

Recreation and Community Engagement Committee (RCEC)  
Agenda 4/18/24 @7pm

Attendance:

- Introductions (if new members) & who wants to be Secretary for this meeting? (Ellen Marcus is stand-in chair until replacement, and Mackenzie Brown is Vice chair)
- Approval of minutes from 2/15 and 3/21
- Recreation Department Updates
- There was some discussion about the committee supporting community events such as the International Night that was held at TPMS on March 20. Some of the main points emerging from the discussion were:
  - o The RCEC could choose to support existing community events by supplying volunteers, food, etc. Alternatively, rather than attaching ourselves to events led by other groups, the RCEC could take the lead by organizing a citywide event, i.e., one that is not limited to students at specific schools and their families.
  - o An example of the latter is the Celebrate Takoma events that have been held in the past. It was noted that while it was a popular event, it was expensive and demanded a lot of time from volunteers and especially from city staff. It was suggested that if the committee wants to do something like this again it will need a very solid base of volunteers.
  - o It was also noted that the FY25 budget has already been submitted and does not include funding for such an event, so that the committee couldn't count on City funding in FY25 and possibly even FY26, and would need to plan accordingly.
  - o ^^^^ above was in the minutes from the last meeting – note that previous discussions on this were removed from the agenda due to not having enough resources. This item will be revisited at this meeting for new people, but if there are not enough people available to take action on this item at the next meeting, it will need to be removed from the agenda again.
- Several people expressed interest in the RCEC at the Expo
- Events from around town: a time to share upcoming community events
- Priscilla requested that the committee invite Ira Kowler (the city's Acting Director of Housing & Community Development) to a RCEC meeting in the near future to discuss redevelopment of the TP Recreation Center, and in particular ask about pursuing funding from Montgomery County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The regular RCEC meeting scheduled for June 20, 2024, was floated as a potentially suitable date for Ira to join our meeting.
- Priscilla reported that she had reached out to Jason Small and Vince Cain about finding potential RCEC members from Ward 6, and that so far she had not received any response from them.
- Library updates?

- Mackenzie reported that, as agreed at the February committee meeting, he had recently reached out to Miti Figueredo, the new director of Montgomery Parks.
- BYOT: bring your own topic! If there's time – bring it for discussion!
- The next meeting will be Thursday, 5/16 at 7:00 pm.
- adjourn