

Recreation and Community Engagement Committee (RCEC)
Agenda 5/16/24 @7pm

Attendance:

- Introductions (if new members) & who wants to be Secretary for this meeting? (Ellen Marcus is stand-in chair until replacement but will not be able to attend this meeting, and Mackenzie Brown is Vice chair)
- Approval of minutes from 4/18
- Recreation Department Updates

Heritage/Cultural/5k event planning for 2026:

- o To show there is a strong interest
- o how much will this cost
- o involve some other people – community support
- o Howard or Jay would know what that cost?
- o International vendors advertising?
- o Fitness parade? Diversity parade and 5k
- o Work on forming a sub-committee by the end of the summer for Cultural heritage and 5K day (if we can't find enough support for this by then it might not be in the cards for this committee by 2026)
- o Would require closing down Maple ave at Sligo so the length of Sligo (where it closes down every weekend so the whole length can be used for event)
- o Fashion show
 - Funding for Porta Potties
 - Funding for street closure at Maple
 - Funding for trash collection
 - Funding for entertainers?
- Ellen reached out to Cindy D (council) and here is her response:

“Budget: City council is wrapping up the FY25 budget that starts this July.

“Community Events: Personally I like the idea, but I like this sort of thing. It is staff time-consuming, even if volunteers do most of the work. I am not certain about the run, as I don't know if there are any plans to revive the 5k. Assuming you mean some time after July 1 2024-June 30 2025, the best way to work this, assuming you all decide to continue this, is to work it two ways---through the Recreation Dept and through council members. The committee can outline what you are thinking of and ask the Rec Dept how much it might cost in dollars and in staff overtime (assuming it's on a weekend). Then you and the Dept would know what to ask for.

There may also be a grants opportunity in the next couple of months through the city for city-sponsored events, which would include such standards as the Folk Festival and July 4th parade. Your chances are frankly slim but it's a great way to get the word out of what you are planning. You might consult with Terry Seamans, who has been part of a

group that has successfully scheduled the city's first Juneteenth celebration for this June. He might have thoughts about how best to proceed.”

- Via Ellen: I think she got the idea that we wanted to get something in for this year. I let her know we were looking more at 2026, but she hasn't replied on that.

- Several people expressed interest in the RCEC at the Expo
- Events from around town: a time to share upcoming community events
- Juneteenth coming up
- Playdates
- Azalia Awards (nominations due May 17th)
- Library event celebrating Taylor Swift
- 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, 6/20 at 7:00 pm.
- adjourn