Lance Beasley, PRAB Vice Chair - Unanimously
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2022 at 7pm in Community Center (subject to change).
- Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator