

PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 18, 2015
MEETING MINUTES
APPROVED 4-15-15 BY VOTE OF 7-0

Present: Betty Sonneveldt, Marc Siegel, Lester Whitmore, Michael Lee, and Ken Blue.
Thurston Livingston, Guest

Staff: Julie McHale, Liaison

Excused: Kelly Ivy, Lola Skolnik and Jeffery Keenan

Council: Council Member Leta Mach

- The meeting was called to order by Betty Sonneveldt, Vice Chair
- Chris Husker Update – Chris Husker had a serious medical problem and will be moving closer to family. He is recovering slowly, but will need to leave Greenbelt. He has already resigned from PRAB. All members present expressed the feeling that Chris will be greatly missed because he was such an active member of PRAB and knew so much about recreation activities and park facilities in Greenbelt.
- Council Member Leta Mach Updates/Comments
 - ✓ The City Manager’s Budget Proposal will be presented on Monday, March 23rd.
 - ✓ The Greenbelt Theater will have a soft opening in a few weeks and a big opening mid-to-late April
 - ✓ The theater will be open two times a month for Community Groups and two times a month for Recreation Programs at no cost.
 - ✓ Marc Siegal asked about the odds of Greenbelt getting the FBI project. Council Member Mach said that the prospects are good, but the final decision will not be made until next May.
- Recreation Department Updates
 - ✓ The Recreation work session with Council will be Wednesday, April 22nd.
 - ✓ The Recreation Department is thinking of hiring a marketing consultant to look at what the Department is doing that produces results and where it can improve.
 - ✓ The Recreation Department is also addressing in their budget request how to deal with aging infrastructure. The pool roof repairs will not be this spring because of Grad Night activities. While the indoor pool is undergoing repairs, passes will be extended to cover loss of use time.

- ✓ The work on the HVAC at the Community Center has progressed. 80% of the engineering drawings are complete and will be sent to the Maryland Historical Trust for review. The project will be up for bids in 4 to 6 months.
 - ✓ The Springhill Lake Recreation Center renovations, which involve roof and window replacements, will begin in April or May.
 - ✓ Camp Registration is ongoing.
 - ✓ The Spring brochure is online and in all recreation centers.
- Contribution and Recognition Groups Applications
 - ✓ Only four Contribution Groups submitted applications. PRAB is scheduled to review five. **Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club** did not submit an application until Wednesday, March 18, the day of the meeting and PRAB did not get a chance to review it.
 - ✓ **Greenbelt Aquatic Boosters's** application had been reviewed by all members present prior to the meeting and the vote was 5-0 to recommend to Council as written.
 - ✓ **Greenbelt Senior Softball's** application had been reviewed by all members present prior to the meeting and the vote was 5-0 to recommend to Council as written.
 - ✓ **Greenbelt Babe Ruth's** application had been reviewed by all members present prior to the meeting and the vote was 5-0 to recommend to Council as written.
 - ✓ **Greenbelt Baseball's** application was not submitted in a form that could go to City Council. PRAB members noted specific line items and sections that were incomplete or incorrectly completed and Julie stated that she would contact them with the changes, additions and corrections that must be made. (Julie later sent an email to PRAB members on Thursday, March 19th so say that a Greenbelt Baseball board member had come in and made all of the corrections to the application except for the itemized expenses and stated that the list of items purchased with City funds would be submitted before the group appears before Council in April. If this is correct, Greenbelt Baseball will not have to appear before PRAB again, but PRAB should get a copy of the amended document so that a vote can be taken.
- Youth Sports
 - ✓ In response to PRAB's prior discussions about the future of youth sports, in particular, sports that the Boys and Girls club currently runs, PRAB was given a memo from Andrew Phelan via Julie McHale stating that the

problem with the Boys and Girls Club was with the leadership and that services to youth participants and getting coaches were not issues. The Recreation Department recommendation is that the Recreation Department does not take over the sports that the Boys and Girls Club currently runs.

- ✓ It was pointed out that the memo addresses only the sports run by the Boys and Girls Club and not all youth sports in Greenbelt.
- ✓ There is a work session with Council concerning Youth Sports scheduled for March 25th at the suggestion of PRAB.
- ✓ Discussion followed as to whether this work session was now needed as the recommendation from the Recreation Department was to leave things as they are and that a new hire, Anne Oudemans, can work with the leadership of the Boys and Girls Club to mentor the board in leadership roles and accepting leadership responsibility.
- ✓ It was stated that a Recreation Department take-over of the sports was an all or nothing project and Julie raised concerns about the liability associated with football.
- ✓ A motion was made by Michael Lee and seconded by Marc Siegel that PRAB support the memo leaving the youth sports run by the Boys and Girls with the Boys and Girls Club. The vote was 4-1 in favor.
- ✓ Betty voiced hesitation about the lack of a work session because key PRAB members were not present. Again, discussion whether a work session on this issue with Council was needed displayed disagreement among PRAB members present. Michael suggested that a work session with Council about the future direction of youth sports should be conducted at some point in the future. Marc suggested that it is a line item at a Council Meeting and not a work session topic. The result of the discussion was that Julie will call the City Manager and let him know that key PRAB members were not present at the meeting and that PRAB is not ready to go to a work session on March 25th. Julie will get the memo with the Recreation Department to all PRAB Members not present.

A motion was made to adjourn by Michael and seconded by Betty. Vote was 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15