

**PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Community Center – RM 114

DATE: Wednesday, December 16, 2015

TIME: 7:30p.m.

Approved 8-0 on 01/20/2016

Members Present: Lola Skolnik, Betty Sonneveld, Kelly Ivy, Ken Blue, Michael Lee, Jeff Keenan
Council member: Leta Mach
Unexcused: Lester Whitmer
Staff Present: Julie McHale (staff liaison),
Excused: Marc Siegel

1. Meeting called to order by Lola at 7:35pm
2. Councilwoman Mach Updates/comments
 - Spoke of 2 meetings since election in November
 - Comments were primarily positive of the services in Greenbelt when she was knocking on the doors
 - Stated that there were traffic concerns: Concern of no one stopping at stop signs
 - PRAB joined in and agreed this was a great problem
 - Concern of an elderly women ‘hanging out’ in the middle of the road on bus-stop Westway/Ridge
 - Julie will talk to CARES about this woman and hopefully get some help
 - Lola raised the question to Ms. Mach of the million dollars geared towards Recreation Amenities for Greenbelt West
 - Ms. Mach confirmed the money is to be used for Recreation capital projects in Greenbelt West. PRAB wanted to confirm that the money was not going to be ‘absorbed’ into the General Fund. The response was “no” that the funds were a line item dedicated to capital projects for recreation.
 - Ms. Mach recommended that PRAB write a report with their recommendations to the BAP Masterplan/regarding the report card on the Buddy Attick Park
 - Lola asked what the Council was speaking about at the meeting on Monday 12/14 regarding the Buddy Attick Park
 - Ms. Mach confirmed that this discussion was regarding the permeable parking lot reconstruction at BAP and the interpretive signage (to explain the new lot)
 - Ms. Mach also discussed the purchase of the unit beside the Greenbelt Museum which is up for sale with a list price of \$200,000
 - Lola requested that Ms. Mach explain what Council/the City is proposing for the purchase and usage of 10-A (the unit next to the museum)
 - Council feels it could be used for new office space for the Museum curator, storage of the artifacts, and as a meeting point for those coming to see the Museum
 - GHI will definitely have to agree/weigh-in on the purchase and the recommendation for what it is to be used for (office space) since it is something other than purchase for residency by a homeowner
 - The space in the Old Elementary School would be released and leased out to another organization once the adjacent unit became available.
3. Members from the Boys to Men Mentoring Network of Greater Washington were present to answer questions by PRAB about becoming a Recognition Group
 - Present at the meeting were: Mr. Blix Winston, Mr. Walter Augustin (mentors) and Jaden Dirksen and Justin Mooney (mentees) along with their fathers Matt Dirksen and Scott Mooney.
 - Basically this is ‘young men’s’ ages 13 to 18 support group for “at risk teens”

- Questions on background checks on mentors, purpose of organization, how will it serve/benefit Greenbelt
 - The mentor's and mentees all spoke on the benefits of the group
 - The young mentees stated that "he knew several young men at Eleanor Roosevelt that would be interested in this group if it was in Greenbelt; lots of boys need someone else to talk to besides their parents."
 - Mentees were asked how this group would help the Greenbelt community and their answers:
 - Help boys figure out where they are going in life, find their way;
 - Which will in turn make them better individuals;
 - Which in turn will hopefully make them productive members of the community
 - Staff explained the process of either going through the City background checks and/or signing a MOU between the City and Boys to Men which is a requirement for any Recognition and Contribution Group or have the 'care and control' of youth.
 - Mr. Blix stated that not only are extensive background checks (full criminal background checks) done on the mentors through the "Boys to Men" organization, but they also go through a vetting process through the Leadership of Boys to Men before being allowed in the group
 - Mr. Blix also stated that they are very safety conscious and there is a rule that two (2) men are always in the room with the boys – they are NEVER left alone.
- Looking for free meeting space in a City facility twice a month for group meetings
- There are no fees to join the group and the Mentors are all volunteers
 - There are charges to the members for the activities that they do outside of their regular meetings. Such as the "Rites of Passage" weekend
- Main focus is on the group meetings – being there for the boys; support for young men
- They currently meet in Bethesda in a church basement and are looking to expand the Greenbelt Group and operate in Greenbelt

Lola motioned to recommend the Boys to Men of Greater Washington, receive Recognition Group status. Betty seconded the motion. Motioned approved and the vote was 5- yes; 0-no and 1- abstention with no comment on the abstention

- Julie will hi-light this in the Minutes and the recommendation will go to City Council for their approval for a new Recognition Group

4. Department Updates – Since we were running late into the evening, staff liaison asked the members to review the notes on the agenda regarding her update. Update by Director was of the Festival of Lights activity and progress on FY17 Budget preparation.
5. Approval of Minutes: **November 16, 2015 Minutes** – approved as written, unanimously. Ken motioned to approve and Jeff seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written – vote 6-0
6. Julie was asked by Michael Lee to check into the lighting at the pool for lap swimmers. Michael will be writing an email to Julie to me explaining his concerns
7. The **Buddy "Attick" Park MasterPlan**
 - Discussion of the Survey provided by public works staff
 - PRAB would like the survey to identify pertinent information for use in planning Park improvements:
 - Residency question (how many visiting the park are actually residents of Greenbelt?) and method for capturing this information.
 - Number and age of those in your party
 - Time of day and time of week when you are visiting
 - Activity which you are participating in

- How do we catch the residents interest of what they want/think of BAP (do we do survey monkey and send to every resident or do a random survey)
- Discussion on taking the survey during different times during the day
- Ken Blue suggested having a detailed survey plan that would be associated with the development of the park plan that should recommend the following for the survey:
 - ❖ Who would be conducting the survey?
 - ❖ What is in scope for the survey and what is out of scope – what information are you looking to get from the survey beyond what we already know? This will help to develop the value of the survey and may help determine the best method for attaining accurate information.
 - ❖ Where is the survey conducted – with in the park or external to the park?
 - ❖ When will the survey be conducted – such as duration of time, weekends week days?
 - ❖ How would the survey be conducted – using technology such as a go pro do our survey for us?
 - ❖ Discussion took place on how this would work, who would read it, how long does battery last, reality of it all, etc.
- Discussion moved on toward the BAP Master plan next steps
 - Jeff Keenan suggests giving City Council a report on information from the Report Card that was gathered by the sub-committee and formulated by Ken Blue.
 - Request from City Council to have a deadline on the plans for staff
- In summary, the recommendation was to send the report of the Master plan to City Council with the following:
 - The masterplan report
 - What needs to be addressed at the Park
 - How will you be addressing it and when
 - If it is not going to be addressed, why?

8. New Business

- Contribution groups dates were tabled until the next meeting
- Discussion on the Illinois example of the report card for the visitation for communicating annually the PRAB Parks and Recreation Report Card to the city and council. It was widely accepted by PRAB for a future discussion.
- Boys to Men Mentoring Network of Greater Washington received a positive report from PRAB
 - Staff will send to Administration to obtain Council's recommendation

9. Old Business - none

10. Adjournment – 9:35pm

Respectfully written by: Julie McHale

Edited by: lola Skolnik 12/22/15