

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Online WebEx Meeting  
May 27, 2021  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT**

Board Members: Tom Lynch, George Sushinsky, Chip Boylan, Bob Taylor, Elizabeth Fischer  
Dirk Whatley  
Absent: Maryann Kearns  
Staff: Chris Henry, Karla Sheehi  
Councilmember: Mark Pierzchala  
Guests: Kirsten Kaplan, Jonathan Weiss

**Meeting commencement:** 6:33 pm

**Re: Approval of April Minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended.

**Re: Guest Forum**

Jonathan Weiss and Kirsten Kaplan are in attendance as guests and applicants of interest. Both were voted in as board members, during the April 22, 2021 meeting and are waiting Mayor and Council appointment.

**Re: Council Report - Councilman Mark Pierzchala**

**2040 Master Plan**

Mayor and Council have been spending a significant amount of time reviewing the 2040 Master Plan draft and have already extended the deadline by 60 days. A meeting has been added for June 1, to focus solely on the 2040 Master Plan draft.

**City's Budget**

Mayor and Council approved the City's 2022 budget. The city came out of the pandemic in good shape, with the Recreation and Parks having experienced the biggest impact.

**Deer Culling Program**

Councilmember Pierzchala expressed to his colleagues via email correspondence that he would not be in favor of another deer culling pilot. He also pointed out that if the city is going to consider discussing this topic, it needs to be done formally and within sufficient time to plan accordingly. The topic, however, has not been brought back up by Mayor and Council.

**Re: Staff Reports**

**City Hall Renovations**

The second-floor restrooms at City Hall are being renovated to be ADA compliant.

**Mayor & Council Chambers**

The Mayor and Council chambers is being renovated with a refreshed look and lighting improvements.

**Dogwood Park Improvements**

New LED lighting was installed at the two baseball fields at Dogwood Park.  
A gender-neutral bathroom is currently in the design phase for Dogwood Park.

**Skate Park**

The Skate Park project is wrapping up and a soft opening is being planned.  
The Skate Park will enforce the use helmets and although it is free of charge, it will require a membership for safety purposes.

### **Senior Center ADA Project**

Phase II of the ADA renovation is underway, improving the water fountain, ramps and sinks to be compliant. A grease trap in the kitchen is also being fixed.

### **Hillcrest Park**

The basketball and tennis courts are being renovated and a bicycle rack is also being installed.

### **Arbor Day**

The Arbor ceremony was held at Chestnut Lodge Park with the planting of 5 trees.

### **Wootons Mills Garden Plots**

All 168 garden plots at Wootons Mills are full.

### **Swim Center Hosting State Swim Meet**

Maryland State Longcourse Swim Meet will be held at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center Friday 6/4 – Sunday 6/6. This is one of the first meets in Montgomery County since the pandemic.

### **Memorial Day Ceremony**

Join the City of Rockville on Monday May 31 for our Memorial Day ceremony

You can watch it on our Rockville 11 channel or on our City of Rockville Hometown Holidays Facebook Page [www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/HTH)

### **Live at RedGate**

Live at RedGate is replacing our regularly scheduled Hometown Holidays and will take place June 23-26 at RedGate Park. For more details, go to [rockvillemd.gov/events](http://rockvillemd.gov/events). The event will be free but will require ticketing. Tickets can be obtained online via our recreation registration system.

### **Twinbrook Recreation Center Assistant Supervisor**

An assistant supervisor has been hired at Twinbrook Community Center. Sarah Meizel begins Monday May 31.

### **Janet Opar Retires**

Janet Opar who supervised Camps, Playgrounds and classes retires after 32 years with the city.

### **6 Taft Court**

During the pandemic, the county requested to extend the use of 6 Taft Court, which Mayor and Council we supported. We are currently in the design phase for the first two floors. Construction should start late fall and hope to occupy the building in 2022 sometime.

### **Summer Camps and Programs**

Capacity has increased for our camps and programs, so staff have been busy preparing.

### **Senior Center Reopens**

The Rockville Senior Center reopens on Monday June 14.

## **Re: Subcommittee Reports**

- a) **Glenview Mansion (Tom)**  
No new updates
  - b) **Swim & Fitness Center (Bob)**
  - c) The Swim Center advisory board met with Adam and put together a letter that went out advising members of changes current restrictions.
  - d) **Recreation and Parks Foundation (Chip)**  
The R&P Foundation is a non-profit organization and have been inactive for the past year. Our next activity will be in June as the Foundation gives out awards to volunteers and partners in the community who help us provide great services and programs.
- Arts**
- Gateway Art Project (Tom):**  
The site is not viable as a result of a gas pipeline easement through the original location of the sculpture.
- Swim Center Art Project (Bob):**  
The art project has been approved by Mayor and Council and the contract for the artist is currently being worked on.

e) **RedGate Park (George)**

RedGate has been nicely mowed and being maintained for guests to enjoy. One can enjoy nature related activities such as bird watching. A master plan is being worked on for this property to determine future use of this parkland.

**Re: Old Business/New Business**

**Old Business**

**Board chair appointment** – George has asked for volunteers to take on the role of chair.

We have two members awaiting formal appointment by Mayor and Council and one member not in attendance. Therefore, the board will defer this discussion.

**Tree appeal at 1909 Rockland Avenue** – the memo containing the board’s decision was drafted by Chip and sent by Recreation and Parks to Mr. and Mrs. Vinh on May 6, 2021.

**New Business**

**Trash concern** -Jonathan Weiss inquired about the trash issues in the city; trashcans overflowing and trash on the grounds. Trash outdoors has significantly increased in the city due to the pandemic. Our Parks & Facility Division have one full time staff member with a part time assistant who picks up 248 trashcans on their route. This service has expanded into the weekend. Unfortunately, staff have found that people do not use the trashcans and trash ends up on the ground. We have expanded parks staff to also pick up trash throughout the city.

**Mayor and Council meetings** – George recommends all members tune in to our Mayor and Council meetings when possible. A significant amount of time goes into these meetings covering important topics and documents that may impact Recreation and Parks the city overall.

**Re: Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

**The next meeting:** June 17, 2021, at **6:30 PM** at Dawson Farm Park