

# MINUTES Takoma Park Recreation Committee

January 15, 2015 7pm by Vineda Myers

Attendees: Vineda Myers, Pat Rumbaugh, Julie Kurland, Howard Kohn, Ray Scannell, Cherwanda Oliver, Leicia Monfort, Jacqueline Frazer, Cindy Dyballa, Jay Keller.

Approval of Minutes: December 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

## Community Updates:

**January 3rd Splash & Play** - approx. 130 swimmers participated, from infant to age 87. There were games in the back, like Hopscotch, etc. Most everyone swam. Would be nice to have another lane open next year. There was no water aerobics because of an unexpected emergency. Overall, very good event.

**Jan 19 MLK Jr. Day Celebration** at Piney Branch Elementary School. Donations for the food drive can be dropped off at Cindy's place, the Co-Op, the Community Center, Ace Hardware in Old Town TP, and at the MLK Jr. Event, & in a drop box at Essex House. Fliers have been distributed at Park Ritchie & Essex House. Jacqueline will get fliers from Bruce Baker to take to Parkview Towers, and find out if Franklin Apt got any. Jen organized 50 elementary school kids to sing. Blair HS basketball coach will bring players to help with service day activities. Clean up activities will be from 10am - 1pm, with everyone meeting at the dog park. Public Works will pick up the trash. Decent weather is expected. SSL forms will be available. Bruce Baker can sign them. Ribbons will be put up so people can find the right location. Terry Seamens asked Jacqueline to recycle bottles at MLK Jr. Event. Boy Scouts will collect them. Jen is providing bottled water at dinner. Cindy will call Darryl to see if we can get stands for bottle collection. If not, Howard or Cherwanda will bring a couple of trash bags to collect the bottles in. Jarrett Smith will be MC since Brian Kenner is leaving. Jarrett will give away door prize too.

**Feb 8 Mid-Winter Play Day** is on Rec Center website. Pat has more fliers. Vineda will put one in Park Ritchie, Cherwanda & Jacqueline will give them to residents at Essex House. Dante Webster (John's son) will be MC. He is a Journalism major at Univ of MD. Look at flier for activities. Rick Leonard will help Pat with pick up starting at 11:30am. This is an approved SSL event. We expect lots of teens will volunteer.

**March 28th Ward 6 Play Day** - Carolyn is putting event in her resident association newsletter. There is a lot of excitement about this event. Non-Ward 6 people can come too.

**125th Anniversary of Takoma Park Incorporation** - happening April through July. Kick off will be 4/18 in Community Center auditorium. Jacqueline - has the banner (they're using it at MLK Jr. Event too). She knows someone who will make a collage of TP history for the event. Paula put in the request to reserve PBES. May have an Azalea Ball in the fall.

Event on June 20th 4pm -7pm - The current plan is to block off a few blocks of Maple Ave, from PBES to Ritchie Ave. Will use PBES for bathrooms, multipurpose room, & parking lot. Mayor Williams is helping plan, so he can ask the Police Chief if we can close off the streets. Public buses will have to make alternate plans. Need tables, tents, & chairs on Maple Ave for potluck. There will be a few food trucks too. Need to make sure vendors know about recyclable plates. Is the City going to provide them? Food committee needs to make sure we have those things.

**May 17th Celebrate Takoma** - don't forget paper plates (Cindy). 12 - 5pm, behind PBES. Stage already requested. Vendor packets went out last night (Louie & Jarrell). Maybe have same vendors at 125 & celebrate Takoma. At least try to coordinate. Meeting yesterday. Checked in with committees. Paula & Leicia (arts & crafts) discussing different crafts from diff regions. Talked about diff vendors - got new vendor list. Ordered 5000 Rack Cards (post cards promo for event), block off roads better for bandwagon etc. Which community groups should be invited? Some couldn't come last year because of conflicts - its free for them, want as many there as possible.

#### Additional Items:

Priscilla noted there was a good article in the TP Newsletter about the Rec Center on New Hampshire Ave, but it didn't mention how decrepit the site is. What would the County like TP to do with it?

We will have some discussion of the upcoming search for a new City Manager as Brian Kenner is leaving at the end of the month. Alexis will initiate a new search. Mercer Co will be involved again, though they will work for free since not much time has passed since the last search. Resident Committee still pending. There will be a party for Brian Kenner on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. Suzanne Ludlow will be Acting City Manager until a new one is hired.

Cindy - the City has begun an open space planning effort, with the Environment Committee. Very soon (maybe in Feb) it will be time for the Rec Committee to listen to City Housing & Community Development staff, and to weigh in.

Cindy - Summary of status of McLaughlin woods - a 2.68 acre wooded parcel up for IRS auction later this month. Last open space plan in 1994 was on PG County side. Environment Committee wants them to look at a broader definition for open space. Their search this time is with the broader definition. Should invite Housing & Community Development, Erkin Ozberk (?), to come to next meeting to give us a report. McLaughlin woods - owner of the former school is behind on taxes. IRS seized the 2.5 acre wooded lot behind it. City council decided that the public purpose for the land should be open space. Sale scheduled for Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. City will try to acquire it. Potentially passive Recreation issue. Unclear what will happen on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The old school building (separate property) 9 seniors living in front end. Woman who owns it is running a senior service there in 2/3 of the bldg. It is in terrible disrepair (missing doors, broken windows). This part is not for sale. Only the wooded part behind it. Not developable as a park for people.

What is the status of Dog Park? There are rumors of funding disappearing. Also status of jobs program including conservation jobs with county.

Someone contacted Cindy regarding open gym time for younger kids at Rec Center, as well as lighting at ball fields. John Nevins Andrew School is available for rent cheaply - may be a good place to pay for open gym. Community Play Time does play time at Heffner for \$1.

Leicia for Rec Dpt: Open gym is a space issue - have too many other programs there now. No lighted field - council against light pollution. A county issue. People won't go home if you leave lights on.

#### Recreation Department Updates:

Futsal & Winter B-Ball registration going great. A full waitlist. Games start this weekend.

July is Park & Rec month. Will be our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thinking of activities to mark it. Murals & pictures from kids? Planning fun camp activities to mark it. Bury a time capsule somewhere?

Dog Park - funding is up in the air. Cost estimates not in yet. Estimate is 60K. The Dog Group should have a fundraising event. Maybe call it "Paws for a Cause".

It's budget time - Dog Park, open space, rent more school space for Rec programs, McLaughlin woods. Fit all of this into current budget cycle. Library & Rec center on New Hampshire big ones in the future. Talk to community forklift for fencing? Maybe a good group to partner with.

January 3rd Recreation Center Fitness Fair - Was advertised well, programming was good. Turnout is always a challenge. Feedback was a good mix of things. May move it to end of January going forward. Looking for additional ways to promote it - radio, apartments?

Mtg ended at 8:25pm